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High Technology Doctoral Fellowship Program

Sec. 10a-25p-1. Definitions

When used in Sections 10a-25p-2 through 10a-25p-9 of these regulations,

(a) "Department" means the Department of Higher Education.

(b) "Eligible University" or "Institution" means an institution of higher learning located in Connecticut which offers doctoral programs approved and designated by the Board of Governors for Higher Education as programs in high technology fields which meet statewide economic needs.

(c) "Full-Time Student" means a graduate student whose registration in credit-bearing courses or their equivalent is equal to or greater than nine semester credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters per academic year.

(d) "High Technology Fields" or "High Technology Field" means those fields designated by the Board of Governors for Higher Education as being in a high technology area meeting statewide economic needs.

(e) "Matching Fellowship" means a high technology doctoral fellowship supported by corporate or non-state funds received by the eligible institution after July 1, 1987 and established under the terms described in Section 10a-25p-4 of these regulations:

(f) "Resident" means a person so designated under Section 10a-28 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(g) "State Fellowship" means a High Technology Doctoral Fellowship.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-2. Purpose

The High Technology Doctoral Fellowship Program seeks to attract residents to state doctoral programs in high technology fields and to encourage them to teach subsequently in a college or university in the state.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-3. Establishment of state fellowships

The Department, upon certification by an eligible university of the receipt of a matching fellowship, shall fund a state fellowship at that university. For each new state fellowship at an eligible university in the independent sector the Department shall establish two new state fellowships at an eligible university in the public sector and shall reserve from available appropriations funds sufficient to support such fellowships.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-4. Terms of state fellowships

State fellowships shall consist of an annual award of \$10,000, plus an additional amount of up to \$3,000 annually for public university recipients and up to \$12,250 annually for independent university recipients for tuition and fees. Fellowships shall be awarded for one academic year, but may be renewed, subject to the continued eligibility of the recipient and the availability of appropriated funds. In no case shall a student be eligible for a fellowship for more than four years of study. Each fellowship recipient shall have a teaching assignment equivalent to a minimum of one three-credit hour course per semester for three years of the maximum four year fellowship period. Fellowship funds may be used as salary stipends for these teaching assignments. The teaching assignment may be carried out at the eligible institution or at any public higher education institution in the state of Connecticut subject to

the approval of both institutions and any other restrictions imposed by statute, regulation, or collective bargaining agreement. An equivalent research assistant assignment may be substituted for one of these annual teaching assignments. The fellowship award shall be disbursed by the institution in equal payments at the beginning of the fall and spring academic semesters if the student continues in good academic standing in the designated program. One-half of the fellowship award shall be a grant; the remaining one-half shall be a loan. The loan component is subject to the forgiveness provisions described in Sec. 10a-25p-8 of these regulations.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-5. Selection of state fellowship recipients

In selecting fellowship recipients the institution shall consider affirmative action and equal opportunity goals and shall utilize the following additional criteria:

The applicant must:

- (1) be a Connecticut resident;
- (2) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an eligible university with the intent to pursue a doctoral program in one of the high technology fields; and
- (3) demonstrate strong academic skills as evidenced by:
 - (A) scores on a nationally standardized exam appropriate for graduate admission to a doctoral program in a high technology field;
 - (B) undergraduate and, if applicable, graduate academic transcripts; and
 - (C) recommendations from two faculty members, one of whom must be from the applicant's graduate program major.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-6. Renewal awards

A fellowship recipient is eligible for a renewal award for up to three additional years of study if the institution determines that the recipient:

- (a) is maintaining Connecticut residency; and
- (b) is in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-7. Loan provisions

The institution is responsible for executing the necessary loan documents and promissory notes for each fellowship recipient, for monitoring the status of program participants and for servicing loans which must be repaid. All such documents and notes shall comply with the relevant provisions of applicable state and federal truth-in-lending statutes and shall be accompanied by any disclosure forms required by those statutes. All such documents and notes shall include or be based on the following provisions:

(a) **Loan repayment.** The entire principal amount of the loan, together with accrued interest, is to be repaid to the institution and is to be used for financial assistance for graduate students enrolled in high technology fields. Repayment must be completed within a ten-year period, which shall begin on the first day of the fourth calendar month following the month in which a determination is made by the institution that a recipient has left the state fellowship program. A recipient shall be deemed to have left the program if the recipient:

- (1) ceases to be a full-time student in a doctoral program in a high technology field prior to completion of study except that if a recipient leaves the program but

remains a full-time student at the institution, the start of the repayment period may be delayed, but in no event may it be delayed for more than six years following the anniversary of the date the recipient initially enrolled as a graduate student in program of study in a high technology field.

(2) does not complete the doctoral program of study in a high technology field within six years of beginning graduate study in that field; or

(3) does not meet the qualifications for loan forgiveness as described in Sec. 10-25p-8 of these regulations.

(b) **Repayment schedule.** The repayment schedule is to be determined by the institution, and interest shall begin to accrue on the first day of the repayment period, as defined in subsection (a) of this section. A fixed-rate interest charge on the loan balance shall be set by the institution at a rate one percent above the prevailing prime interest rate as listed in the first Federal Reserve Bulletin published for the calendar year in which awards are made. This interest rate shall remain fixed for the recipient for all subsequent loans received under the state fellowship program.

(c) **Deferments.** The institution may grant to a recipient a deferment from repaying the loan during the period the recipient is meeting the qualifications for loan forgiveness as described in Sec. 10a-25p-8 of these regulations. The institution also may grant to a recipient a hardship deferment on loan repayment for no more than twelve months, during which time no interest shall accrue and no repayment shall be required, if the institution determines that the recipient is:

(1) actively seeking but unable to find employment;

(2) suffering from a disabling physical or mental illness;

(3) on parental leave which has been approved by the recipient's employer;

(4) experiencing a personal financial crisis;

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-8. Loan forgiveness

State fellowship recipients who, upon completion of their doctoral program, teach in their field shall have the loan forgiven in equal amounts over a period of three years if they teach at a college or university in the state for three years and in equal amounts over a period of five years if they teach at an accredited out-of-state college or university for five years. The institution shall establish application and certification procedures for administering the loan forgiveness. The institution also may forgive the loan component in the event of the death or disability of the recipient.

(Effective September 29, 1989)

Sec. 10a-25p-9. Reporting requirement

Institutions participating in the state fellowship program shall provide annual reports to the Department on the status of the fellowship participants and the operation of the program, including information concerning the collection of principal and interest.

(Effective September 29, 1989)