



November 2005, Vol. 1, No. 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
- 2 Proposal Submission Lead Time
- 2 Temporary Increase in Local Mileage Reimbursement Rates
- 2 Upcoming Human Subjects Deadlines
- 3 Grants.gov Shifting into High Gear for 2006
- 3 Status of Grants.gov and the Major Federal Funding Agencies
- 4 Sponsor Alerts
- 4 Animal Care and Use Training Session
- 5 NSF Budget Update and Priority Areas
- 5 Searchable Funding Opportunities Database
- 6 USDA National Research Initiative
- 7 Recent Awards



**SACRAMENTO STATE**

**Research & Sponsored Projects**

Modoc Hall, Room 2007  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6111  
(916) 278-7381  
FAX: (916) 278-6163

[www.csus.edu/rsp](http://www.csus.edu/rsp)



**SACRAMENTO STATE**  
Research & Sponsored Projects

# News

## NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

The National Institutes of Health's Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) is designed to strengthen the research environments of institutions that have received less than \$3 million in NIH funding during four of the past seven years. AREA provides an opportunity for eligible institutions to add significantly to the body knowledge in both biomedical and social/behavioral research fields. Renewable awards (R15s) of up to \$150,000 over three years support meritorious faculty research projects which are designed to expose undergraduate and graduate students to the process.

The goal of AREA is to fund the best science and is only different from traditional Research Project (R01s) grants in that it is geared towards schools that are not research intensive. Both junior and senior faculty members are eligible to apply and publications are a plus but not required. One suggested alternative way to demonstrate faculty expertise is to have preliminary data.

Over the last four years the success rate for AREA proposals has varied between 31% to 42% depending on the number of applications submitted and funds available. This rate is higher than for R01s. Faculty are also encouraged to resubmitted if not successful the first time. The success rate for revisions is much better and under the AREA program a proposal is permitted to be resubmitted twice.

When writing a proposal to the AREA program there are many things to keep in mind. Proposals must be geared to a specific NIH institute and it's strongly recommended that potential applicants speak with a program officer to ensure that the project is a good fit. The presentation of the proposal is also key. Reviewers often read up to 25 applications at a time so proposals really need to be reviewer friendly. Be brief, concise and get the reviewers' attention. Provide a critical approach to the project and discuss potential problem areas and alternative approaches and solutions. It's always a good idea to obtain a pre-review from a faculty member in your department or college and to know and refer to the literature of your field.

In review panel discussions, concerns raised by reviewers often include the following: a lack of new or original ideas; an absence of an acceptable scientific rationale and an uncritical approach; a lack of experience with the essential methodology; a superficial or unfocused research plan and insufficient detail; a lack of knowledge of published relevant work; an unrealistic amount of work is proposed; and uncertainty concerning future directions.

NIH also has recently announced that the AREA program will be one of the first mechanisms at NIH to require electronic application submission through Grants.gov in 2006. In addition, AREA applicants must use the SF 424 (Research and Related [R&R]) application form instead of the traditional PHS 398 form. As a result, NIH has decided to change the submission dates

*Continued on page 2*

## Notices

### Proposal Submission Lead Time

The Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) provides assistance to faculty for grant proposal preparation including guideline interpretation, narrative editing, budget development, forms completion, and obtaining university approvals.

All grant proposals must be processed through ORSP. ORSP will do a final check to ensure that the proposal meets the agency's guidelines, that the budget is calculated correctly and in compliance with agency and University policies, that cost share commitments, if any, are appropriately documented, that any special compliance issues have been addressed, and that the appropriate signatures have been obtained.

Over the past couple of years most agencies have moved towards electronic proposal submission. Given the different requirements of each system, timing has become more critical. Some systems require registration by both the individual researcher and the institution. Some require registration up to two weeks prior to the submission of a proposal, while some require unusual formatting.

In view of these changed submission requirements, ORSP will require that faculty contact their research development specialist at least **seven working days** prior to the submission date.

### Temporary Increase in Local Mileage Reimbursement Rates

The reimbursement rate for private vehicles used for project business when the project is funded by sources other than the State of California has been temporarily increased to 48.5 cents per mile (\$.485/mile) unless the sponsor/funder stipulates otherwise. The new rate applies to travel occurring on or after September 1, 2005 and on or before December 31, 2005.

