

## RCA UPDATE

October 26, 2020

### Greg Endres

#### October 2020 RCA Researcher of the Month

One strategy that Greg Endres has learned in his 30 plus years working as an agronomist at the NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center is that it's important to be a specialist. During his tenure, Greg has worked on so many aspects of crops and crop management that relying on the special expertise of his colleagues and the work they are doing at the local plots is the best way to accomplish what he needs to do.

"I appreciate working at the Carrington Center," he comments. "If I don't have the answer, I can walk out my door and ask the scientists working here or I can go to the fields. The growing plots and the expertise of the people at our location create a true living laboratory that benefits the extension agents and growers in our area."



Greg received his BS and MS degrees in plant science from North Dakota State University. He first worked for the NDSU Extension as an extension

agent in Rolette and Ramsey counties and later as a cropping systems agronomy specialist at the Carrington Research Extension Center. Today he develops educational programs related to small grain and row crops with an emphasis on plant establishment, nutrition and protection primarily in south-central North Dakota. Greg considers Extension agents as his primary audience, but also serves crop advisers and farmers.

Greg's time in Extension has given him an appreciation for the amount of work that goes into research trials. "Early in my Extension agronomy career, my supervisor Blaine Schatz encouraged me to spend up to 20% of time on research projects which has been a very positive part of my career. The research experience has provided valuable in-service training and has aided in better serving clientele."

[Read more about Greg Endres >>](#)



## FEATURED RESOURCE

### NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Science N3C Data Enclave

The [NCATS National COVID Cohort Collaborative \(N3C\) Data Enclave](#) is a centralized, secure, national clinical data resource with powerful analytics capabilities that the research community can use to study COVID-19, including potential risk factors, protective factors and long-term health consequences. The N3C systematically collects data derived from the electronic health records of people who were tested for the novel coronavirus or who had related symptoms. The data, which are provided by participating partners and other collaborators after executing a data transfer agreement with NCATS, are harmonized and managed in a way that maintains the data's validity while protecting patient privacy. The N3C makes the harmonized data available via a centralized, secure analytics platform.

NDSU recently signed a Data Use Agreement (DUA) for access to this resource. The process for accessing the system can be found in the [Steps for N3C Access \(PDF\)](#).

Upcoming webinar [October 28]: [Building a COVID-19 Analytics Platform to Turn Clinical Data into Knowledge: Introducing the National COVID Cohort Collaborative \(N3C\)](#).

For more information on this resource, please visit the [N3C Data Enclave website](#).

## IACUC Updates

As we continue to conduct and monitor research during the pandemic, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and Attending Veterinarian (AV) offices remind you to pay attention to your research study timelines. Please ensure you have adequate staffing and essential resources in stock to conduct and complete research as described in approved protocols. We continue to ask Principal Investigators (PIs) to contact the IACUC and AV offices before beginning animal work. To ensure research teams are prepared to carry out studies during the pandemic, we are providing the [COVID-19 Pandemic- Project Initiation Form](#) as a tool to help prepare you to carry out and successfully complete your study. This tool can also be shared with the IACUC and AV offices to communicate your research plans. The AV will then communicate with the PI if any questions arise.

Thank you for your efforts to conduct quality teaching and research that ensures the health and welfare of animals at NDSU.

More information:

- [NDSU coronavirus information](#)
- [CDC coronavirus guidelines for colleges and universities](#)
- [NDDoH coronavirus information for universities](#)

**IACUC Guiding Principles Updated**

The NDSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has updated the [Humane Endpoints-Criteria for Premature Euthanasia](#) and [Training Requirements](#) Guiding Principles. Please reference the Guiding Principle for details.

For questions regarding IACUC Guiding Principles, please contact Josie Hayden ([josie.hayden@ndsu.edu](mailto:josie.hayden@ndsu.edu)) or Dr. Neil Dyer ([neil.dyer@ndsu.edu](mailto:neil.dyer@ndsu.edu)).

### **IACUC Standard Operating Procedures Library**

The NDSU IACUC is developing a library of SOPs that can be accessed on the IACUC [Guidelines and Regulations](#) page.

