

GRC Funding Competitiveness Conference

February 19- 22, 2014 - Washington, DC

Summary

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

2:15 – 3:15 General Session: Paris Ballroom

Research and Sponsored Programs Innovation: Case Study

The session will feature a brief overview of the AASCU/GRC Innovations Exchange program, followed by a case study of sponsored programs innovation. Janet Woolman of McNeese State University (La.), a GRC member institution, will discuss the development of McNeese's Innovation Center, covering the center's concept, and its effects on students, the university, businesses and the wider community.

Presenter(s):

Janet Woolman, Director-Research and Government Relations, McNeese State University

Janet said the Innovation Center covers all disciplines and is not controlled by any one college.

Janet provided the following links to her university's Innovation Lab:

<http://seed.mcneese.edu/student-incubator>

<http://seed.mcneese.edu/innovation-lab>

3:30 – 4:30 General Session: Paris Ballroom

Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research: What Research and Sponsored Program Offices Can Use and Contribute

Since the release of the Council on Undergraduate Research's Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR) in 2012, diverse academic institutions have used the document in strategic planning, self-studies, and accreditation processes. For research and sponsored program professionals, two of the most compelling reasons to consider COEUR as a resource is that it highlights the need for a whole institution approach to undergraduate research, and it singles out the importance of a solid research infrastructure to undergraduate research success. In this interactive session, a brief overview of the COEUR document will be provided, followed by a discussion among participants as to how COEUR might be used by research and sponsored programs offices, and how these offices can contribute to improving undergraduate research programs on their campuses.

Presenter(s):

Elizabeth L. Ambos, Executive Officer, Council on Undergraduate Research

Thursday, February 20, 2014

8:30 - 9:30 General Session: Paris Ballroom

NIH Update

This session will address emerging issues associated with extramural research at the National Institutes of Health

Presenter(s):

Sally Rockey, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health

Sally said the NIH success rate for grant proposals is 12.5 to 16%. The average award is \$450,000 for 4 years. She discussed the following funding opportunities:

BEST-Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training-for PhD and Post Doctorates

BUILD-Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity-meant to give undergraduates successful research experiences

AREA-must not be major recipients of NIH grants in the past

9:45 – 10:45 General Session: Paris Ballroom

Federal Update

Federal support for the sciences, technology and education is still alive and the government is indeed making new investments in FY 14. Our speakers will help us understand the outlook for future funding in FY 14 and beyond.

Presenter(s):

Kei Koizumi, Assistant Director, Federal Research and Development, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President
Barmak Nassirian, Director, Federal Relations and Policy Analysis, American Association of State Colleges and Universities

11:00 - 12:00 General Session: Paris Ballroom

Keynote Address: Developing a Robust Research Capacity

Eduardo M. Ochoa, formerly head of the Office of Postsecondary Education in the Obama administration and currently president of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), will review strategies for building a robust research agenda during this period of fiscal constraints. The topic will be approached from both a campus planning and Federal policy perspective.

Presenter(s):

Eduardo Ochoa, President of California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB)
Cindy Lopez, Director of Sponsored Programs at CSUMB

In 2012, NASA awarded CSUMB \$32 million for 10 years to study climate change. 20 CSUMB researchers are involved.

CSUMB is the largest recipient of NSF Research Fellowships to undergraduates in the CSU system.

Funders include NSF, Dept. of Ed., and local fundraising.

CSUMB has the Institute for Applied Marine Ecology. It is the recipient of federal, state, local and private grants and donations.

CSUMB has the Seafloor Mapping Lab, which is involved with the California Seafloor Mapping Project.

CSUMB has an Undergraduate Research Center, funded by McNair.

1:30 – 2:20 General Session: Paris Ballroom

NSF Update

This session will cover recent policy and program changes resulting from sequestration, government shutdown, and new agency priorities based on FY 14 and FY 15 budget requests. The 2014 Proposal and Awards Policy and Procedures Guide modifications will also be highlighted.

Presenter(s):

Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, National Science Foundation

There is a new PAPPG for NSF for proposals on or after 2/24/14.

The Federal Financial Report (FFR) has been eliminated.

2:30 – 3:20 Concurrent Sessions

NIH Support for the AREA Program

Paris Ballroom

The Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program is a longstanding National Institutes of Health (NIH) program that supports faculty research projects at colleges and universities that have not received much NIH funding in the past. This session will review the key requirements of the program. This session will review the key requirements of the program and introduce the new AREA program director.

Presenter(s):

Michelle Timmerman, AREA Program Director, National Institutes of Health

Michelle said that AREA R15 proposals should:

- Make important scientific contributions
- Expose students to research
- Strengthen the overall research environment
- Summarize the PI's experience supervising students
- Emphasize the institutional support for the research

Michelle summarized changes to the R15:

- They are renewable.
- They may be career-long.
- They are not a stepping stone to R1s.
- The language about expected scientific impact has been softened.

