

# GISÈLE MULLER-PARKER ADVISORY VISIT TO NDSU

MARCH 24, 2023 | REPORT PREPARED BY S DISRUD AND M WARNER

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Former GRFP (Graduate Research Fellowship Program) director, Dr. Muller-Parker, provided a day of workshops for students, faculty, staff, and key leadership. The workshops raised the profile of the GRFP to the campus community, developed deeper understandings of the GRFP’s purposes, explained its potential impact on students, connected NSF-related colleagues, and provided insight into NSF procedures and priorities. This report summarizes planning efforts, details events, and explains important lessons learned during the advisory visit. Appendices include assets developed for the event.

### Key lessons

- All parts of the GRFP application should cohere and reinforce each other. Applicants are judged holistically and metrics (e.g., GPA) are considered last.
- The application should be about the person (applicant) and their potential.
  - o The personal statement is the keystone document that the research statement and reference letters reinforce.
- Faculty involvement is critical.
  - o Three high-quality reference letters are required. Advisor reference is essential.
  - o Faculty should be encouraged to become NSF reviewers and incentivized to follow-through with GRFP support.
  - o Faculty need to be cognizant that the GRFP is focused on the applicant’s potential rather than the faculty’s research accomplishments.
- Summer Kick Off
  - o The July solicitation is an occasion for faculty and student outreach.
- Fall Workshop Series
  - o Applicants should be provided with an extended workshop series that guides the process and facilitates peer review.

### CONTENTS

Background.....	1
Planning and Implementation .....	1
Advisory Workshops.....	1
Key learning .....	4
Recommendations.....	5
Appendices .....	5