Investigators wishing to use these SOPs must attach a copy of the SOP with their protocol submissions. SOPs will continue to be added to the library. If you have any questions, please contact Josie Hayden ([josie.hayden@ndsu.edu](mailto:josie.hayden@ndsu.edu)).

### **Update to Occupational Health and Safety Forms**

The Safety Office is transitioning the paper Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) forms to DocuSign. Paper forms will no longer be accepted after Friday, November 13, 2020. The links to the forms can be found on both the Safety Office and IACUC websites. Please contact Josie Hayden ([josie.hayden@ndsu.edu](mailto:josie.hayden@ndsu.edu)) or Jennifer Quenette ([Jennifer.quenette@ndsu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.quenette@ndsu.edu)) if you have any questions regarding the OHS Program.

### **Research Development and Grant Writing News**

The Research and Creative Activity office holds a subscription to Research Development and Grant Writing News, a monthly newsletter full of helpful tips and information about funding agencies and writing successful grant proposals. Here are some articles you will find in recent editions:

- Editing the Proposal Introduction: the What, Why, How and So-What of a Preliminary Review
- Strategies for Increasing Team Funding Success
- "DECLINED" but, is your proposal dead?
- Understanding Peer Review
- When There Is Too Much To Say: Strategies to Meet the Page Limit
- The Role of the Project Evaluator on the Writing Team

You can access these and many more articles in the [newsletter archive](#) with your NDSU network log-in information.

## Changes to DOI Grant Management

All Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are moving their services to GrantSolutions. DOI agencies include:

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSE)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs / Bureau of Indian Education (BIA / BIE)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- Departmental Offices (DO)
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
- US Geological Survey (USGS)

PIs who work with the above agencies will need to complete a Recipient User Account Request Form: <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/getting-started-request-a-user-account/>.

Once completed, please email it to [ndsu.research@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.research@ndsu.edu) as the form will need to be signed by the Authorized Organizational official before being submitted to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov).

**COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the [RCA Website](#), including NDSU guidance for PIs, Federal Agency**

guidance, and Funding Opportunities. As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page](#) for additional information.

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**Upcoming Limited Submission Program Deadlines**

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

- [NSF: Ethical and Responsible Research](#)  
*Notification Deadline: November 4, 2020*
- [HRSA: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training](#)  
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- [NSF: Track 2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations](#)  
*Notification Deadline: November 5, 2020*
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*Notification Deadline: November 18, 2020*

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Collaborators?  
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[Researcher  
Profiles](#)

In Search of  
Equipment?  
Check the  
[NDSU Equipment  
Database](#)



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**Gates Foundation: Grand Challenges**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now accepting applications through the Grand Challenges and Grand Challenges Explorations initiatives for the following three requests for proposals:

- [Integrating Tradition and Technology for Fermented Foods for Maternal Nutrition](#)  
*Deadline: January 6, 2021*
- [New Approaches to Integrating Molecular Surveillance into Malaria Control Programs](#)  
*Deadline: December 2, 2020*
- [Smart Farming Innovations for Small-Scale Producers](#)  
*Deadline: February 25, 2021*

Their goal is to harness innovation around emerging technologies for transformative solutions to key global health and agricultural development problems, and they seek to anchor the work with the investigators and implementors closest to the problems, who have the knowledge and perspective to direct the right approaches to the right parts of the problems to help ensure success.

To receive email updates for new Gates Foundation Grand Challenges funding opportunities, sign up on the [Grand Challenges website](#).

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## **HRSA: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program for Professionals – Limited Submission Program**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**HRSA BHWET : [Notify RCA](#) by 11/04/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 for the [Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training \(BHWET\) Program](#) for Professionals.