*Continued from page 1:*

#### **NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)**

for each cycle to one month later than they historically have been. The new annual AREA submission dates will be February 25; June 25; and October 25. Please note: AIDS-related AREA application annual submission dates remain as follows: May 1, September 1, and January 2.

Also, be aware that in order to submit a NIH proposal via Grants.gov, principal investigators (PIs) must be registered with the NIH eRA Commons as an individual affiliated with Sacramento State. This one-time process must be completed by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) at least **two weeks** prior to the submittal date of a Grants.gov submission. If you are interested in submitting a proposal to the AREA program, please contact ORSP as soon as possible at 8-7381.

For the full NIH AREA program announcement, go to <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-042.html>. For a list of NIH Institutes and links to each of their websites, go to <http://www.nih.gov/icd/>. For additional proposal writing tips, go to the NIH Center for Scientific Review's website at <http://cms.csr.nih.gov/ResourcesforApplicants/>.

## Upcoming Human Subjects Deadlines

Protocol submissions are due by noon on the Monday TWO WEEKS prior to each meeting. Protocols received after the submission deadline will be reviewed at the next meeting.

---

### DECEMBER MEETING

#### Submission Deadline:

Monday, November 28

#### CPHS Meeting Date:

Monday, December 12

---

### FEBRUARY MEETING

#### Submission Deadline:

Monday, January 30

#### CPHS Meeting Date:

Monday, February 13

---

### MARCH MEETING

#### Submission Deadline:

Monday, February 27

#### CPHS Meeting Date:

Monday, March 20

---

To access the Human Subjects Manual, protocol submission forms, and a complete list of deadlines go to:

<http://www.csus.edu/rsp/HumanSubjects.htm>.

## Grants.gov Shifting into High Gear for 2006

In FY 2006, all federal agencies will dramatically expand the grant competitions they advertise and applications they receive electronically through the Grants.gov website. Under pressure from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the 26 major funding agencies are tasked with posting 100 percent of their grant announcements on Grants.gov and accepting proposals via Grants.gov from 75 percent of the competitions.

Last year more than 15,000 proposals were submitted through the system which revealed a host of technical and other problems for agencies and applicants. Officials say they have addressed most of the technical problems, but the majority of problems had more to do with human error. Applicants often failed to follow submission instructions or left the Grants.gov registration process until the last minute.

The Grants.gov site is currently being updated to consolidate the functions of locating and applying for federal grants. These enhancements will fully integrate the site's search and apply functionality, present a single look and feel for the "Find" and "Apply" functions, and increase the integration and standardization of the terminology between the two functions. The update will also provide a single sign-on for users to receive information about opportunities and application materials.

The new "Find" function will also make it easier for users to track the often numerous changes and corrections agencies make to grant announcements that they've already posted. Modifications will be highlighted for easy identification.

### Plan Early for Electronic Proposal Submissions

Current legislation requires Federal agencies to implement electronic business systems with the intent to reduce the use of paper and streamline the proposal submission process. In response, Grants.gov has been established and many agencies also have their own electronic submission systems, each with different requirements. This leads to new challenges, often making it more time-intensive to submit proposals.

The Office of Research & Sponsored Projects is here to facilitate the registration and online proposal development process. If you are planning to apply to a program that requires electronic proposal submission, please contact ORSP at 8-7381 as soon as possible.

### Status of Grants.gov and the Major Federal Funding Agencies

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - The USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) has selected 5 institutions to pilot test Grants.gov during FY 2006 and by next October, CSREES plans to offer electronic application submission for all programs.

**Department of Education** - In FY 2005, about 25 percent of the Department's grant programs used Grants.gov and over 800 proposals were received. The most significant issue that came up was with applicants not fully completing the registration process resulting in some applicants missing the deadline. The Department is currently evaluating which programs will use Grants.gov for submission in 2006.

**Department of Energy (DoE)** - In FY 2006, DOE's goal is for 100 percent of its funding opportunities to utilize Grants.gov.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - EPA plans to post about 148 applications on the Grants.gov site and projects that this could generate about 4,000 electronic submissions.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)** - NIH is preparing for a major change. Over the next year, NIH will transition grant applicants to a new application form and mandatory electronic submission of proposals through the Grants.gov website. Applicants will no longer use the PHS 398 form, which will be replaced by the standardized Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) form.

