

## **NAACL Latin America Fund June 2009 – June 2010 Summary**

The NAACL Executive Board created the Latin America Fund at their June 2009 Annual Meeting (in Boulder, Colorado). \$3,500 was allocated to support activities that would encourage development of the CL and NLP community in Latin America. As such emphasis was given to workshops, conferences, and summer schools, rather than proposals focused on an individual researcher. There was also a strong emphasis placed on supporting local events and local participants, hoping to inspire grass roots efforts to develop the Latin American research community.

A call for proposals was issued in June 2009 via various mailing lists, including Priscilla's ACL/NAACL list, the NAACL-Latin-America list, and corpora. The call is included as an appendix to this document. There were six proposals submitted from June 2009 through February 2010. No effort was made to further promote the fund after February 2010 since all funds for 2009-2010 had been allocated, and part of the expected budget for 2010 had already been allocated.

Given the robust response to the call and the fairly quick draining of the Latin America Fund coffers, it seems quite clear that we need to have a few deadlines during the year in order to allow us to manage our funds, and also make it more clear to proposers when they should submit. I would suggest that we consider deadlines of September 1 and March 1, and that the event for which funding is sought should occur within 2-9 months of the given deadline. Note that funds transfers are generally done by wire, and this takes a bit of coordination between the NAACL Treasurer, Priscilla, and the receiving party. About 4-6 weeks should be allowed for this transfer to occur.

In general the proposals we received made requests for funding to support students and local researchers, although we sometimes had to ask that the budget be reformulated so that NAACL funds would not be used to fund travel from Europe to Latin America. The restriction on only supporting travel in Latin America is something we should probably make even more clear in the next version of the call, since a few proposals were clearly intended (in their original form) to support ex-pat travel “back home” which is outside the scope of what NAACL is hoping to achieve with this funding. We placed a very high emphasis on funding local students, which is consistent with other NAACL funding initiatives (like the JHU summer school and student travel support to the NAACL conference). It is also the case that funding for students is often nearly non-existent in most of Latin America, so even small amounts of money can do a great deal of good.

If a proposal was funded we also asked that proposers submit a short report about their event including information about the students funded (and photographs). (A copy of a typical acceptance notice has been included as an appendix to this document.) These reports are made available on the NAACL web site and thus far suggest that the funding has been used as intended and is making a positive contribution to the Latin American research community.

In the appendices that follow you will see a summary of proposals received plus the call for proposals and a typical acceptance letter.

Ted Pedersen  
May 10, 2010

### **June 2009 – June 2010 Proposals Received:**

Seventh Brazilian Symposium on Information and Human Language Technology (STIL)  
proposal arrived June 2009, event Sept 2009, requested \$1500, funded \$1500  
<http://www.inf.ufrgs.br/stil09/>

Individual researcher in Mexico, opinion mining tool  
proposal arrived June 2009, requested \$750, not funded

NLP in Psychology Workshop in Argentina  
proposal arrived Feb 2010, event May 2010, requested \$800, not funded  
[http://www.dcs.shef.ac.uk/~saggion/horaciowebpage/CFA\\_NLP\\_chapter.txt](http://www.dcs.shef.ac.uk/~saggion/horaciowebpage/CFA_NLP_chapter.txt)

International Conference on Computational Processing of the Portuguese Language (PROPOR)  
proposal arrived Feb 2010, event April 2010, requested \$1500, funded \$1000  
<http://www.inf.pucrs.br/~propor2010/>

NAACL-HLT Young Investigators Workshop  
proposal arrived Feb 2010, event June 2010, NAACL fee waiver request, funded \$1000  
<http://groups.google.com/group/naacl-2010-yi-workshop>

5 proposals received, 3 funded in the total amount of \$3,500.

### **June 2010 – June 2011 Proposals:**

ELIC winter school in Argentina  
proposal arrived August 2009, event August 2010 \$1500 funded  
<http://www.glyc.dc.uba.ar/elic2010/>

1 proposal received (thus far), 1 funded in the amount of \$1,500.