The purpose of the BHWET Program for Professionals is to develop and expand experiential training opportunities, such as field placements and internships, to improve the distribution and supply of the behavioral health workforce. The BHWET Program for Professionals emphasizes relationships with community-based partners (e.g., hospitals, crisis centers, state and local health departments, emergency departments, faith-based organizations, first responders, and judicial systems) to increase access to quality behavioral health services for populations across the lifespan in high need and high demand areas. A special focus is placed on demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the specific concerns for children, adolescents, and transitional-aged youth who are at risk for behavioral health disorders. Additionally, the BHWET Program for Professionals emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration by utilizing team-based care in integrated behavioral health and primary care settings and recruiting a workforce that reflects participation in the institutions' programs of individuals and groups from different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations, interested in serving high need and high demand areas.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** An institution may submit a maximum of one application.

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## **ND EPSCoR Funding Opportunities**

The North Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) currently has two open calls for proposals:

### **ND ACES Track-1 Emerging Area Seed Awards**

The 2020-2025 ND EPSCoR National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 cooperative agreement, *New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES)*, has a mission to contribute to cancer research in ways that have state, national, and international ramifications and underpin sustainable activities for a trained and diverse workforce and informed populace and lead to future (beyond the scope of this project) efforts focused on new therapeutic solutions. To accomplish this, faculty from institutions across the state are participating in the Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE).

The ND-ACES team recognizes several areas of spin-off and emerging research that may expand the reach and capacity of ND-ACES and increase the opportunity

for sustainability. Thus, the Track-1 has a pool of funds available each year to support seed awards focused on high-risk, high-impact emerging areas or gaps in the current biosciences research. The RFP lists the following seven areas of interest:

1. Imaging Techniques for Cell Growth in Testbeds,
2. Inclusion of Additional Cell Types and Fluid Flow Conditions in Testbeds,
3. Innovation Pilot Funding and Translational Seed Research that Fit the CCBSE Mission,
4. New and Efficient Computational Techniques for Evaluation of Cancer Progression and Biology,
5. Multimedia Art Modules for Explaining CCBSE Science,
6. New Biomaterials in Tissue Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing of Biomaterials, and
7. Novel Biobased Specialty Crop Extracts for Anticancer Therapy Applications.

*Deadline: November 16, 2020; Noon*

### **ND NASA EPSCoR Supplemental Project Funding**

Under this solicitation, funding will be awarded in the following focus areas that are designed to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota in accordance with NASA's program:

- NASA 2017 [Strategic Technology Investment Plan](#)
- NASA 2018 [Strategic Plan](#)
- NASA 2020 [Technology Taxonomy](#)

*Deadline: November 16, 2020; Noon*

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## **ND NASA EPSCoR Funding Opportunity**

[North Dakota NASA EPSCoR](#) (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) is soliciting research **pre-proposals** from faculty at [affiliate institutions](#) (including NDSU). These pre-proposals are in response to the recent NASA CAN (Cooperative Agreement Notice) International Space Station (ISS) Flight Opportunity, [Announcement Number: NNH21ZHA001C](#).

Full details are included in the [News announcement](#) on the ND NASA EPSCoR

website.

More information:

- [Research RFP](#)
- [Budget Sheet](#)
- [Online Submission Form](#)

*Pre-proposals deadline: Noon, 11/10/2020*

See also:

[ND NASA EPSCoR Supplemental Project Funding](#)

Under this solicitation, funding will be awarded in focus areas that are designed to promote, develop, and expand NASA research in North Dakota.

*Deadline: November 16, 2020; Noon*

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## **NEH: Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions - Limited Submission Program**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NEH Preservation Assistance Grants : [Notify RCA](#) by 11/18/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

[Preservation Assistance Grants](#) help small and mid-sized institutions — such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities — improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials. Allowable activities include:

- general preservation assessments;
- consultations with preservation professionals to address a specific preservation issue, need, or problem;

- purchase of storage furniture and preservation supplies;
- purchase of environmental monitoring equipment; and
- education and training.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Only one application is allowed per applicant. Distinct collecting entities of a larger organization may apply under this announcement, such as the library and museum of a university or two historic sites within a historical society.