NIH plans to phase in the changes by program and funding mechanisms. For more information about the NIH plans and a tentative schedule for the transition, go to <http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt>.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)** - In FY 2005, NSF received 35 applications via Grants.gov. Most problems were related to PDF attachments and the registration process. NSF is preparing to ramp up its use in 2006 and anticipates that each directorate will have one program that will require the use of Grants.gov. For now, unless otherwise specified in the program announcement, FastLane may still be used to submit proposals to NSF.

NSF has also posted a **Grants.gov Application Guide** on its website to assist with the preparation and submission of NSF proposals via the portal. The guide is available at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf>.

## Sponsor Alerts

### Health Resources and Services Administration's 2006 Grant Preview

HRSA is planning to issue its *Preview* of over 100 grant competitions that they expect to hold in FY 2006. The programs range from AIDS prevention to the education of health professionals. The *Preview* will provide program descriptions, deadlines, estimated funding levels and contact information. To sign up to receive notification when the *Preview* is released, go to <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/preview/default.htm>.

### NIH Announces New Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI)

The NIH has established a new strategic planning office that is expected to determine where the agency directs major future funding investments. The unit is charged with identifying and integrating information to support planning and implementation of trans-NIH grant initiatives.

Officials see the new office as offering a broader view of biomedical research needs and opportunities so NIH's institutes and centers will continue to create grant programs in their mission areas.

The goal is to recognize research gaps and provide an institutionalized process for scanning the horizon for public health needs. OPASI will conduct wide-ranging activities, from internal evaluation to tracking health and funding trends, including relevant activities at other agencies.

### NSF Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR)

The mission of the Education and Human Resource's (EHR) Directorate is to achieve excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels and in both formal and informal settings, but there are several priority areas to keep in mind when submitting a proposal.

In a recent presentation, Donald Thompson, Acting Assistant Director, EHR, highlighted several themes that should be incorporated in proposed projects. **Alliances and Partnerships:** Have faculty come together across university lines to develop new models. **Cutting Edge Ideas:** Show what is new and different about your proposed project. Demonstrate what you want to risk and show what has changed in the field. **Cyberinfrastructure:** One NSF goal is to create a computer and technology literate citizenry and proposals should target groups who don't currently have that opportunity. Projects should target groups who don't traditionally have computers in their homes.

Thompson stressed that there is a need for projects that focus on middle school education since the majority of proposals that they receive focus on K-6 or high school students. He also encouraged teacher education faculty to work on projects with trained scientists and mathematicians.

Thompson noted that the success rate for proposals submitted to EHR in recent years has been about 26%.

For more information about HER, including program announcements and deadline dates, go to <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=EHR>.

## Animal Care and Use Training Session

The fall 2005 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) training session will be held on Monday, December 5th in Modoc Hall, Room 2008 from noon – 1:30 p.m. Dr. Ron Coleman, Biological Sciences, will discuss the research with cichlids that he and his students have been conducting and Dr. Marshall will follow with his comments and an update on issues that we may need to be concerned about.

Our PHS Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) certification requires us to have a regular training program for those who care for or use live animals in their research or teaching. Thus all faculty, staff, and students who care for and/or use live animals in their research and/or teaching should plan on attending this session.

To reserve a seat, contact Terry Manns at 8-7381 or [jtmanns@csus.edu](mailto:jtmanns@csus.edu). Lunch will also be served.

Anything else you would like to see in the *Research & Sponsored Projects News*? E-mail Shannon Fredrickson at [fredrick@csus.edu](mailto:fredrick@csus.edu).

## NSF Budget Update and Priority Areas

On Monday, October 31, 2005, Tom Cooley, Chief Financial Officer, and Jean Feldman, Head, Policy Office, at the National Science Foundation presented important new policy developments, as well as realistic predictions regarding the FY 06 budget for NSF.

At that time Tom Cooley predicted a 3% rescission to the NSF budget. Since then the Senate and House have settled on a bill for the National Science Foundation that would provide more than was expected. The \$5.65 billion budget includes \$4.39 billion for research and \$807 million for education and human resources. The appropriation is 3.3% higher than the agency's FY 2005 funding level, but still to come is a potential small cut that will be made across the board to all discretionary programs, and another possible cut to all appropriations to compensate for President Bush's pandemic flu plan and Hurricane Katrina.

