

## NIST to Establish Research Center of Excellence for Forensic Science

U.S. academic research institutions and other research organizations are invited to apply for funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a Forensic Science Center of Excellence. A more thorough understanding and contextualizing of the uncertainty associated with every scientific measurement or analytical technique is a critical need in the forensic science community. Probabilistic analysis that enables a detailed examination of uncertainties is necessary and thereby allowing for a numerical justification for the conclusions made by forensic analysts.

To meet this critical need NIST has issued a federal funding opportunity announcement which states that funding for the center would be approximately \$4 million per year for five years. Based on a review after the first five years, the cooperative agreement for the center could be renewed for an additional five years. The announcement is available on Grants.gov at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=262395](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=262395).

Interested applicants can participate in a webinar on **Thursday, Sept. 25, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET**. The webinar will offer guidance on preparing a proposal. To sign up for the webinar, go to <http://www.nist.gov/coe/forensics/webinar-on-the-forensic-science-center-of-excellence.cfm>.

The center will foster collaborative, interdisciplinary research between academic and industry partners and NIST researchers. The center's mission will be to establish a firm scientific foundation for the analytic techniques used in two important branches of forensic science, pattern evidence and digital evidence.

Goals for the center include:

- Provide a strong scientific basis in probabilistic method and computation development;
- Create education and training infrastructure in probabilistic methods for practitioners, non-practitioners and stakeholders, and;
- Promote competence building among and dialogue between NIST, Academia, and the forensic science community.

The application deadline is **Dec. 11, 2014, 11:59 p.m., ET**. NIST expects to make award this funding opportunity by March 2015. For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact Dave Holbrook at 301-975-4462 or [dave.holbrook@nist.gov](mailto:dave.holbrook@nist.gov).