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## **NIH: Collaborative Approaches to Engineer Biology for Cancer Applications (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

This funding opportunity announcement [[RFA-CA-20-054](#)] invites applications to develop and apply innovative synthetic biology approaches to address challenges across the spectrum of cancer research. Projects will be required to apply a technology, based on an engineered biological system, to an important and well-defined cancer research question. Collaborative transdisciplinary teams are expected with PIs representing expertise in cancer research, engineering, and other disciplines relevant to synthetic biology.

*Deadline: January 15, 2021*

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## **NSF: Ethical and Responsible Research (ER2) – Limited Submission Program**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NSF ER2 : [Notify RCA](#) by 11/04/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

Ethical and Responsible Research (ER2) [[NSF 19-609](#)] funds research projects that identify (1) factors that are effective in the formation of ethical STEM

researchers and (2) approaches to developing those factors in all STEM fields that NSF supports. ER2 solicits proposals for research that explores the following: "What constitutes responsible conduct for research (RCR), and which cultural and institutional contexts promote ethical STEM research and practice and why?" Do certain labs have a "culture of academic integrity?" What practices contribute to the establishment and maintenance of ethical cultures and how can these practices be transferred, extended to, and integrated into other research and learning settings?" Factors one might consider include: honor codes, professional ethics codes and licensing requirements, an ethic of service and/or service learning, life-long learning requirements, curricula or memberships in organizations (e.g. Engineers without Borders) that stress responsible conduct for research, institutions that serve under-represented groups, institutions where academic and research integrity are cultivated at multiple levels, institutions that cultivate ethics across the curriculum, or programs that promote group work, or do not grade. Successful proposals typically have a comparative dimension, either between or within institutional settings that differ along these or among other factors, and they specify plans for developing interventions that promote the effectiveness of identified factors.

ER2 research projects will use basic research to produce knowledge about what constitutes or promotes responsible or irresponsible conduct of research, and how to best instill this knowledge into researchers and educators at all career stages. In some cases, projects will include the development of interventions to ensure ethical and responsible research conduct.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Only one proposal may be submitted by an eligible organization in which a member of their organization serves as the PI. There is no limit on the number of proposals under which an organization may be included as a non-lead collaborator or subawardee.

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## **NSF: Growing Convergence Research**

Growing Convergence Research (GCR) at the National Science Foundation was identified as one of 10 Big Ideas. Convergence research is a means for solving vexing research problems, in particular, complex problems focusing on societal needs. It entails integrating knowledge, methods, and expertise from different disciplines and forming novel frameworks to catalyze scientific discovery and

innovation.

GCR identifies [Convergence Research](#) as having two primary characteristics:

- *Research driven by a specific and compelling problem.* Convergence Research is generally inspired by the need to address a specific challenge or opportunity, whether it arises from deep scientific questions or pressing societal needs.
- *Deep integration across disciplines.* As experts from different disciplines pursue common research challenges, their knowledge, theories, methods, data, research communities and languages become increasingly intermingled or integrated. New frameworks, paradigms or even disciplines can form sustained interactions across multiple communities.

A distinct characteristic of convergence research, in contrast to other forms of multidisciplinary research, is that from the inception, the convergence paradigm *intentionally* brings together intellectually diverse researchers and stakeholders to frame the research questions, develop effective ways of communicating across disciplines and sectors, adopt common frameworks for their solution, and, when appropriate, develop a new scientific vocabulary. Research teams practicing convergence aim at developing sustainable relationships that may not only create solutions to the problem that engendered the collaboration, but also develop novel ways of framing related research questions and open new research vistas.

This GCR solicitation [[NSF 19-551](#)] targets multi-disciplinary team research that crosses directorate or division boundaries and is currently not supported by NSF programs, initiatives and research-focused Big Ideas. Proposers must make a convincing case that the research to be conducted is within NSF's purview and cannot be supported by existing NSF programs and multidisciplinary initiatives. Proposals involving convergence in areas covered by existing programs and solicitations will be returned without review.

The proposers should outline a five-year research plan delineated in two phases, Phase I: years 1-2, and Phase II: years 3-5. Successful proposals will be funded initially for two years and then each team's progress will be evaluated based on a report and presentation that the team will make to a panel of reviewers at NSF. Teams that show significant progress during the first two years will receive funding for an additional three years. Interested researchers may request up to \$1,200,000 total for the first two years and \$2,400,000 for the last three years.

