NSF Signs Contract for Anti-Plagiarism Software

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced that it has recently signed a contract for use of new anti-plagiarism software. This new procedure is in addition to changes listed in the National Science Foundation’s Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), first announced in last month’s newsletter, which went into effect on February 2014.

The new software will be used by NSF on all proposals that are submitted for review. A 2013 article on Science Magazine’s website explains that NSF’s interest in the software grew out of an internal inspection carried out on all awards and proposals in fiscal year 2011.

Results of this audit showed that the incidence of “unattributed text” in proposals was high enough that the issue had to be addressed, and the new software is designed to do just that.

Please go here for more information regarding the new software contract.

As always, the Office of Sponsored Programs’ (OSP) pre-award staff will work with faculty to submit proposals in FastLane that are in compliance with the PAPPG. We are happy to answer any questions and comments that you may have.
As mentioned in the January 2014 issue of OSP Monthly, the PI Handbook was revised and posted on the OSP website in December 2013 to include up-to-date information and links to current sponsored program related processes, policies and procedures. Since then, Section IV - Compliance, has been updated. You can find the latest version of the PI Handbook on the OSP website by clicking here.


Get Informed, Get Ready to Learn, and Get Registered for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Regional Seminar on Program Funding & Grants Administration!

What do you get when you mix the view and excitement of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor with about 700 grant administrators and researchers from around the world, then add more than 40 NIH and Health and Human Services (HHS) experts in one location who are eager to share their experiences and knowledge of the NIH grants process? You get the 2014 NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration!

Date: June 25—27, 2013
Location: Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity for investigators, administrators, grant writers and others who are new to the NIH grants process and/or those wanting to hear the latest NIH grants policy and process information first-hand. Learn how to successfully submit an application, navigate online resources, gain a better understanding of the peer review process, and hear about the expectations for managing your award.

Two full days of sessions are offered with networking opportunities and valuable expertise around every corner. There is an optional eRA workshop offered—a valuable add-on for those new to working with the eRA Commons and the NIH application process. Space for this workshop is very limited, so don’t delay and register today.

For more information, please visit the website here.
General Distinctions Between a Gift and a Grant

The University has a fiduciary to sponsors and donors. The appropriate classification of external funding sources facilitates the assignment of responsibility, the proper recognition of achievements, and the appropriate reporting results.

What is a GIFT?

A gift is any item of value given to the University by a donor who expects nothing in return other than recognition and disposition of the gift in accordance with his or her wishes. To be considered a gift, item(s) being given or contributed:

- Must be devoid of contractual requirements and with no deliverables (gift may be for a stated purpose, with the use of the funds designated for that purpose);
- Must be irrevocable with no specified period of performance;
- Does not require formal fiscal accountability beyond general stewardship and communication as courtesy to the donor; e.g., progress reports, reports of expended funds and balances;
- Qualify for tax purposes as a charitable contribution by the donor.

What is a GRANT?

To be considered a grant or contract, the following requirements must be met:

- Submission of a formal proposal by the University is required;
- Contractual agreement binding the University to a specified line of scholarly study or educational training within a specified period of performance;
- Documents generally contain provisions regarding intellectual property rights, and/or the disposition of tangible, or intangible results from the project;
- Documents require formal accountability (budgets and financial reports) for all funds received and expended;
- Documents may be cancelled by either party for failure to perform

1 Courtesy of Grant and Contracts Accounting (GCA)
US Department of Education Looking for Peer Reviewers

The International and Foreign Language Education office (IFLE) of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) administers a variety of international education programs. IFLE continually seeks qualified individuals, in particular, world language and area/international studies specialists, to serve as readers for grant competitions.

Selected readers participate in a panel review of applications and are provided with modest compensation. Most reviews are conducted electronically via the Department’s G5 system and travel will not be necessary. In cases where travel is necessary, readers are provided with roundtrip travel, lodging, and per diem. The review process involves orientation, reading of applications, and regularly scheduled discussions with other panelists. Application scores are based on pre-determined selection criteria and any announced priorities for each program. Panel reviews normally last one to two weeks.

