Funding Opportunities at the National Science Foundation

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GCAT Workshop: Synthetic Biology
UMBC, June 25, 2014
Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)

- NSF-wide, ~$50k - 6M, funding for PUIs
- Supports the acquisition of major state-of-the-art instrumentation to improve access to, and increased use of, modern instrumentation by scientists, engineers, and students;
- Supports the development of the next generation of instrumentation (cheaper, faster, better)
- Enable well-equipped research environments that integrate research with education
Research Opportunity Awards (ROA)

• Funded as supplements to active NSF grants
  – Salary or stipend for undergraduate faculty
  – Travel to host lab and/or to attend a meeting
  – Research supplies

• Provide support for faculty from PUIs to participate in ongoing, NSF-funded research projects for limited periods, usually a summer

• Goal -- Provide research experience for faculty to enhance research at home institution and host lab, improve research & teaching

• Making connections with an NSF grantee:
  – Network at scientific meetings
  – Consult NSF FastLane list of awards in relevant program
  – Contact NSF Program Director in your area of interest
    (Consult the NSF web site for contact information)
REU Site: Research Experience for Undergraduates

- NSF-funded programs run by institutions
- NSF-wide: all disciplines including cross-disciplinary
- Typical program: 10-weeks; 10 students; summer
- Main focus: research plus orientation, lab prep, workshops, seminars, presentations, etc
Research at Undergraduate Institutions (RUI)

- Designed to support Research in Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions (PUI)
- RUI is a mechanism, not a separate funding stream
- ~10% of proposals submitted to BIO research programs are RUIs
- “RUI” should be designated in the title of the proposal
- Five page (max) “RUI impact statement” must accompany proposal
Existing Funding Opportunities related to Vision and Change and Departmental Reform
Research Coordination Networks in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE)

- Goal: “focus on any topic likely to lead to improved participation, learning, or assessment in undergraduate biology curricula”
  - active and inquiry-based learning
  - engage faculty in professional development
  - incorporate new fields into the biology curriculum
  - improve assessment of student learning
  - improve transition from 2-year to 4 year institutions
  - incorporate authentic research experiences into undergraduate laboratory courses

- Incubator awards ($50 K) and Full awards (up to $500K for five years)

Current solicitation is NSF 13-520. A new program solicitation is expected in the fall with a proposal deadline in the winter.
Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE)

- Replaces TUES, STEP, and WIDER programs
- Program Description released in January, 2014
- Proposals due February, 2014
- There might be a new solicitation released soon for a due date in the fall for another round of proposals.
Finding funding opportunities

www.nsf.gov
Where do you submit your ideas?

http://www.nsf.gov

Directorate → Division → Programs →
Information on NSF contacts, award abstract, program description, deadlines

• Guide to Programs (GTP)
• Proposal & Award Policies & Procedure Guide (PAPPG)
  • Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)
  • Award and Administration Guide (AAG)
• Sign up for “NSF Updates”
In a Nutshell:
Participating in a Panel

• Contact your program director
• Offer to serve as an ad hoc reviewer and/or panelist
• E-mail your CV to your program director
• Include your contact information
• Indicate your areas of expertise
• Follow up with a phone call
• *Be persistent, but polite and pleasant*
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