*Deadline: February 3, 2020*



## **NSF: Mid-Career Advancement**

The Mid-Career Advancement (MCA) program [[NSF 21-516](#)] offers an opportunity for scientists and engineers at the Associate Professor rank (or equivalent) to substantively enhance and advance their research program through synergistic and mutually beneficial partnerships, typically at an institution other than their home institution. Projects that envision new insights on existing problems or identify new but related problems previously inaccessible without new methodology or expertise from other fields are encouraged.

Partners from outside the PI's own sub-discipline or discipline are encouraged, but not required, to enhance interdisciplinary networking and convergence across science and engineering fields.

By (re)-investing in mid-career investigators, NSF aims to enable and grow a more diverse scientific workforce (more women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities) at high academic ranks, who remain engaged and active in cutting-edge research.

The MCA is the only cross-directorate NSF program specifically aimed at providing protected time and resources to established scientists and engineers targeted at the mid-career (Associate Professor rank or equivalent) stage. Participating programs in the Directorates for Biological Sciences (BIO), Geosciences (GEO), Engineering (ENG), Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE), and Education and Human Resources (EHR) will accept MCA proposals. PIs are encouraged to discuss the suitability of their MCA proposal with a program officer from the appropriate directorate (see [https://www.nsf.gov/bio/MCA\\_contacts.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/bio/MCA_contacts.jsp)).

*Deadline: February 1, 2021*



## **NSF: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics - Limited Submission Program**

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NSF S-STEM : Notify RCA by 11/10/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

A well-educated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce is a significant contributor to maintaining the competitiveness of the U.S. in the global economy. The National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM program (NSF 20-526) addresses the need for a high quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program and for the increased success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in STEM fields.

Recognizing that financial aid alone cannot increase retention and graduation in STEM, the program provides awards to Institutions of Higher Education to fund scholarships and to advance the adaptation, implementation, and study of effective evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities that support recruitment, retention, transfer (if appropriate), student success, academic / career pathways, and graduation in STEM. The S-STEM program encourages collaborations among different types of participating groups, including but not limited to partnerships among different types of institutions; collaborations of STEM faculty and institutional, educational, and social science researchers; and partnerships among institutions of higher education and business, industry, local community organizations, national labs, or other federal or state government organizations, if appropriate.

The program seeks to 1) increase the number of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need obtaining degrees in S-STEM eligible disciplines and entering the workforce or graduate programs in STEM; 2) improve the education of future scientists, engineers, and technicians, with a focus on low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need; and 3) generate knowledge to advance understanding of how interventions or

evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities affect the success, retention, transfer, academic/career pathways, and graduation of low-income students in STEM.

**Scholars must be low-income, academically talented students with unmet financial need who are enrolled in an associate, baccalaureate or graduate degree program, with a major in an S-STEM eligible discipline.**

The STEM disciplines supported by the S-STEM program include:

- biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields);
- physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science);
- mathematical sciences;
- computer and information sciences;
- geosciences;
- engineering; and
- technology areas associated with the preceding disciplines.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** An Institution may submit one proposal (either as a single institution or as subawardee or a member of a Collaborative Research project) from each constituent school or college that awards degrees in an eligible field.

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## **NSF: Track 2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (RII Track-2 FEC) - Limited Submission Program**

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**RII Track-2 FEC : Notify RCA by 11/05/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

*Notifications should include the names of your NDSU / Internal Collaborators and the other institutions you are planning to include.*

**NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 FEC [NSF 21-518]** builds interjurisdictional collaborative teams of EPSCoR investigators in scientific focus areas consistent with NSF priorities. Projects are investigator-driven and must include researchers

from at least two [RII- eligible jurisdictions](#) with complementary expertise and resources necessary to tackle those projects, which neither party could address as well or rapidly alone. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research and education activities should seek to broaden participation through the strategic inclusion and integration of different types of individuals, institutions, and sectors throughout the project. Proposals must describe a comprehensive and integrated vision to drive discovery and build sustainable STEM capacity that exemplifies diversity of all types (individual, institutional, geographic, and disciplinary). The development of diverse early-career faculty is a critical component of this sustainable STEM capacity. A single proposal is submitted for a project. Support for non-lead collaborating institutions should be requested as subawards. Separately submitted collaborative proposals are not allowed. Each participating EPSCoR jurisdiction must have at least one co-PI on the project.

