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US Department of Education Awards UNC \$380,000 to Improve Doctoral Program in School of Biological Sciences

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the University of Northern Colorado \$380,000 to recruit students into the doctoral program in the School of Biological Sciences. Applicants from traditionally underrepresented groups are specifically encouraged to apply. Students with demonstrated financial need, superior ability and excellent academic credentials can be supported with stipends of up to \$30,000 per year.

The U.S. Department of Education has identified a national need to increase the number of graduates with doctoral degrees in the sciences. More doctoral graduates will help ensure an adequate U.S. science and engineering workforce for the increasingly competitive and changing global labor market, according to a National Science Board report, "The Science and Engineering Workforce Realizing America's Potential" (NSB 03-69). The increase will help support a healthy economy, respond to national security demands, and maintain and elevate the quality of life and standard of living in the United States, the report says.

The University of Northern Colorado School of Biological Sciences offers outstanding research programs. The grant will increase the school's capacity for doctoral students and enhance its ability to identify, recruit and retain those from underrepresented backgrounds. It will also help serve students more effectively, better preparing them for teaching and research positions.