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ORED focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF MSU RESEARCH FACULTY AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

Proposal to Disallow Voluntary Cost Sharing

In December 10, 2008, a National Science Board (NSB) Task Force on Cost Sharing met to discuss a draft report on cost sharing at NSF. The recommendation that emerged from the draft report was for NSF to **NOT** allow institutions to provide voluntary cost share in their proposals.

Previously, cost sharing has been allowed and valued in proposals. The match provided additional financial resources to the research endeavor and could be used to leverage support from local and state governments. Additionally, voluntary cost sharing provides incentives for strategic planning and buy-in by grantee institutions, and promotes sustainability for large, multi-year activities.

In FY 09, NSF reinstated mandatory cost sharing for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), Engineering Research Centers (ERC), and Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/CRC) Programs. Voluntary cost sharing is at the discretion of the grantee institution performing the research. There is no NSF policy or formal method of merit review with regard to voluntary cost sharing.



NSF has been conflicted with the issue of institutional cost share due to its impact on institutional competitiveness in all NSF funding opportunities. For some institutions, voluntary cost sharing may assist in building research capacity, infrastructure and program sustainability.

In 2004 a NSB policy eliminated program-specific cost sharing for all NSF programs. In fall 2007, NSB charged the Task Force to evaluate the impact of the 2004 policy. As a result, a report was issued to Congress in February, 2008 with multiple recommendations regarding mandatory cost sharing. In the summer of 2008, NSB began meeting again to continue its study focusing on voluntary cost sharing. One specific point of concern is the participation of traditionally underrepresented groups and organizations in federally sponsored research.

On August 6, 2008, NSB requested comments regarding voluntary cost sharing. The Task Force was influenced by concerns that some institutions who were unable to provide cost sharing would decrease their ability to compete for NSF funding: "Efforts to broaden participation

in federally sponsored research are hindered by the fact that the financial vitality of grantee institutions may impact their success in federal research grant opportunities because of the amount of cost sharing they can afford to offer. Institutions that are unable to provide cost sharing may be excluded from participating in certain research programs, and institutions that have significant resources may be able to 'buy their way' into sponsored programs."

Eighty-eight comments were received by the Board and NSB's final draft on cost sharing was distributed at the December 2008 Board meeting. Seven recommendations were included in the draft with the main focus being that NSF should disallow all voluntary cost sharing. The final draft on the use of cost sharing in NSF-funded activities is set to be released early this year in the Federal Register with a request for comments.

For more information, contact Linda Anthony, 202.478,4698 or at anthonyl@aascu.org.

This article originated from "NSB Proposes Disallowing Voluntary Cost Sharing at NSF" by Linda Anthony.

***MSU Researchers have currently received \$97,814,691
in new awards for the 2009 fiscal year!***

2009 Research Initiation Program

Congratulations to the following faculty members for being awarded a 2009 Research Initiation Program (RIP) grant.

- ✦ Dr. David Hoffman, *Anthropology/ Middle Eastern Cultures*
- ✦ Dr. Vincent Klink, *Biological Sciences*
- ✦ Dr. Sundar Krishnan, *Mechanical Engineering*
- ✦ Dr. Oliver Myers, *Mechanical Engineering*
- ✦ Dr. Andy Perkins, *Computer Sciences and Engineering*
- ✦ Dr. Jennifer Wardlaw, *CVM Clinical Sciences*
- ✦ Dr. Mark Welch, *Biological Sciences*

The Research Initiation Program is an an-

nual small grant program designed to afford new faculty members an opportunity to initiate an activity that can be expanded in scope and ultimately funded through an external-sponsoring agency. Preliminary efforts are often essential to successful negotiations for external funding, and the purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to small projects that show promise of leading to high quality research programs.



RIP grants are awarded to tenure-track faculty who have been appointed to a permanent position no earlier than January 1, 2007 and possess a terminal degree appropriate to their field. Faculty are only eligible to receive a single RIP grant. A maximum of \$10,000 is awarded per grant.

