PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE
Request for Proposals

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT
(to be used for media release and Commission agenda items)

A brief abstract describing the current program:

Physics is an essential ingredient of education in science and engineering, and is established as a vital resource in our country’s struggle to maintain technological preeminence. The University of Colorado at Boulder has top ranked, internationally recognized Physics programs and faculty on its campus. Undergraduate degrees with a variety of plans are offered in the College of Engineering and in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Ph.D. program attracts exceptional students in the field and provides the infrastructure needed to conduct research and collaborations that incorporates other departments, centers, institutes, campuses, and universities. There are increasingly broad multidisciplinary and active links with the state’s corporate sector and with national laboratories. The research and instructional program attracts world-renowned physicists to present lectures, collaborate on research projects and to help enhance the educational mission.

A brief statement about the enhancement plan:

The goal for the Program of Excellence in Physics is to further enhance its successful educational and research effort, in order to

- increase the number of physics majors by targeting for expansion the number of women and under-represented students in the program,
- develop new physics courses directed toward improving the science literacy of non-science majors
- augment industrial, government laboratory, four-year college, and K-12 school system outreach,

In building on our 19 million dollars per year in federal awards, our 125 years of existence, and the high level of technology in our curriculum, we will use the Program of Excellence funds to

- strengthen our already high level of education by supplying faculty funds for course development and seed money for grants,
- pursue an extensive range of outreach initiatives involving the faculty, postdoctoral researchers, graduate student fellows, undergraduates, high school science teachers; all coordinated by a full-time person,
- vigorously promote the involvement of under-represented groups,
- support visiting scholars.

By starting such a program we will improve our ability to recruit the top students in the state, we will respond to the high demand by industry for well trained students, and we will better prepare our students for the complexities of the 21st century.

Total budget request for first year: $ 274,000
Total budget request for five-year eligibility period: $1,356,800

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Signature of Fiscal Authority                  Date