

## RCA UPDATE

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November 12, 2019

### **You're invited to share ideas in the RCA Lightning Talks**

On November 20, we will host RCA Lightning Talks. This event will give you an opportunity to present an idea in three minutes or less using only two PowerPoint slides. The subject is artificial intelligence in agriculture and the food system and all NDSU researchers are invited to either present or listen to the ideas. Following the presentations, everyone is invited to network and share ideas and expertise with others interested in the topic and to begin creating collaborations targeted at the development of planning grants.

A number of federal agencies, including NSF, USDA, and DoT, are partnering to fund research institutes with the primary focus on the advancement of multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder research on large-scale, long time horizon challenges in AI research. "AI-Driven Innovation in Agriculture and the Food System" is the subject of one of the funding opportunity themes.

**Event details:**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

11:30AM-1:30PM

Memorial Union Meadow Lark Room

[Register to Attend >>](#)

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## Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing Released

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and supplemental draft guidance for public comment. The purpose of the draft policy and supplemental draft guidance is to promote effective and efficient data management and sharing that furthers NIH's commitment to making the results and accomplishments of the research it funds and conducts available to the public. Complete information about the draft policy and supplemental guidance can be found on the [NIH OSP website](#). Stakeholder feedback is requested to ensure that any future policy maximizes responsible data sharing, minimizes burden on researchers, and protects the privacy of research participants. To provide feedback, access the [web portal](#). Comments are due by January 10, 2020.

## Fall 2019 NSF Grants Conference

The plenary sessions of the upcoming Fall 2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants Conference will be webcast live to the research community. View the plenary sessions to gain key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF including: the state of current funding, proposal preparation and merit review policies and procedures, and pertinent administrative issues.

Please click [here](#) for more information and to register. Check out the webcast [agenda](#) for more information on the sessions that will be covered. These sessions will be recorded for on-demand viewing once the conference has concluded. Presentations will also be available on the

conference website. If you have any questions, please send an email to:  
[grants\\_conference@nsf.gov](mailto:grants_conference@nsf.gov).

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## Allen Foundation: Human Nutrition

Established in 1975 by agricultural chemist William Webster Allen, the Foundation makes [grants](#) to projects that benefit human nutrition in the areas of education, training, and research.

Policies and Priorities:

- To make grants to fund relevant nutritional research.
- To support programs for the education and training of mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their children, so that good nutritional habits can be formed at an early age.
- To assist in the training of persons to work as educators and demonstrators of good nutritional practices.
- To encourage the dissemination of information regarding healthful nutritional practices and habits.
- In limited situations to make grants to help solve immediate emergency hunger and malnutrition problems.

Full Application deadline: January 15, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)

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## Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood

The [Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood](#) is an incubator of promising research and development projects that appear likely to improve the welfare of young children, from infancy through 7 years, in the United States. Welfare is broadly defined to include physical and mental health, safety, nutrition, education, play, familial support, acculturation, societal integration and childcare.

The Foundation provides funding in the following areas:

### 1. **Early Childhood Welfare**

Children can only reach their full potential when all aspects of their intellectual, emotional and physical development are optimally supported. Providing a safe and nurturing environment is essential as is imparting the skills of social living in a culturally diverse world. Therefore, the Foundation supports projects that seek to perfect child rearing practices and to identify models that can provide creative, caring environments in which all young children thrive.

### 2. **Early Childhood Education and Play**

Research shows that children need to be stimulated as well as nurtured, early in life, if they are to succeed in school, work and life. That preparation relates to every aspect of a child's development, from birth to age seven, and everywhere a child learns - at home, in childcare settings and in preschool. We seek to improve the quality of both early childhood teaching and learning, through the development of innovative curricula and research based pedagogical standards, as well as the design of imaginative play materials and learning environments.

### 3. **Parenting Education**

To help parents create nurturing environments for their children, we

support programs that teach parents about developmental psychology, cultural child rearing differences, pedagogy, issues of health, prenatal care and diet, as well as programs which provide both cognitive and emotional support to parents.

