Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Request for Grant Proposals from Public Institutions
to **Develop a Culture of Artificial Intelligence**
in Support of the All in Alabama Initiative

Proposal Due by Friday, April 26, 2024

I.   PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), the coordinating board for public higher education in Alabama, invites grant proposals from public postsecondary institutions (public universities and community/technical colleges) to develop a plan that fosters an artificial intelligence (AI) culture among their students and faculty in support of the *__All in Alabama__* initiative. From hereafter, the grant will be referred to as the **AI Culture Grant**.

The *All in Alabama* initiative targets current and former undergraduates of Alabama's public postsecondary institutions to raise the awareness of in-state job opportunities and support the showcasing of their talents to prospective employers. This grant will afford institutions the opportunity to address the vast expansion of AI applications with respect to the state's workforce. Thus, the grant proposal should clearly identify ways to empower students with a proficiency in AI applications and maximize their value as an employee for a future employer in Alabama.

Institutions may submit up to two (2) proposals that have diverse objectives in response to this grant opportunity. However, funding will be prioritized to include as many institutions as possible.

II.   INSTITUTIONAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY

ACHE seeks grant proposals from public institutions who plan to develop an AI culture among their students in response to the expansion of AI utilization in workforce. Grants of up to **$5,000** are available to support learning opportunities of AI applications to be implemented in programs by way of coursework, internship, and/or work-based/experiential learning opportunities. The proposal may come from academic programs who are new to implementing AI learning opportunities into their programs, as well as academic programs that traditionally utilize AI but must stay ahead of the ever-changing AI technology.

Grantees must be affiliated with a campus unit, such as an academic department, student professional organization, career services center, or other administrative office within an institution, as grants cannot be awarded to individuals. ACHE anticipates making a total of 15-20 awards under this grant.

III.   GRANT DELIVERABLES

Grantees are to engage faculty and employers in developing and establishing AI learning opportunities for the students. Deliverables will include but may not be limited to a mid-year report and an end-year report, providing the plan of action and results in response to the proposal's objectives of the AI Culture Grant. As job placement for undergraduates is a primary target of the *All in Alabama* initiative, institutions are asked to incorporate AI objectives that align with the expectations of future employers.

IV. PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

Interested institutions are invited to submit a brief proposal (2-3 pages) by **Friday, April 26, 2024**.

Specifically, the proposal should include the following information:
- Name of campus unit that will administer the grant
- Primary contact responsible for grant administration (must be an employee of the institution)
- Description of plans, implementation, and assessment measures for AI applications
- Description of how undergraduate students, faculty, and employers will be engaged in the planning and utilization of the AI applications and learning opportunities
- Budget overview of how grant funds will be used (see section on **Use of Grant Funds**)
- Evidence of sustainability of the activities associated with the proposal beyond the life of the grant

V. USE OF GRANT FUNDS

ACHE's grant funds are to be used for direct (not indirect) expenses. Examples of allowable expenses are as follows:
- Artificial Intelligence tools or other vendor fees, as appropriate
- Curricula development and implementation (i.e., materials, subscriptions, etc.)
- Promotional items and events
- Stipends for faculty/staff overseeing the grant
- Stipends for undergraduate students contributing to the project
- Travel expenses
- Other expenditures approved by ACHE

VI. OWNERSHIP

Reports and other grant information submitted to ACHE under this grant shall become and remain the property of ACHE for uses and purposes as deemed appropriate by the State.

VII. GRANT PERIOD, DEADLINE, AND QUESTIONS

Grantees must submit reports by the following deadlines, unless otherwise agreed upon. Any extensions of grant period will require approval from ACHE.

Mid-Year Report to be Submitted by Friday, December 6, 2024

Year-End Report to be Submitted by Friday May 16, 2025

Proposals will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. (CT), Friday, April 26, 2024**. Please send an electronic copy of the proposal to Dr. Stephanie C. Dolan via email **stephanie.dolan@ache.edu**.

Questions about the grant may be directed to Dr. Dolan by email or phone (334) 353-9153.

ACHE will host a webinar about this grant opportunity **Tuesday, March 26,** from **12:30-1:30 p.m.**

Location:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4166105859?pwd=NTAxNzNqMzZLZ1pQNW4rbHNnRzdXQT09&omn=82961442645

Meeting ID: 416 610 5859

Passcode: ACHE2024