Cooley also predicted that only one in five proposals, across NSF, would be likely to be funded this coming year. He said that the odds will be higher for new principal investigators who show institutional commitment and "broader impact" – the impact on undergraduate and graduate students who will be the next generation of scientists. The odds also increase, twofold, for resubmissions (revisions) of previously declined applications.

Cooley then went on to present the FY 2006 priority areas:

- Biocomplexity in the Environment
- Cyberinfrastructure
- Human and Social Dynamics
- Mathematical Sciences
- Nanoscale Science & Engineering

There are two avenues for applying for a grant to fund a project in a priority area: one can apply to the priority area itself, or one can apply directly to the project's core discipline within NSF. Cooley recommended that interested faculty call a program officer in the core discipline for advice on which avenue would be most advantageous for their respective applications.

Jean Feldman reminded attendees that the National Science Board decided last October that **no** cost sharing is required for any NSF application. What has caused a bit of confusion is that Line M of the NSF budget – the cost sharing line – is still part of the budget form, providing a place for proposers to voluntarily offer cost share. However, Feldman emphasized, Line M is "masked from reviewers, and voluntary cost sharing is not a factor in the merit review process."

For additional information on Cooley's and Feldman's presentations, go to <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/outreach.jsp#present>.

## Searchable Funding Opportunities Database

**SPIN** is a web-based searchable database containing detailed information on grant programs from federal, private, and corporate sponsoring agencies. SPIN not only has information on research grants, but also information on fellowships, educational and curriculum related programs, service delivery programs, sabbatical support and seed money. To access SPIN go to <http://www.infoed.org/home/officemenu.asp> and click on the *SPIN* icon. SPIN can be accessed by anyone using a computer on the Sac State campus.

From the SPIN homepage you will have the option of doing a Quick Search or an Advanced Search.

The **Quick Search** option allows you to search for funding opportunities by typing in any word(s) you would like in the provided text box. You will also have the option to search by "All Words," "Any Words," or the "Exact Phrase" that you have typed in and to select the field(s) from which to look for your words. The fields include title, objectives, synopsis, or all. From the *Sort Order* selection list you can choose the order in which to sort the search results. There is the option to sort by the SPIN program number, sponsor name, deadline date, or program title.

The **Advanced Search** function allows you to search on virtually every field in the SPIN database. For most categories a list of values is given from which you may make selections. To set a value, highlight the desired item by clicking on the item to be selected; if you are making multiple selections from a list, press the *Control* key while clicking on each item. Note that selecting several fields may narrow search results too much.

Once your search criteria have been specified, click the *Search* button and your results will be displayed. From here you can view the program profiles, save the profiles in a report, or narrow the results by performing a new search.

## Program Profile

### USDA National Research Initiative (NRI)

USDA has released its FY 2006 request for applications for its wide-ranging National Research Initiative (NRI) competitive grants program. This program supports research and education grants that address key problems in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment.

**Research projects** will be supported through several different award mechanisms which include: Standard Research Grants, Conference Grants, Postdoctoral Fellowships, New Investigator Awards, and Strengthening Awards.

Funds are available for **Integrated Project Grants** that involve any combination of research, education, and extension activities, with the provision that every project must include at least two of the three stated components. Integrated project applications may include, for example, institutions that conduct research; synthesize previous research; develop curricula and build educational and research capacity; and transfer information to producers, end users, and the public.

**Equipment Grants** are also available to strengthen the research capacity of institutions. Each request shall be limited to one major piece of equipment within the cost range of \$10,000-\$250,000. The amount requested shall not exceed 50 percent of this cost or \$50,000, whichever is less.

Awards under the NRI program range from \$5,000 to \$1.5 million dollars and cost sharing is required only on Equipment Grants and Integrated Project Grants. The success rate of applications received under the FY 2005 competition was about 15%.

A useful resource to potential applicants is the Abstract Database which is provided on the NRI website at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1112>. Abstracts of over 400 funded projects are available and provide detailed information including the project contact information, type of award, amount of funding, a non-technical project summary, detailed project objectives and the approach.

The criteria and guidelines used by reviewers to evaluate NRI proposals are posted on the web at: [http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/nri/pdfs/nri\\_review\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/nri/pdfs/nri_review_guidelines.pdf). The opportunity to serve as a reviewer is also available. To sign up, send an e-mail message with your contact information and area(s) of scientific expertise to: [newreviewer@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:newreviewer@csrees.usda.gov).

For the complete NRI application guidelines, go to: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/nri.html>.