## Call for Proposals (June 2009 version)

On June 3, 2009, NAACL (<http://naacl.org>) announced the creation of a new initiative to assist the Latin American research community in Natural Language Processing and Computational Linguistics. NAACL has set aside a modest amount of funding for this coming year (\$3,000 US), in order to make awards that will be of assistance to the Latin American research community.

We anticipate making awards in the range of \$500 - \$1500. While the nature of the awards are not strictly specified, our overall goal is to assist the creation of a larger and more cohesive Computational Linguistics community in Latin America. Examples of proposals that could help to "build community" may include support for regional conferences (either financial and/or endorsement), improved distribution of tools and data of particular interest to Latin America, and financial or material support for NLP/CL classes at colleges and universities in Latin America. In addition, NAACL has a long tradition of supporting student participation in conferences, summer schools, and NLP/CL competitions, and would give high priority to such efforts in Latin America.

However, NAACL recognizes that each region of Latin America has specific needs and concerns, and so we are open to a wide range of possible proposals, subject to the constraint that these awards are intended to support individuals, institutions, or events located in Latin America, and to support travel within Latin America.

Proposals will be considered as they are received. Please submit a one page proposal (approx), that addresses the following points :

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- 1) What will this funding enable you to achieve? :
- 2) Who specifically will benefit from this funding? :
- 3) The total amount of NAACL funding requested (in US dollars) :
- 4) A more detailed breakdown of the budget (if relevant) :
- 5) If you will use this funding to make your own awards (e.g., student travel grants), by what criteria will you do that, and who would make that decision? :
- 6) Contact information for the individual or organization making the request, along with any relevant web pages:

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Please submit proposals or questions to Owen Rambow, Chair of NAACL ( [rambow at cs.columbia.edu](mailto:rambow@cs.columbia.edu) ) and cc Ted Pedersen ( [tpederse at d.umn.edu](mailto:tpederse@d.umn.edu) ).

## **Funding Notification**

On behalf of the NAACL Executive Board, I am pleased to inform you that your proposal to the NAACL Latin American Fund has been approved, and will be funded in the amount of \$1,000 (US). Your proposal was reviewed by the NAACL Executive Board and Officers (<http://www.naacl.org/officers>) and was greeted with enthusiasm and unanimous support.

This funding is intended to [insert specifics of proposal here] support the participation of PhD, MS, and undergraduate students in PROPOR 2010. Please note that NAACL funds should be used to support students who are studying in the Americas, so we would simply ask that the students who are supported with these funds be enrolled at colleges or universities in Brazil and the rest of the Americas.

We would like to disburse these funds to you as quickly and efficiently as possible, so please let Chris Manning (NAACL Treasurer [manning@cs.stanford.edu](mailto:manning@cs.stanford.edu)) know as soon as possible what will be the most convenient way of delivering these funds (wire transfer, money order, etc?) Please also cc Ted Pedersen (NAACL Executive Board member [tpederse@d.umn.edu](mailto:tpederse@d.umn.edu)) on this correspondence. Since your event occurs in April we'd encourage you to make these arrangements in the very near future, since typically it has taken us from 4-6 weeks to arrange funds transfers for previous events.

We would also appreciate a short report after PROPOR that briefly summarizes how the funds were used, and includes the names and affiliations of the students who received support. A few photos would be appreciated, as well as a general summary of how things went at PROPOR. This will help us argue for the continuation of the NAACL Latin America Fund in the future, and also help to promote PROPOR among the broader NAACL membership. You can see an example of a report from a previous event that received support from the NAACL Latin America Fund here : <http://www.naacl.org/archives/2009/STIL-2009-short-report.pdf>

Many thanks for your proposal, and we wish you the best of luck with PROPOR. Please let us know if any questions arise, and we look forward to hearing how things go!