To establish a program to provide student fellowships in fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with preference given to the study of technological development encompassing the fields of energy, environment, and economy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2011

Mr. INSLEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a program to provide student fellowships in fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with preference given to the study of technological development encompassing the fields of energy, environment, and economy.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Fellowships for Undergraduate Training and Useful Research in Energy-related Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields Act” or “FUTURE STEM Act”.

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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) STEM.—The term "STEM" has the meaning given to that term in section 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.

(2) E3.—The term "E3" means the academic and professional area of technological development encompassing the fields of energy, environment, and economy.

SEC. 3. FELLOWSHIPS FOR STEM PROJECTS WITH PREFERENCE TO E3.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish an undergraduate student fellowships pilot program to award competitive grants to partner institutions to provide work experience in STEM fields that will overall improve education and training in support of STEM fields. Grants under this section may be used for—

(1) employing eligible students for 10-week research fellowships with partner institutions;

(2) approved travel and housing expenses for student fellows;

(3) purchasing, renting, or leasing of equipment, instrumentation, and other educational and training materials needed to satisfy the student research fellowships;
(4) supporting outreach efforts to recruit students;

(5) encouraging collaboration between government, industry, and academic partners; and

(6) assessing the activities funded under this Act.

(b) PARTNERS.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) shall be to a partner institution that—

(1) is a 2-year degree granting institution of higher education offering an associate degree in a STEM field;

(2) is a 4-year degree granting institution of higher education;

(3) is a business, nonprofit organization, or labor organization; or

(4) is a State educational agency, other public agency, or National Laboratory.

(c) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary of Energy shall give preference to awarding grants under this section to partner institutions—

(1) whose proposal incorporates E3 concepts;

(2) whose proposal includes student work experience with emphasis on research;
(3) who demonstrate that they will employ stu-
dents from groups that have been historically under-
represented in STEM fields; and

(4) who can demonstrate the likely long-term
stability of the program without continued Federal
funding.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—A student is eligible for employ-
ment under subsection (a) if the student—

(1) is at least 18 years of age on the date of
submission of the grant application and—

(A) is a high school student who has been
officially accepted to begin undergraduate stud-
ies at least half-time within 6 months of high
school graduation; or

(B) is enrolled as an undergraduate stu-
dent at least half-time at a degree granting in-
stitution;

(2) in the case of a student described in para-
graph (1)(B), has achieved at a minimum a 3.0 un-
dergraduate cumulative grade point average; and

(3) is a citizen or permanent resident of the
United States.

(e) STUDENT ALLOWANCES.—An eligible under-
graduate student employed using grant funds awarded
under subsection (a) shall receive—
(1) $4,500 direct salary stipend; and

(2) reimbursement up to $2,000 for approved housing and travel expenses.

(f) DIVERSITY OF SUBJECT MATTER.—The Secretary of Energy shall ensure that, to the extent possible, grants are provided under this Act for projects representing a wide diversity of STEM fields.

(g) LIMITATION.—No single grant under subsection (a) may be made in an amount greater than $10,000 per year.

(h) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall make publicly available all planning documents and other materials related to a project supported by a grant made under this Act.

(i) PROJECT REPORTS.—The Secretary of Energy shall require grant recipients under subsection (a) to submit a report to the Secretary, not later than 1 year after receiving the grant, on the results of the project supported by the grant. Each such report shall include an assessment of which elements of the project supported with the grant were successful and which were not, along with an identification and analysis of improvements that could have made the project more successful. The Secretary shall make all reports submitted under this subsection available to the public.
SEC. 4. REPORT.

The Secretary of Energy shall evaluate the effectiveness of activities carried out under this Act. A report documenting the results of that evaluation shall be submitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall identify best practices and materials developed and demonstrated by partners awarded a grant.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) $250,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(2) $250,000 for fiscal year 2013;

(3) $250,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

(4) $250,000 for fiscal year 2015.