Grant Writing Basics

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Grant Writing Basics

• Lay of the land
  – Buyers Market
  – Different strokes for different folks
  – The Color of Money

• Who am I?
  – Where am I going?
  – What have I done?
  – Why should anyone believe me?

• You are not alone
  – Mentors
  – ORSP training
  – services

• Examples
Lay of the land: Buyers Market

• More good researchers and ideas than there is money.

• Funding agencies
  – Call the shots
    • Do you know what THEY are looking for
  – Grade on a curve
    • Top 5-10% funded
  – Grade as little as possible
    • Triage is weapon of choice
Lay of the land: Different Strokes

• Different Solicitations want Different Things
• If you want their money, provide those things
• All of those things.
• Triage
  – Not subject experts -> Bureaucrats
  – IQ test
Lay of the land: Color of Money

• Types of money
  – Salary, stipend, supplies, equipment, travel, etc.
  – Expire or carry-over
  – Hard to change categories

• Value of money type
  – Costs money to manage money
  – Some pay, some expect the university to pay
Who am I:
Where am I going?

• No amount of money is worth suffering through a career you don’t enjoy.
• Every journey needs at least a direction, better a destination
• Any journey should include a map.
  – http://myidp.sciencecareers.org
  – Science oriented, but principles are the same
• On you track, taking a necessary detour, suffering a distraction, or going the wrong way?
Who am I:
What have I done?

• Recognize your strengths.
  – No brag, just fact.
  – Only brag if it aligns with solicitation target.

• Recognize your weaknesses.
  – Have a plan. Especially if a main target

• See through other peoples eyes.
  – Have someone else read!
  – Subject matter expert not as important as you might think!
  – Language expert very valuable.
Who am I: Why should they believe me?

• Evidence
  – Data
  – Examples
  – Publications

• Testimony
  – Credible source
  – Supportive source
You are not alone: Mentors

• Identify Role Models
  – Look for good, not perfect
• Read their successful grants
  – Note which agencies
• Help write their new proposals
• Build your Network through theirs
• Also other training opportunities
  – Graduate School
  – Agency programs / commercial programs
You are not alone: ORSP Support

• Second Website:
  – http://research.utep.edu

• All grant submissions
  – Alignment with RFA requirements
  – Non-research details (e.g., DUNNs number, university signature)
  – Compliance with irb, iacuc, etc
  – Development of Budget
  – Final solicitation requirements check
  – Transmittal/Compliance check
  – Submission – usually electronic, but exceptions
  – Post Award
You are not alone:
Optional ORSP Help

• Identification of opportunities
• Review of Solicitation requirements and limitations
• Cycles of review and editing of language
• Arranging external review of science
• Review of reviews
Note, not everyone at university can apply for grants!

• Most institutions (including UTEP) only support applications from T/TT or identified Research Faculty/Staff.

• Graduate students and Postdoctoral Fellows are more limited in opportunities
  – E.g., Fellowships, dissertation completion, meeting support
Examples:
What are they looking for?
How will you align?

- Graduate Fellowship
- NSF CAREER or NIH SCORE Award
- NIH R01 Award
- Dept of Education Title IV
- ARL BAA award
Info

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