

From: [Apon, Daniel C. \(Fed\)](#)
To: [Chen, Lily \(Fed\)](#)
Subject: Re: Question about 2nd NIST Conference
Date: Friday, February 1, 2019 2:28:58 PM

Yes, the rules are important to follow. Sounds good! Let me know

--Daniel

From: Chen, Lily (Fed)
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 2:25:20 PM
To: Apon, Daniel C. (Fed)
Subject: RE: Question about 2nd NIST Conference

Daniel,

We will see what we can do. You know that it is not always allowed to solicit submissions. We need to see if we can get the call approved. I will discuss with Matt.

Lily

From: Apon, Daniel C. (Fed)
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Chen, Lily (Fed) <lily.chen@nist.gov>
Subject: Re: Question about 2nd NIST Conference

Hey Lily,

That's a great story. And I'm happy you think this is a great idea too!

The type of thing I had in mind was to make a 'small announcement' that such invitational travel funding is available for "1 or 2 grad or bright undergrad students," and then ask them to submit some kind of short application. (This could target any such students, or students from historically un-involved universities -- but the main requirement would be that they are interested in PQC but might not normally attend our conference without this grant process.) I do have a handful of students in mind from a handful of universities, but I think this is not the best way to go -- it would be better if we set up some small process (and announce it, perhaps even on theoretical computer science blogs or similar), and I ask the ones that I know to apply, and then we (whoever that is) decide on which are the best candidates..

If, however, such a small process is not possible, I could privately ask the people I know if they are interested in an invitational travel grant to the Santa Barbara conference. I think there may be good such candidates outside who I know, though.. I don't want to short-circuit their opportunity either!

Let me know what you think =)

--Daniel

From: Chen, Lily (Fed)
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 2:14:46 PM
To: Apon, Daniel C. (Fed)
Subject: RE: Question about 2nd NIST Conference

Hi, Daniel,

Thanks for the suggestion. This is a great idea. If 2009 is long time ago, then 1991 probably might be ancient. My supervisor in Denmark sent me to Eurocrypt 1991. At that time, I was a young researcher but no international publications. I barely spoke English. My supervisor said, if you publish one paper at Eurocrypt, you will get your PhD. Well, I did and got my PhD. I know it is important to get students exposed to crypto research in early stage. (Even for me, it was not quite early stage at all, it critically changed my career.)

Let's back to your suggestion. We have two problems, whether the funding is available and whether we can use it in sponsoring students. I think we will have fund for a few. But the way to sponsor it may be very limited. We can use a few "waivers" for registration fee, which would not help much unless the students are already there. Another way is to sponsor "invitational travel". We can do a couple if you have specific students in mind. Other than that, we cannot set special funding for student travel as far as I can understand, unfortunately.

Lily

From: Apon, Daniel C. (Fed)
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Chen, Lily (Fed) <lily.chen@nist.gov>
Subject: Question about 2nd NIST Conference

Hi Lily,

Long ago (2009?), I was a poor lonely Master's student at the Univ of Arkansas, and I applied for and got a travel grant to visit STOC in Boston (designed for grad students from universities that historically don't publish papers in the STOC community). That trip prompted me to branch out from Arkansas (I think there was a talk on "early" lattice crypto at STOC that year), leading me to Univ of MD for a PhD in Crypto and eventually to NIST.

Have we ever considered offering something like this for (say) the NIST PQC Standardization Conferences? I'm not sure at all about the status of funds, but it seems (at least to me!) like a very natural Good Thing to do for the broader academic community. (If we were NSF, at least, we might have this as a core goal -- "Broader Impacts")

--Daniel