This year's proposals were extremely competitive. With over 30 proposals submitted, the panel of reviewers were challenged to select only seven for funding.

For more information regarding the RIP grant or other funding opportunities offered by the Office of Research and Economic Development, visit our website at www.research.msstate.edu or call 662.325.3570.

focus FEATURE

Early Childhood Institute

The Early Childhood Institute began as a program of the College of Education here at Mississippi State University. The Institute was established as a university center in 1999. Its main goal was to provide training, technical assistance and applied research to improve the quality and accessibility of early care and education in the state of Mississippi.

Today, the Early Childhood Institute is making a difference in the early education of children across the state of Mississippi and nationwide. The Institute worked to help the Mississippi Department of Human Services design and launch the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System. This program creates a rating system for licensed child care providers. During the pilot phase of the system, 31 centers were enrolled in the program. Now in its third year, 153 centers are enrolled and the program evaluates and rates each of them based on a set of measureable criteria to provide valuable feedback for continued improvement.

The Early Childhood Institute is focusing some of its efforts in the Mississippi Delta. The Mississippi Delta Early Learning Corps has recently recruited technical assistants as part of a two-year project to promote higher early literacy skills for young children in the Delta. These technical assistants will work in child

care centers to provide consultation and mentoring to facilities as well as provide feedback on how to succeed in the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System..

The Early Childhood Institute is making a difference nationwide. In 2004 the institute expanded to include the National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives which fosters original and applied research on the quality, accessibility, and replication of early educational intervention services for at-risk young children and families in rural America. The center has commissioned groundbreaking analyses of the availability of data about rural young children in national datasets, and further

**“Personally, I am proud that so many outstanding early childhood educators and advocates for young children work for the MSU Early childhood Institute. Their efforts and ideas are inspirational.”
Dr. Cathy Grace, Director**

analyses of rural disparities in early childhood services indicators and child well-being indicators in datasets that contain rural markers.

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Early Childhood Institute was flooded with requests for help in improving the emergency preparedness of the early childhood sector nationwide. A multi-million dollar effort began to rebuild and equip damaged and destroyed early childhood programs in the Mississippi Katrina region.

Over the first nine years, the Early Childhood Institute has formed a number of strong relationships with governmental agencies as well private organizations that have provided funding, often for years at a time. One such organization is the Day Foundation of Memphis which contributed over two million dollars between 1999 and 2006.

The Barksdale Foundation has also made an unrestricted gift of \$150,000 to the Institute during FY 08.

These gifts have been valuable in meeting crucial operating expenses that could not be covered by project specific grants. “All of us at the Institute are proud of the confidence that our funders have in our work”, commented Dr. Cathy Grace, Director of the Early Childhood Institute.



Dr. Grace began her career in early childhood education in 1972 in eastern Arkansas, teaching first grade in West Memphis and holding “summer school” on the front porch of her father’s general store in the tiny town of Proctor.

Dr. Grace has been a individual dedicated to improving early childhood care both in Mississippi and nationally. In 1985, she lead the Mississippi kindergarten implementation as early childhood coordinator for the state Department of Education. She has been an advisor to governors, legislative leaders, members of the U.S. Congress, state departments of education and human services, the Public Broadcasting System and to school districts.

In 1999, Dr. Grace joined the MSU family as an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education within the College of Education and director of its Early Childhood Institute.

For more information about the Early Childhood Institute or any of its programs, go to <http://earlychildhood.msstate.edu/> or contact Dr. Cathy Grace at 662.325.4836 or by email at cgrace@colled.msstate.edu.