Individuals with the following qualifications are encouraged to apply:
- Teaching, research, and practical experience in international education
- Recent experience in administering international education programs, or programs of a similar nature
- Research, and/or practical experience overseas in international education
- Area studies and/or foreign language specialization
- MA or Ph.D.

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity and feel that you have the appropriate qualifications, please click here to see instructions for how to apply.

Once online, you will be asked to submit your application, including your resume/CV, and provide information outlining your expertise and background. You will also be able to indicate for which IFLE programs you are interested in being considered. Your application to become a field reader will be reviewed by OPE staff members to determine whether you have the subject area expertise and appropriate background needed for upcoming competitions.

For Fiscal Year 2014, DOE is seeking peer reviewers for the following programs:

Fulbright-Hays Programs:
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA)
- Group Projects Abroad (GPA)
- Seminars Abroad (SA) (East Asia specialists only for Fiscal Year 2014)

Title VI of the Higher Education Act Programs:
- Centers for International Business Education (CIBE)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
- Language Resource Centers (LRC)
- National Resource Centers (NRC)
- Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL)

To learn more about IFLE Programs, please visit their website here.
Research Matters

OSP SPOTLIGHT

Each month, OSP Monthly highlights a specific American University faculty/staff member for their contributions in providing cutting-edge research or a research related program that serves to create and advance knowledge, and enrich the resources of our educational community while answering and accelerating challenging issues we face today. This month, we are featuring Brenda Smith, Professor in the Washington College of Law and Project Director of the US Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections Cooperative Agreement on Addressing Prison Rape.

Q&A with Brenda Smith

Q: Please tell us about your project: Since 2000, WCL’s Project on Addressing Prison Rape has been funded by the government and private grantors to address and respond to sexual abuse of people in custody. The Project on Addressing Prison Rape has continually provided training, technical assistance and guidance to high level corrections decision makers on key issues in addressing and responding to the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Since 2000, the Project has worked in/or with every state, several of the territories and a number of the tribes in the US. We have also worked with others in Europe, Asia and Africa interested in addressing the issues of sexual victimization in custodial settings.

Q: In your own words, what is the main purpose/importance of your research: The main purpose of my research and by extension, the Project on Addressing Prison Rape, is to illuminate the cause and consequences of victimization in custody and to provide information and tools that advocates in custody and agencies can use to end abuse of adults and youth in custody. My research also seeks to ensure the full implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) and its national standards. Since 2000, the Project on Addressing Prison Rape has provided training, technical assistance and legal guidance for correctional agencies, advocates and survivors who want to effectively prevent, respond and eliminate sexual abuse in custodial settings.

Q: What type of research is your project primarily focused on?: The Project on Addressing Prison Rape has four goals: 1) training; 2) technical assistance; 3) legal expertise regarding sexual abuse in custodial settings; and 4) providing guidance on issues correctional agencies and advocates face in addressing sexual victimization of people in custody. Our research focused on issues of liability for agencies and legal tools that agencies and advocates can use to combat abuse in custody. We also research issues at the intersection of gender, crime and sexuality. For example, we are in the midst of research to “unpack” issues of female staff victimization of men and boys in custody.

Q: What are some of the ways to learn and find out about your research?: Online and social media channels include: webpage, Facebook and twitter. To request to be on our listserv, please email Jaime Yarussi at jyarussi@wcl.american.edu.