### Topic Areas and Deadlines for the FY 2006 USDA National Research Initiative (NRI)

<b>December 1</b>	Genetic Processes and Mechanisms of Agricultural Plants; and Improving Food Quality and Value
<b>December 6</b>	Food Safety; and Epidemiological Approaches for Food Safety
<b>December 8</b>	Managed Ecosystems; and Agricultural Prosperity for Small and Medium-Sized Farms
<b>December 13</b>	Bioactive Food Components for Optimal Health
<b>December 15</b>	Animal Protection
<b>December 16</b>	Organismal and Population Biology of Arthropods and Nematodes; and Biology of Plant-Microbe Associations
<b>January 10</b>	Agricultural Plants and Environmental Adaptation
<b>January 12</b>	Biobased Products and Bioenergy Production
<b>January 19</b>	Soil Processes; Water and Watersheds; and Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Agriculture and Food Systems
<b>February 1</b>	Rural Development
<b>February 7</b>	Developmental Processes of Agricultural Plants; and Agricultural Plant Biochemistry
<b>February 15</b>	Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems; and Plant Genome
<b>March 1</b>	Suborganismal Biology and Genomics of Arthropods and Nematodes
<b>May 17</b>	Animal Growth and Nutrient Utilization
<b>June 15</b>	Plant Biosecurity; Air Quality; Human Nutrition and Obesity; and Animal Genome
<b>October 31</b>	Animal Biosecurity Coordinated Agricultural Projects

## Recent Awards

### Academic Affairs

#### **Michaeline Vedin, Academic Technology & Creative Services**

*California Department of Boating & Waterways, \$500,000*  
Graphics for “AquaSMART” Program for Grades 3-5

### College of Arts & Letters

#### **Lee Simpson, History**

*California Department of Parks & Recreation, \$42,660*  
North Central Information Center

### College of Education

#### **Kimberly Gordon-Rouse, Child Development**

*First 5 Sacramento, \$20,267*  
Quality Improvement Subcontract for Child Care Centers

### College of Engineering & Computer Science

#### **Madeleine Fish, MESA Engineering Computer Science Program**

*Intel Foundation, \$27,500*  
A Fast-Track to Success and Confidence

#### **Madeleine Fish, MESA Engineering Computer Science Program**

*Agilent Technologies Foundation, \$25,000*  
General Operating Support for MESA

### Kevin Murphy, Office of Water Programs

*El Dorado Irrigation District, \$35,369*  
West Slope Annual Report Development

### College of Health & Human Services

#### **Ernest Uwazie, Criminal Justice**

*Republic of Gambia, \$28,050*  
Capacity Building for Economic Management Project

### Bonnie Raingruber, Nursing

*National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, \$30,000*  
Academic-Community Collaboration Grant

### College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

#### **Vassili Sergan, Physics & Astronomy**

*MacNaughton, Inc, \$15,000*  
Characterization of Liquid Crystalline Materials and Cells

### College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

#### **Gregory Mark, Ethnic Studies**

*University of Hawaii, \$69,382*  
Asian-Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (2004-2005)

### Elizabeth Moulds, Public Policy and Administration

*Western Political Science Association, \$24,866*  
Director of the Western Political Science Association (Fall 2005)

### Student Affairs

#### **Heather Dunn Carlton**

*Prevention Research Center, \$14,000*  
Safer California Universities Intervention Grant

## Office of Research & Sponsored Projects

The Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) assists faculty and staff in the development of sponsored research and educational projects. This includes locating funding sources, preparing budgets, editing and critiquing proposals, completing application forms, contacting potential sponsors, obtaining university approvals, providing information about human and animal subjects and negotiating awards.

### Contact Information:

Office of Research & Sponsored Projects  
Modoc Hall, Room 2007  
Phone: (916) 278-7381  
Fax: (916) 278-6163  
<http://www.csus.edu/rsp>

## Grants & Contracts Administration

Grants and Contracts Administration (GCA) administers externally funded research and educational awards on behalf of the University. GCA monitors contract agreements, recruits and facilitates hiring staff, provides monthly expense reports, reviews payroll transactions, and secures bids for specialized equipment and services.

### Contact Information:

Grants & Contracts Administration  
Modoc Hall, Room 2009  
Phone: (916) 278-7565  
Fax: (916) 278-4886  
<http://www.foundation.csus.edu/gca/>