Upcoming Events

Coming Up in the Research Seminar Series

- ① **January 14** - “Grant Writing I Workshop: Funding Opportunities, Proposal and Budget Preparation”
1:30 - 4:30 p, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center
- ① **January 21** - “Securing Funding in the Humanities”
2:00 - 4:00 p, Fowlkes Auditorium, Union
- ① **January 27** - “Grant Writing II Workshop: Proposal Submission, Compliance”
1:30 - 4:30 p, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center
- ① **February 3** - “Documenting Your Technology”
2:00 - 3:00 p, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center
- ① **February 10** - “Funding From Foundations”
2:00 - 4:00 p, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center
- ① **February 19** - “Ethical Conduct of Research”
2:00 - 4:00 p, Fowlkes Auditorium, Union
- ① **February 20** - “Publishing Your Research: How Do I Manage My Research and Get Published”
1:30 - 4:30 p, Fowlkes Auditorium, Union
- ① **February 26** - “NSF Funding in Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences”
9:00 - 11:00 a, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center
- ① **March 5** - “Insights Into the Grant Review Process at National Institutes of Health”
9:00 - 11:00 a, Fowlkes Auditorium, Union

To register for any or all of the Research Seminar Series, log on to www.research.msstate.edu/development/seminar.php

Facilities Security Office

- ① **First Wednesday of Every Month** - International Safe Travel Briefing
9:00 a, ICET Auditorium
- ① **Second Tuesday of Every Month** - International Safe Travel Briefing
2:30p, ICET Auditorium

Office of Regulatory Compliance

- ① **January 20** - IACUC Meeting
1:15 p, AB McKay Enology Lab
- ① **January 27** - IRB Refresher Training
1:30 p, 409 Bost
- ① **February 4** - IBC Meeting
1:30 p, 350 Longest Student Health Center
- ① **February 6** - Bloodborne Pathogens Training
3:00 p, LSBI Conference Room
- ① **February 11** - IRB Meeting
1:15 p, Templeton Conference Room, Library
- ① **February 17** - IACUC Meeting
1:15 p, AB McKay Enology Lab
- ① **February 24** - IRB Training
1:30 p, 409 Bost
- ① **March 4** - IBC Meeting
1:30 p, 350 Longest Student Health Center

NCURA '09 TV Now Available at MSU

Mississippi State University is committed to helping research faculty grow and develop. As a result of this

commitment, the Office of Research and Economic Development along with Sponsored Programs Administration have pur-

chased a workshop series from the National Council of University Research Administration (NCURA).

The workshops are broadcasted live via digital satellite and cover topics ranging from cost sharing, F&A rates, and sub-recipient monitoring.

“Cost Sharing: Why No Good Deed Goes Unpunished”. The interactive workshop will include a review of the types of costs that qualify for cost sharing the accepted categories of cost sharing, and the requirements for documenting and reporting it. Kim Moreland, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Administration at the University of Wisconsin—Madison will be the moderator for this workshop. A panel of research administrators will also participate to discuss the various pressure points with cost sharing.

The first seminar was broadcasted on January 13, 2009 and was titled “Audits and the Audit Process”.

The next seminar in this series is scheduled for March 10, 2009 titled

If you would like more information regarding the workshops in this series, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration at 662.325.7404.





focus FILMS AGAIN

The Office of Regulatory Compliance Produces Sequel!

ORC's second movie is finally complete! Entitled **Lab Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Bacterium**, the movie highlights the consequences of not using standard microbiological practices when working with biohazardous material. The much anticipated sequel can be viewed on the ORC website at www.orc.msstate.edu/biosafety

Once again, the lead roles of the principal investigator and the graduate student were played by local actors Lyle Tate and Gabe Smith. Both leading actors gave stellar performances. A number of other new actors

and actresses made their movie debuts in this film including Kirk Schulz, Gloria Blankenship, Patricia Cox, Debbie Dunaway, Bob Collins M.D., Lee Pratt, Andrew Bryant, and Misty Tehan, LPN. Be sure to note the appearance of our very own Bully Vader at the very end of the credits!

The producers of Lab Wars thanks Video-Magic One for supplying the technical expertise that made this production a great success. Special thanks to the Office of Research and Economic Development and the Longest Student Health Center for their participation and support.