Q: What inspired you to enter your field of research initially?: I was inspired to do this work early in my career. After graduating from law school, I clerked for the Presiding Judge of the Family Division in DC Superior Court, Judge Gladys Kessler. I saw many children, especially girls, come through the abuse and neglect system and later end up in the juvenile justice systems. A common feature of their experience was abuse at home and then later in the placements that were supposed to protect or rehabilitate them. After spending a few years as a Public Defender in DC, I moved onto a national organization where I worked on women’s employment and child care, but also ran a program for women in custody at a local prison. It was there that I learned about a widespread pattern and practice of sexual abuse of women in custody. With co-counsel, I successfully sued the city on behalf of a class of about 700 women. That litigation and its remedy lasted for a decade, until 2003, and at that point I was appointed to a National Prison Rape Elimination Commission by the House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi. So, my interest and commitment to this issue is longstanding and imbedded in my work with young people initially enmeshed in the abuse and neglect system and their trajectory to continued abuse by the state.
UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS & TRAINING SCHEDULE

Research Administration Certification (RAC) Program
RAC is a comprehensive training and certification program designed to assist AU departmental and school/college level staff with research administration and management responsibilities. This 8-session program provides vital information to enable participants to effectively manage sponsored awards.

The next sessions are:

- **Session 7: Systems Overview** — **ONLINE FORMAT ONLY**
  - April 8, 2014
- **Session 8: Research Compliance Overview**
  - April 24, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, Abramson Family Founders Room, SIS

*Online versions of previous sessions are available via ASuccessfulU. Please click on the following link for more information: View more information about RAC and how to register for the instructor-led and online formats here >>*

RAC Graduation Reception—Save the Date!

- **Date:** June 10, 2014
- **Time:** 10:00—12:00pm
- **Location:** Butler Board Room

*More information to come soon.*

Funding Search Information Sessions
OSP offers a series of informational sessions for those interested in independently searching for funding opportunities. The following sessions will provide training on how to use our current funding search databases, and will assist faculty and staff in developing user profiles to receive direct funding opportunity announcements related to their research/program interests:

- **Unit/School Oriented:** Washington College of Law
  - April 23, 2014, 10:00—12:00 PM, Large Conference Room, Suite 16 Lower Level (4910 Mass Ave)
  - *Open to WCL faculty & staff*

*View more information about the Funding Search Information sessions and how to register here >>*

Grant Administration Roundtable (GAR) Session
OSP and Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA) would like to invite you to the next scheduled GAR session, where they will be discussing the following topics:

- **April 17, 2014, 10:00—11:30am, Butler Board Room**
  - **Proposal Budget Template**
  - **GCA Staff Assignment List**

*View more information about GAR and how to register here >>*
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Endowment for the Humanities—Challenge Grants
NEH challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to help institutions and organizations secure long-term support for their humanities programs and resources. Through these awards, many organizations and institutions have been able to increase their humanities capacity and secure the permanent support of an endowment. Grants may be used to establish or enhance endowments or spend-down funds that generate expendable earnings to support and enhance ongoing program activities. Challenge grants may also provide capital directly supporting the procurement of long-lasting objects, such as acquisitions for archives and collections, the purchase of equipment, and the construction or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities.
Deadline: May 1, 2014

Office of Innovation and Improvement—Arts in Education Program
The Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination program supports the enhancement, expansion, documentation, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative, cohesive models that are based on research and have demonstrated that they effectively integrate standards-based arts education into the core elementary and middle school curriculum, strengthen standards-based arts instruction in these grades, and improve students’ academic performance, including their skills in creating, performing, and responding to the arts.
Deadline: April 28, 2014

National Endowment for the Humanities—Preservation and Access Research and Development
Preservation and Access Research and Development grants support projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. These challenges include the need to find better ways to preserve materials of critical importance to the nation’s cultural heritage—from fragile artifacts and manuscripts to analog recordings and digital assets subject to technological obsolescence—and to develop advanced modes of searching, discovering, and using such materials.
Deadline: May 1, 2014

Harpo Foundation—Grants for Visual Artists and Nonprofit Arts Organizations
The Harpo Foundation is accepting applications from visual artists and nonprofit organizations that support visual artists whose work advances and crosses the boundaries of visual media and artistic disciplines. The foundation awards between ten and fifteen grants annually. In general, grant requests should not exceed $10,000 per year. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of the quality of the artist’s work, the potential to expand aesthetic inquiry, and the strength of its relationship to the foundation’s priority to provide support to visual artists who are under-recognized.
Deadline: May 6, 2014

