

Fund Times

GRANTS OFFICE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

March 2014

NSF announces new Policies and Procedures Guide

Jean Feldman, head of the Policy Office, describes the \$7.7 billion allocated for FY 14 as a good number in tough budget times. Her office also completed a new Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide ([PAPPG](#)), available online.



NSF Office of Inspector General Acts on Late Reports

In a recent report to Congress, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has taken an aggressive tone, promising to use every compliance and enforcement tool to protect the integrity of the award process, and to discourage further funding from federal agencies to organizations and individuals who file reports very late or not at all. The OIG's Report documents their quest to expand debarment from across funding agencies to include principal investigators (PIs) who are not current with final reports. And, for the first time, OIG recommends NSF make use of its authority to recover funds. In response, NSF has agreed to step up efforts to ensure timely submission of project reports. Currently when a proposal is submitted to NSF, their database flags PIs who chronically submit late reports and those institutions that are not up to date with reporting requirements.

As a result of OIG efforts, NSF program officials may require PIs who failed to submit timely reports for more than one year, submit an action plan within 30 days. Failure to submit a report or action plan could result in administrative action. OIG is encouraging system wide debarment, but this will depend on whether other federal agencies agree. Historically, when a change of procedures reaches the level of OIG interventions, the changes usually are considered carefully and often are integrated into agency guidelines.



You are invited to attend the 14th Annual Day of Scholarship scheduled over two days this year!

The [Guide Book Schedule](#) is now available on the Grants Website so that you may plan your day and which presentations to attend!

New ED Priorities Announced

During his final presentation for a recent GRC conference, Fred Winter, (soon to be retired) Program Officer for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education ([FIPSE](#)), finally brought good news concerning the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) First in the World (FITW) program. FITW, considered as a replacement for the Comprehensive Program, has been appropriated \$75 million in FY 14 to fund innovative college completion programs. Of that amount, \$20 million will be set aside for minority-serving institutions. Stakeholders can expect this competition to be similar to the [Investing in Innovation program](#) because applicants will have the opportunity to apply for development or validation grants. The other program competitions expected from FIPSE this year include Training for Realtime Writers, Centers for the Study of Distance Education and Technological Advancements, and Center for Best Practices to Support Single Parent Students. Announcements for these programs will occur later in the spring. Questions can be directed to the FIPSE office at 202.502.7500 or fipse@ed.gov.

Other ED presentations focused on priorities currently rolling out of the Office of Early Learning (OEL). Steven Hicks, Special Policy Advisor, discussed how colleges and universities can lead the charge in developing preschool teacher training programs. Hicks referenced the success of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge that is currently allocating \$1 billion into 20 states for reform efforts. Additionally, Hicks highlighted the [Strong Start for America's Children Act](#) (to be introduced later this year) that would provide \$75 billion over 10 years to assist in a myriad of preschool-centered efforts, including universal pre-school programs for all students. Stakeholders can keep abreast of these topics by joining the [OEL listserv](#) or contacting Hicks at steven.hicks@ed.gov.

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External Funding Book



The [Grants Office External Funding book for 2012-2013](#) highlighting successful proposal writers has arrived! Copies are available in the Grants Office and on the Grants Office website.

Many thanks extended to the Faculty and Staff highlighted in the book for their hard work and persistence in seeking external funds for various projects. The effort and care given in managing these projects cause a huge impact on Stockton and is much appreciated.

The Grants Office is always available as your first step in submitting proposals to obtain external funding.

Office of Management and Budget issue combines circulars

The new [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) will supersede the separate circulars which guide use of federal funds. Some are calling it the Super Circular or Omni Guidance set to take effect by December 26, 2014. The nearly 800 page document is reported as a “mixed bag” for academic researchers. Leading up to the December date, federal news sources are delivering a steady roll-out of highlights through reports and webinars.



New NIH AREA Program

The new director of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) popular Academic Research Enhancement Award ([AREA](#)) program, Michelle Timmerman, recently outlined the following important points:

- *AREA operates under the R15 mechanism which has unique review criteria.*
- *AREA requires substantive student participation in research.*
- *Applicants should have experience supervising students in research.*
- *Applicants must work at an AREA-eligible institution, but they can have a collaborator who works at a campus that receives a great deal of NIH funding.*
- *AREA success rates are currently under 20 percent due to NIH's recent budget shortfalls.*
- *Applications should address how their institutions are committed to establishing an environment in which research can succeed.*

GRC has several AREA funded proposals in the [Proposal Library](#). For details about funded proposals, contact Linda Anthony at 202.478.4698 or anthonyl@aascu.org or Stockton's Grants Office. For more AREA program details, contact Michelle Timmerman at 301.402.0672 or michelle.timmerman@nih.gov.

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