**For FY 2021, RII Track-2 FEC proposals are invited on a single topic: "Advancing research towards Industries of the Future to ensure economic growth for EPSCoR jurisdictions."**

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** Only one RII Track-2 FEC proposal may be submitted in response to this solicitation by an organization in an RII-eligible jurisdiction.

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## **USDA-NIFA: Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECA)**

The Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants ([SPECA](#)) program seeks to: (a) promote and strengthen secondary education and two-year postsecondary education in the food, agriculture, natural resources and human (FANH) sciences in order to help ensure the existence of a workforce in the United States that's qualified to serve the FANH sciences system; and (b) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, two-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the FANH sciences in order to advance excellence in education and encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in the FANH sciences.

Deadline: February 4, 2021



## Proposal Development Virtual Program

The Proposal Development Program provides professional development opportunities for faculty and staff who are new to proposal writing or are seeking a refresher about proposal writing skills and funding agency opportunities. This semester, these sessions will be held virtually on Zoom. Upcoming sessions include:

- **New Investigator Programs**  
November 4, 2020 - Noon  
*Presenter: Christine Strohm, Grant Writing Consultant*
- **Writing a Good First Page and Project Summary**  
December 2, 2020 - Noon  
*Presenter: Christine Strohm, Grant Writing Consultant*

[Register for upcoming sessions >>](#)

*Zoom access information will be shared with registrants.*



## Office of Industry Engagement and Intellectual Property Virtual Office Hours

Do you think that your research has resulted in something that is patentable or has commercial potential? Interested in learning more about disclosing an invention or the patenting process? Every Thursday during the Fall semester, the Office of Industry Engagement and Intellectual Property is [hosting a Zoom meeting](#) between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM to discuss research discoveries and answer general questions about intellectual property. If you can't join us on Thursday afternoons, [reach out](#) and we'll be happy to schedule a time to meet that works with your schedule.



## NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fall 2020 Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration is being offered virtually this year on October 27-30. This is an opportunity to learn directly from NIH program officers and staff.

**Registration for the live seminar has reached capacity and is now closed, but registration will re-open October 31-November 19 to allow for universal access to all seminar materials on the NIH site. By November 20, all presentations will be available on the NIH Grants [YouTube channel](#).**

Examples of topics covered at this virtual conference include:

- best practices and tips for grants and grantwriting for NIH;
- peer review (including a mock study session);
- R15 (AREA / REAP) award program;
- navigating NIH programs to advance your career;
- topics in compliance and human subjects research;
- rigor and reproducibility;
- budgets;
- data and resource sharing; and
- topics for innovators, including intellectual property, inventions, and small businesses.

[Learn more >>](#)

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## NSF Virtual Grants Conference

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Fall 2020 Grants Conference is being offered virtually this year. This is an opportunity to learn directly from NSF program officers and staff. Sessions are scheduled for the weeks of **November 16** and **November 30, 2020**. The event is **free** to attend, but registration is required. **Registration will open on Thursday, October 29 at 11:00am**. Session attendance is limited, and they anticipate that the sessions will reach capacity quickly. If you are unable to attend the live sessions, recordings will be available shortly after the event.

Examples of topics covered at this virtual conference include:

- best practices and tips for grants and grantwriting for NSF;

- merit review;
- new programs and initiatives;
- crosscutting programs like the NSF CAREER award and Research Experiences for Undergraduates;
- incorporating international components into NSF proposals;
- interdisciplinarity and convergence; and
- NSF's new proposal submission system, Research.gov.

[Learn more >>](#)



Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



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*The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.*

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