National Endowment for the Arts—Challenge America Fast-Track
The Challenge America Fast-Track category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations - those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development.
Deadline: May 8, 2014

McCormick Foundation—Journalism Program
The program aims to bolster a more informed citizenry by investing in quality news content and educating people - especially students - to better appreciate the importance of news. The program is also dedicated to protecting press freedoms and defending the First Amendment. The program supports grantmaking initiatives in Content, Audience and Rights (CAR).
Deadline: May 8, 2014

The French-American Jazz Exchange—Collaborative Projects
The French-American Jazz Exchange, a partnership of the Cultural Service of the French Embassy, the French American Cultural Exchange, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, seeks to foster the creative and professional development of jazz artists from France and the United States through the collaborative investigation of artistic practice and exposure to new audiences, musical concepts, and professional relationships.
Deadline: May 30, 2014
Office of Refugee Resettlement—Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program
The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announces the availability of funds for its Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program. Building on the work of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign, which began to establish local anti-trafficking coalitions, ORR seeks to continue and expand its efforts to increase identification of foreign victims of trafficking and promote local capacity to prevent human trafficking and protect victims of human trafficking.
Deadline: April 21, 2014

US Department of Justice—Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence
NIJ is seeking multidisciplinary research and evaluation proposals examining children exposed to violence in the following topic areas: the identification, characteristics, correlates, and consequences of poly-victimization; factors that impact a child’s ability to cope with exposure to violence, with a particular interest in examining factors that may actively promote resilience and thus decrease or prevent criminal justice involvement; and criminal or juvenile justice system responses to children identified as witnesses to or victims of violence and trauma across a broad range of violence exposure.
Deadline: April 25, 2014

Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services—Preparation of Special Education, Early Intervention & Related Services
These funds help ensure quality personnel to serve children with disabilities. Funds are available to help ensure a proper number of leaders in the field.
Deadline: April 25, 2014

The Marfan Foundation—Faculty Grant Program
The faculty grant program supports two-year grants for basic or clinical research for all disciplines in Marfan syndrome and related disorders. Our Scientific Advisory Board evaluates proposals and award grants with the approval of our Board of Directors. We co-fund one two-year grant for $100,000 with the Canadian Marfan Association. The Canadian Marfan Association funding is provided by the Temerty Family Foundation. We award an additional one or two-year $100,000.
Deadline: April 27, 2014

The Lawrence Foundation—Environment Grants
The Lawrence Foundation supports environmental, human services, disaster relief, and other causes. It makes both program and operating grants and does not have any geographic restrictions on its grant making.
Deadline: April 30, 2014

Ruddie Memorial Youth Foundation—Innovation Program
Innovative programs or services are defined as "uncommon, untested or otherwise unconventional." In other words, RMYF funds programs or services that are outside of current customary practices. We support especially innovative programs or services that are designed to help underprivileged youth reach their full potential in new and different ways.
Deadline: April 30, 2014

Food and Nutrition Service—Farm to School Grant Program
The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) amended Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) to establish a Farm to School Program in order to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. In this funding cycle, USDA anticipates awarding approximately $5 million in grant funding to support efforts that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. We also anticipate executing up to $500,000 in grants to support farm to school conferences, trainings, and like events.
Deadline: April 30, 2014
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Patagonia—Environmental Grants Program
We give at the grassroots level to innovative groups mobilizing their communities to take action. We fund activists who take radical and strategic steps to protect habitat, oceans and waterways, wilderness and biodiversity. This is our niche: supporting people working on the frontlines of the environmental crisis. The program provides funding to preserve and protect the environment. The program funds groups that are action-oriented, building public involvement and support and accomplishing specific environmental goals based on root causes.

Deadline: April 30, 2014

Feinstein Foundation—Hunger Gift Program
The foundation invites hunger nonprofits to join one of the largest matching gift campaigns. The foundation matches funds raised by participating nonprofits with an additional $1 million. Feinstein takes the collective amount raised by participating nonprofits and gives each a proportional amount of the $1 million, based on what they raised in March and April of this year. Donation reports must be submitted to the foundation between May 1 and May 12.

