

Office of Sponsored Programs Bulletin August 2008

The SJSU Research Foundation (SJSURF), Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) Bulletin is a monthly publication informing the SJSU academic community about sponsored program information, trends and opportunities. To view the OSP Bulletin online, visit the SJSU Research Foundation website at <http://www.sjsufoundation.org/>.

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1. Welcome Faculty

SJSU Research Foundation welcomes new and returning San José State University faculty for the 2008-09 academic year. In our commitment to help faculty further their research goals at SJSU, we offer an array of services - from funding alerts, budget development and proposal submittals, to human resources assistance, financial management of awards and contracts, and connections to local businesses and community resources.

If you have any questions about these services or opportunities through SJSURF, please contact Jerri Carmo, Deputy COO, at (408) 924-1429. We look forward to working with you in your sponsored programs endeavors.

2. SJSURF Fall Grant Proposal Workshop Series

SJSURF is offering a grant proposal workshop series in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library (MLK) for San José State University faculty and staff. The workshops cover topics such as understanding sponsored program guidelines, budget development, and tips for writing successful proposals. Workshops will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Faculty and staff are welcome to attend all or part of the session, as their schedules permit. Lunch will be provided to those who RSVP. The first topic for the Fall 2008 semester is:

Working with the SJSU Research Foundation September 19, 2008 MLK 255/257

This workshop will focus on how the SJSURF is organized to help you locate and apply for external funding, as well as explore potential partnerships within the community. Meet the key staff members who can assist you with locating resources for your research and scholarly projects.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Jerri Carmo at jcarmo@foundation.sjsu.edu or (408) 924-1429.

3. NIH Financial Conflict of Interest

All NIH-funded Institutions and principal investigators must understand their fiduciary obligations under federal law, specifically where conflict of interest is concerned. According to NIH, the compliance process includes: "(1) Investigators' prompt and full disclosure of financial interests that may be impacted by their NIH-supported research; and (2) sound institutional management of any conflicting interests, including reporting those interests to the appropriate NIH funding Institute/Center."

NIH has developed a web-based tutorial that explains how to comply with federal regulation regarding conflict of interest. The tutorial is designed for use by research administrators and individuals who are responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of NIH-supported research. We encourage all NIH-funded Investigators, as well as those planning an NIH proposal to take the tutorial, which can be accessed at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/index.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Dittman, Associate Director – Pre-Award, at (408) 924-1434 or jdittman@foundation.sjsu.edu.

4. Research Administrators are Talking About...*

...word choice. In a recent research administrators LISTSERV post, Liselotte Schioler, Director of Research Development for the National Institute of Aerospace recalls her experience as a National Science Foundation program director. She writes, "I'm sure people think it's political correctness when NSF uses the term 'decline to fund' rather than 'reject,' but it's not really. Probably close to half the proposals reviewed in the program that I managed were 'fundable'--that is, the proposal is meritorious enough to warrant finding.

"The issue is that there was never enough money to fund all the meritorious proposals, so only the very best were funded. The overall funding rate at NSF is close to 25%, which means that ~ 25% of the proposals received that are fundable are not funded. In my experience, another ~35% would be fundable with specific improvements, and the final 15% are, well, to be polite I would say unfundable even with major changes. It seems to me that 'rejection' is too strong a word for all but the lowest ranking 15% of the proposals, since it implies that the proposal is totally worthless. Thus the term 'decline to fund'-- it doesn't say anything about the merits of the proposal.

"Only the program officer can tell you (or the PI) where the proposal stood in the overall ranking, and what improvements, if any, could be made to raise the chances of the proposal being funded in the future. Please keep in mind that the statistics I use above are approximate numbers in a single-investigator program. Different programs will have different statistics, but I can assure you that there are always many more meritorious proposals than there is money available to fund them."

*Published by the Grants Resource Center in *GrantWeek* July 14, 2008.

5. Proposal Development Resources

The Foundation Center has released the fifth edition of *The Grantseeker's Guide to Winning Proposals*. The guide contains 35 written proposals with comments from program officers. These proposals were funded by national, international, local, regional, and corporate foundations.

Another new proposal development tool that includes annotated examples of successful proposals is the fourth edition of Miner and Associates' *Proposal Planning and Writing*. The guide provides

expanded instructions on evaluation and outcomes assessment, guidance on project sustainability after grant termination, and proposal development checklists.

6. NSF Solicits Comments on Cost Sharing

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is soliciting comments on the use of cost share in NSF-funded programs. Please visit <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/cs/comment.jsp> for more information and to submit comments. Comments must be submitted by October 1, 2008.

7. U.S. Department of Education Student Support Services Program

The goal of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Student Support Services (SSS) program is "to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next." The program may fund services such as instruction in basic study skills; academic, financial, or personal counseling; career information; special services for students with limited English skills; and grant aid.

ED has requested approximately \$272 million to fund approximately 975 new awards for FY 09; over 1500 applications are expected. The competition deadline will be announced in the upcoming weeks with a standard 30-45 day turnaround time between solicitation release and application deadline.

Here are some key points from the pre-application workshops recently hosted by ED:

- All new awardees may receive five-year grants.
- New awardees will be required to provide at least six program services.
- New projects may receive \$200,000 (\$220,000 if only serving students with disabilities) and must serve at least 160 students.
- Selection criteria are Project Need (24 points); Objectives (8 points); Operation Plan (30 points); Institutional Commitment (16 points); Personnel Quality (9 points); Budget (5 points); and Evaluation Plan (8 points). During the FY 05 competition, the cut-off score was 99.3.
- Twenty percent of an applicant's SSS program funds can be used for grant aid. If an applicant uses these funds, then a 33 percent match from non-federal sources is required.
- Applicants should design detailed evaluations that include long-term data, even two or more years beyond the end of the grant.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triostudsupp/index.html>.

8. Film-Related Awards Available for Colleges and Universities*

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation is accepting applications for Institutional Grants. Colleges and universities are eligible to apply for the awards, which "foster educational activities between the public and the film industry [and] encourage an appreciation of the motion picture as an art form and a vocation." Awards may not be used for film production, dissertation completion, or for film festivals. Past awards to academic institutions have supported artist- and filmmaker-in-residence programs, exhibitions, and internship programs. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 each. Applications are due no later than January 15, 2009. For more information, see <http://www.oscars.org/grants/institutional/index.html>.

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9. Fellowships

SJSURF receives notification of fellowship opportunities for faculty and students. This month's highlights include:

Program: Graduate Research Fellowships

Agency: National Science Foundation

Next Deadline: Nov 3, 2008

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08593/nsf08593.htm>

Program: Fellowships for Early Career Researchers

Agency: NASA

Deadline: Oct 31, 2008

<http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/viewrepositorydocument/cmdocumentid=128996/C.22%20Early%20Career%20Fellowships.pdf>

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