

## **Information for Center Directors (Fast Facts):**

### **STEM FTI stands for**

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Family Travel Initiative.

**The STEM FTI Mission** is to remove travel-related barriers to the professional advancement of academics with dependent care responsibility.

**Impact:** Because childcare responsibilities still rest more with women than with men, this initiative promotes women, in particular, in STEM disciplines. Men are included as well. The focus is primarily at the faculty and post-doctoral levels (for travel grants) but graduate students will also benefit from our educational programs.

**Our Approach** has 4 facets:

1. Education , two seminars / year
2. Financial Support (for the incremental expenses of childcare during professional travel of academics from the 5 colleges, STEM Faculty and Post Docs)
3. Advocacy, currently targeting professional societies and conference organizers
4. Networking, developing a database of providers /connections in remote locations

**Support:** STEM FTI is made possible by a grant from Elsevier and contributions from UMass Centers. (In particular, Elsevier mandate the focus on women. Clearly men will also benefit and are encouraged to participate.)

**Membership:** NSF NSEC, DOE EFRC to date

**Creation:** STEM FTI came into existence in March 2010.

**Leadership:** Maria Santore, Polymer Science and Engineering, Director  
Rebecca Spencer, Psychology, co-Director  
Barbara Pearson, Office of VCRE, administrator

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Achievements as of December 2010:

Launched an interactive web site: [STEMFamilyTravel.org](http://STEMFamilyTravel.org)

Two educational programs have been conducted: Attendance is 12-20 faculty and post-docs in the 5 college community. Summary sheets available on our website

Travel support: grant program in place with \$ 10,906.40 awarded in the first year. Awardees include faculty and post-docs throughout the 5-colleges.

Advocacy: Focusing on technical societies relevant to NSEC and EFRC but open to other groups requesting support and willing to contribute information and help with advocacy

1. Campaign for on-site childcare at major conferences.
  - a. Web surveys in place to gather data at the national level
  - b. plug-and-play advocacy for UMass 5-college attendees to get the word out to key individuals within each society, present at conferences.
  - c. Contacting societies with on-site daycare available now, to learn cost/benefit to the society
  - d. Setting up to develop lists of on-site providers and price ranges, providing information to societies in order to help these societies better assess what services they should offer to their members.
  - e. AIChE and Society for Neurological Science are currently targeted
  
2. Letter writing campaign to Societies where our grantees travel, to raise awareness of the childcare / travel challenge, and to make Societies aware of a range of options which they could provide to members.

Future directions: Discussions with other universities, discussions with funding agencies, national labs.