Deadline: April 30, 2014

National Endowment for the Humanities—Fellowships for Advanced Research on Japan
The Fellowship Program for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan is a joint activity of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Awards support research on modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and U.S.-Japan relations. The program encourages innovative research that puts these subjects in wider regional and global contexts and is comparative and contemporary in nature. Research should contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public’s understanding of issues of concern to Japan and the United States. Appropriate disciplines for the research include anthropology, economics, geography, history, international relations, linguistics, political science, psychology, public administration, and sociology.

Deadline: May 1, 2014

National Science Foundation—Antarctic Artists and Writers Program
The main purpose of the U.S. Antarctic Program is scientific research and education. The Antarctic Artists and Writers Program supports writing and artistic projects specifically designed to increase understanding and appreciation of the Antarctic and of human activities on the southernmost continent. The program does not support short-term projects that are essentially journalistic in nature. The Antarctic Artists and Writers Program furnishes U.S. Antarctic Program operational support, and round-trip economy air tickets between the United States and the Southern Hemisphere, to artists and writers whose work requires them to be in the Antarctic to complete their proposed project.

Deadline: May 1, 2014

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute—Obesity Treatment Options
We seek to determine the real-world comparative effectiveness of obesity treatment options set in primary care, in adults for racial/ethnic minorities, low socio-economic status populations, and/or rural populations. We aim to fund up to two pragmatic, randomized, multi-site clinical trials that focus on improving obesity treatment outcomes in these populations. We seek proposals where the interventions are set within primary care practices and where the comparator arm of the trial is the primary care obesity treatment that is currently reimbursed through Medicare. We encourage applicants to this PFA to leverage available staff, facilities, and community resources that are representative of real world (present and potential) linkages to primary care practices to increase the potential of adoption and uptake of the findings by other health care providers/systems. Areas of research focus should be generalizable to other settings and clinical practice sites.

Deadline: May 6, 2014

Little Giraffe Foundation—Neonatal Research Initiative
We invite qualified scientists, doctors, and nurses at universities, hospitals and research institutions, to submit applications for research grants directed at addressing both the long term and immediate health needs caused by premature birth. Research subjects appropriate for support by the Little Giraffe Foundation include basic biological processes governing development, genetics, clinical studies, studies of reproductive health, environmental toxicology, and social and behavioral studies.

Deadline: May 16, 2014

DARPA—Defense Sciences Research and Technology
DARPA is soliciting innovative research proposals of interest to the Defense Sciences Office. Proposed research should investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary advances in science and technology. Specifically excluded is research that results primarily in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of the art.

Deadline: May 22, 2014
Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program—The AREA program supports small-scale research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students at education institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH research grant funds. These grants are intended to create a research opportunity for scientists and institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH programs. It is anticipated that investigators supported under AREA will:

- benefit from the opportunity to conduct independent research;
- that the grantee institution will benefit from a research environment strengthened through AREA grants and furthered by participation in the diverse extramural programs of the NIH;
- and that students at recipient institutions will benefit from exposure to and participation in scientific research in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

The application should include plans to involve undergraduate or graduate students in the proposed research, however the AREA program is a research grant, not a training or fellowship program. The application should include plans to expose students to hands-on research and should not include training plans.

**Deadline: September 8, 2016**

You can view more information about the AREA program on the NIH [website here](#).

American Honda Foundation—Education Grants

The American Honda Foundation is awarding grants to groups that support education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, in addition to the environment.

**Deadline: May 1, 2014**

Target—Early Childhood Reading Grants

Target funds programs that foster a love of reading and encourage young children, preschool through third grade, to read together with their families. Reading grants support programs such as library story times and family reading nights.

**Deadline: April 30, 2014**
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What to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:
- Determining Allowability of Costs for Federal Sponsored Awards
- Proposal Submission in the Internet Age
- OSP Spotlight with Stephen MacAvoy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science

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