



### About the Kern Family Foundation

The Kern Family Foundation, located in Waukesha, Wisconsin, was created in 1998 through a generous gift from Robert and Patricia Kern, the co-founders of Generac Power Systems, a leading manufacturer of standby electrical power systems for industrial and residential applications. The primary mission of the foundation is to improve lives by promoting strong pastoral leadership, educational excellence and high quality, innovative engineering talent. The foundation provides assistance to educational programs that encourage students to pursue engineering and technology related careers. The Kern Family Foundation invests in broad impact, long term programs that address the underlying causes preventing our society from reaching its true potential.

The Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN), developed in concert with the NCIIA, supports Mr. Kern's passionate desire to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in engineering students. These specialized skills will enable graduates to make greater contributions to the economic success of any enterprise in which they are engaged.

### The goal of KEEN

To make entrepreneurship education opportunities widely available at US institutions of higher learning, and to instill an action-oriented entrepreneurial mindset in engineering, science, and technical undergraduates. KEEN offers:

#### Grants

KEEN provides financial and other resources to grantee institutions for the development of entrepreneurship curricula, modules, and extracurricular activities like business plan competitions, speaker series, student entrepreneurship clubs, and seminars.

#### Kern Faculty Fellows

Each participating institution will choose a faculty leadership team including at least one tenured faculty member. These Kern Fellows will collaborate to realize the entrepreneurship education vision of their home institutions, with support from grants, tools, and resources. KEEN will provide initial awards of up to \$50,000 to Fellows and their institutions in spring 2006, with additional financial, consulting, and support resources tailored to institutional needs.

#### Capacity-building workshops

Kern Fellows will participate in three capacity-building workshops that will support them in program planning and development.

#### Cross-institution networking

Kern Fellows and other educational leaders will participate in the Kern Network, a collaborative community for idea generation, program building, and resource sharing.

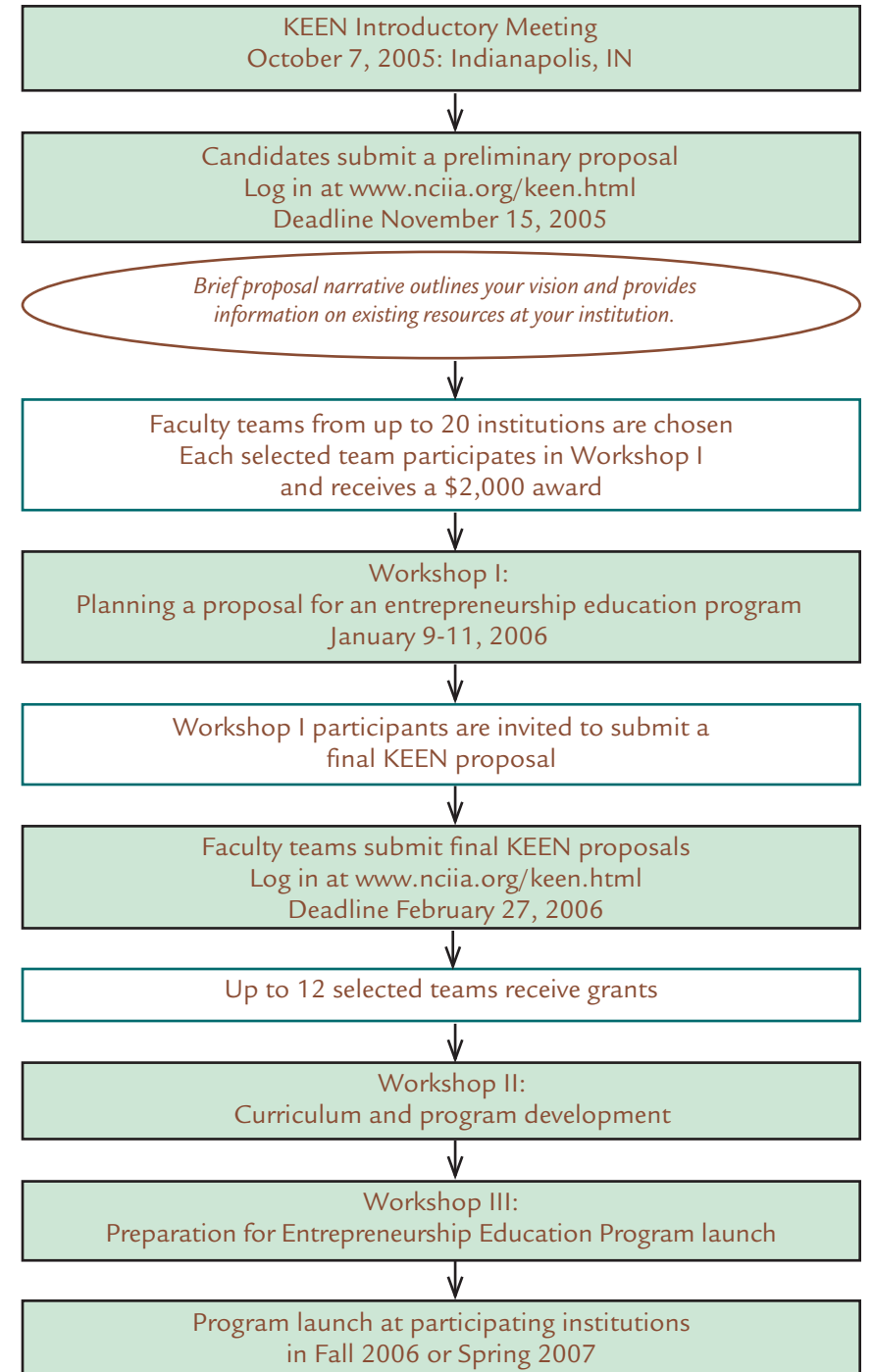
#### Curricular and program materials

Kern Fellows will have access to the KEEN Curriculum Link. The Curriculum Link offers examples of entrepreneurship education curricula, modules, and other programming. Curriculum Link will be developed through the coordinated contribution of participants' work and materials.

#### Who is eligible to participate?

Private Midwestern institutions with ABET accredited or accreditable undergraduate engineering programs may apply. Eligible institutions will choose a faculty leadership team, including at least one tenured faculty member, to participate in the application process and lead program development at selected institutions.

### Program development timeline





## Preliminary Request for Proposals

*submission deadline:  
November 15, 2005*

login and submit proposals  
at [www.nciia.org](http://www.nciia.org)



National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance  
100 Venture Way, 3rd Floor  
Hadley, MA 01035  
(413) 587-2172  
[info@nciia.org](mailto:info@nciia.org) • [www.nciia.org](http://www.nciia.org)



National Collegiate Inventors & Innovators Alliance



The Kern Entrepreneurship Education Network (KEEN) offers institutions access to vital resources for building quality entrepreneurship education programs that engage engineering and technical students in hands-on learning.

KEEN provides a synergistic combination of:

- grants
- faculty fellowships
- workshops
- networking opportunities
- tools and resources

### About the NCIIA

The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance fosters invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship in higher education to help generate innovative, commercially viable, and socially beneficial businesses and employment opportunities in the United States. The NCIIA sees invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship as essential components of the higher education curriculum and vital to the nation's economic future, and works to build collaborative experiential learning programs to nurture innovators and entrepreneurs with strong technical and business skills and the tools and intention to make the world a better place.