Lab Wars III was uploaded to Vimeo on January 7 and the responses have been overwhelming with 1,114 hits on the first day alone. Over 150 DVD requests have been submitted from as far away as Singapore.

For more information about the film mentioned here or regarding biosafety, contact Dr. Patricia Cox at 662.325.0620 or at pcox@research.msstate.edu.



Building Inspection Program

The Office of Regulatory Compliance and MAFES Risk Management are conducting building safety inspections implemented by the Future State 2015 Safety Committee. These inspections focus on fire safety, hazardous waste management, and electrical safety.



Figure 1 Doors must not be blocked. In the event of a fire room occupants must be able to exit the room quickly.

In 2008 more than 40 buildings were inspected. Most problems identified were corrected quickly. Some of the common items identified in the inspections include the following:

- Use of extension cords to power office equipment. Extension cords should not be used to power electrical devices “permanently”.



Figure 2 Power strips must not be “piggybacked”. Power strips and electrical devices must be plugged into receptacles. Extension cords can’t be used to provide permanent power.

- Power strips must not be piggy backed; i.e. one power strip should not be plugged into another power strip. Each power strip must be plugged directly into a wall receptacle.
- Combustible materials such as paper or cardboard boxes must not be stored in stairwells.
- Hallways must be kept clear of furniture or other items that could obstruct egress in a fire.
- Exit signs and emergency lights must be

provided and operable.

- Flammable materials such as solvents or paint materials must be stored in flammable storage cabinets. Incompatible chemicals must be properly segregated.
- Doors or emergency exits must not be blocked.
- Fire extinguishers and other fire protection equipment such as fire pumps and alarm panels must be inspected annually.

The goal is to conduct routine inspections in all campus buildings.



Figure 3 Florescent bulbs contain mercury vapor. When discarded, bulbs must be properly boxed and labeled for disposal as a hazardous waste rather than ordinary trash.

Call Terry Coggins at 325.3294 or at tlc1@msstate.edu with questions or to request a building inspection.

Domestic Terrorism and Researchers

Early 2008, firebombs exploded minutes apart destroying a car parked outside of the home of a researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and burned the front door of another researcher's house. A third researcher received a threatening telephone message around the same time.

These are examples of domestic terrorism and are part of a growing pattern of terrorist acts against researchers involved in animal research. Other similar incidents of threats and vandalism were reported earlier this year at two other University of California campuses.

There has been virtually unanimous condemnation of the acts of terrorism on researchers. Chancellor Gene Block of UCLA defended the academic

freedom of university faculty after a researcher's home was intentionally flooded. Even advocates for animal rights condemned the bombings.

In France and Germany, small-scale field trials of genetically spliced plants have been regularly vandalized by activists. One German postdoctoral fellow was attacked with stones while protecting his sugar beets from vandals.

In April, the rector and external advisory board of Nürtingen-Geislingen University "urgently recommended" that a researcher terminate his field trials that begun in 1996. "Lately things got out of control. There were e-mail attacks, vandalism, intimidation, and personal threats."

Justus Liebig University in Giessen, Hesse, stopped its

planned field trials after protests by activists and local politicians. "I am not happy at all with this decision," says the university president. "Unfortunately, we were no longer able to deal with the massive opposition from politicians and the general public. The university has a reputation in the region that we cannot risk losing."

Henry I. Miller, M.D., a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institute, feels Germany's response is curtailing the academic freedom of their faculty and students by giving in to the demands of the threats. Vigorous prosecution and punishment of criminal actions should be accompanied by university administrators' resolve to resist intimidation.

This article originated from "*Twisting Domestic Terrorism, Vandalism and violent Acts That Sabotage Experiments Are a Threat to All Researchers*" by Henry I. Miller.



Focus QUOTATION



**"The first step toward creating an improved future is developing the ability to envision it. VISION will ignite the fire of passion that fuels our commitment to do whatever it takes to achieve excellence."
~ Tony Dungy**



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