3:30 – 4:20 Concurrent Sessions

NIH/DOJ Support for Projects that Address Violence Prevention

Paris Ballroom

This session will provide insight on grant opportunities from the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Institutes of Health that focus on violence prevention programs and research.

Presenter(s):

Robert Freeman, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health

Dara Blachman-Demner, National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice

4:30 – 5:20 Concurrent Sessions

NEA's Collaborative Research Efforts And Funding Landscape

Madeleine

This session will examine the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) research on the intersection of the arts with other fields and present information on key NEA funding opportunities.

Presenter(s):

Melissa Menzer, Program Analyst, Research & Analysis, National Endowment for the Arts

Jen Hughes, Design Specialist, National Endowment for the Arts

Jen Hughes discussed NEA grant opportunities:

Challenge America Fast-Track - \$10K-5/8/14 deadline-to underserved communities.

Art Works-10-100K-7/24/14 deadline

Our Town-25-200K-1/2015 deadline-Emphasizes design or planning or arts engagement, and must be a partnership-Funded 190 projects in the last 3 years.

Friday, February 21, 2014

8:15 – 9:15 General Session: Paris Ballroom

Cause Célèbre: New Information on NSF CAUSE and other DUE Grant Opportunities

This session will provide updates on the status of the Catalyzing Advances in Undergraduate STEM Education (CAUSE), and Improving Undergraduate STEM Education grant opportunities within the Division of Undergraduate Education of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Presenter(s):

Lee Zia, Program Director, NSF Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)

CAUSE, TUES, STEP, and WIDER are no longer available. Apply to IUSE (Improving Undergraduate STEM Education) instead. All proposals submitted to IUSE are considered "unsolicited" because they are in response to a program description, not in response to a program solicitation.

Other NSF programs are:

- Noyce - requires teaching in high need areas for 2 years for every year of support-deadline 3/5/14
- ATE-Advanced Technological Education-requires collaboration with a 2-year college-deadline expected to be 10/14
- S STEM-Scholarships in STEM-deadline 8/12/14

10:30 – 11:40 Concurrent Sessions

Overview of the Study of U.S. Institutes Programs

Madeline

Each year, the U.S. Department of State solicits colleges and universities to design and implement Study of U.S. Institutes programs that target international professionals and undergraduate students to learn about U.S. culture and policy centered on specific topics. This session will provide insight on how attendees can develop competitive programs.

Presenter(s):

Kevin Orchison, Program Officer, Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders, U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

<http://eca.state.gov/>

\$240-290K ceiling

May have to submit 2 times to get funded

Be sure to leverage what makes your university unique.

Make sure participants will be able to interact with a diverse population: tribes, elders, homeless, etc.

2:30 – 3:20 Concurrent Sessions

ED Funding Prospects for the Remainder of FY 14

Madeline

This session will give an overview of the funding prospects for ED's higher education programs during the remainder of FY 14 and give insight on what stakeholders can expect in FY 15.

Presenter(s):

Frederick Winter, Program Officer, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

A new program entitled First in the World (FITW) is being funded to the tune of \$75 million. Up to \$20 million is being set aside for minority-serving institutions, which includes HSIs. The solicitation should be

published by late May. The deadline should be late June or early July. The emphasis of First in the World is to try something new. The contact information is fipse@ed.gov, and 202-502-7500.

3:30 – 4:20 Concurrent Sessions

NEH Digital Humanities

Madeline

The National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) Office of Digital Humanities features programs designed to explore how cutting-edge technology can be harnessed for humanities research, as well as programs designed to study emerging digital culture from a humanistic perspective. This session will feature an in-depth overview of opportunities for colleges and universities within NEH's Office of Digital Humanities Program.

Presenter(s):

Perry Collins, Senior Program Officer, Office of Digital Humanities, National Endowment of the Humanities

<http://www.neh.gov/divisions/odh>

<http://www.neh.gov/grants>

Funding opportunities:

Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions-deadline 6/26/14

Saturday, February 22, 2014

8:45 – 11:15 General Session: Paris Ballroom

NIH Grantsmanship Workshop

Back by popular demand, this session will include tips for writing competitive proposals to the National Institutes of Health, as well as a mock peer review session of a proposal submitted to NIH for funding.

Presenter(s):

Peter Jackson, Scientific Review Program, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health

Hortencia Hornbeak, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health

René Etcheberrigaray, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health

Betty Poon, AIDS Review Branch, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health

Richard Crosland, Scientific Review Officer, National Institutes of Health

The panel made suggestions for improving submissions to NIH:

- Make sure the application goes to the right study section.
- A cover letter is a good idea. You may even suggest where to assign the proposal.
- AREA R15s must:
 - Involve students in hands-on learning
 - Detail the PI's experience with mentoring students, and where the students are now
 - Describe the overall impact and the scientific contribution
 - Describe the institutional involvement
- For experienced PIs, reviewers look for collaboration and evidence of publishing.
- Program officers have nothing to do with review of the application.
- Data sharing plans are required if proposal is for 500K or more.