Letter of Intent deadline: January 31, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)



## **EPA: Environmental Education Grants**

The purpose of the [Environmental Education Local Grants Program](#) is to support locally-focused environmental education projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues and provide the skills that participants in its funded projects need to make informed decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment.

Under this solicitation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking grant applications from eligible applicants to support locally-focused environmental education projects that promote environmental and conservation stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques, as described in this notice, that will serve to increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in the local community(ies) in which they are located.

Applications must be submitted to the correct EPA Region that corresponds to the location of the project, which may not necessarily be where your organization is based.

Application deadline: January 6, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)



## NEH: Public Humanities Projects

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) [Public Humanities Projects](#) program supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history.

The program supports projects in three categories: **Exhibitions** (permanent, temporary, or traveling); interpretive programs at **Historic Places**; and **Humanities Discussions** related to “[A More Perfect Union](#)”: NEH Special Initiative Advancing Civic Education and Commemorating the Nation’s 250th Anniversary.

Application deadline: January 8, 2020



## NSF: Addressing Systems Challenges through Engineering Teams

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems ([ECCS](#)), through its ASCENT program [[NSF 20-511](#)], offers its engineering community the opportunity to address research issues and answer engineering challenges associated with complex systems and networks that are not achievable by a single principal investigator or by short-term projects and can only be achieved by interdisciplinary research teams. ECCS envisions a connected portfolio of transformative and integrative projects that create synergistic links by investigators across its three ECCS clusters: Communications, Circuits, and Sensing-Systems (CCSS), Electronics, Photonics and Magnetic Devices (EPMD), and Energy, Power, Control, and Networks (EPCN), yielding novel ways of addressing challenges of engineering systems and networks. ECCS seeks proposals that are bold and groundbreaking, transcend the perspectives and approaches typical of disciplinary research efforts, and lead to disruptive technologies and methods or enable significant improvement in quality of life.

- ASCENT supports fundamental research projects involving at least three collaborating PIs and co-PIs, up to four years in duration, with a total budget between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.
- ASCENT proposals must highlight the engineering leadership focus of the proposal within the scope of ECCS programs.
- ASCENT proposals must articulate a fundamental research problem with compelling intellectual challenge and significant societal impact. The topic at the heart of the proposal must lie within the scope of at least one of the three ECCS clusters (CCSS, EPMD, EPCN). Research proposals spanning multiple clusters are highly encouraged.
- ASCENT proposals must demonstrate the need for a concerted research effort by an integrated and interdisciplinary team, and strongly justify the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed work. They should include a timeline for research activities, with a strong justification of the explicit mechanisms for frequent communication between team members and effective assessment to achieve proposed goals.

Letter of Intent deadline: January 07, 2020

Full Application deadline: February 19, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)

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## **NSF: Understanding the Rules of Life - Microbiome Theory and Mechanisms (URoL:MTM)**

*Understanding the Rules of Life (URoL): Predicting Phenotype* is one of NSF's [10 big ideas](#) and is focused on predicting the set of observable characteristics (phenotypes) based on the genetic makeup of the individual and the nature of its environment. The Understanding the Rules of Life: Microbiome Theory and Mechanisms (URoL:MTM) program [\[NSF 20-513\]](#) is an integrative collaboration across Directorates and Offices within the National Science Foundation. The objective of URoL:MTM is to understand and establish the theory and mechanisms that govern the structure and function of microbiomes, a collection of microbes in a specific habitat/environment. This may include but is not limited to host-associated microbiomes, such as those with humans and other

organisms, where i) the microbiome impacts host physiology, behavior, development, and fitness; ii) the host influences the metabolic activity, dynamics and evolution of the microbiome, and iii) the environment (biological, chemical, physical, and social) influences and is influenced by both the host and the microbiome.

The URoL:MTM program invites integrated, interdisciplinary proposals that develop theoretical predictive frameworks with well-designed experimental and/or computational approaches to generate and test hypotheses about the causal relationships within the microbiome, and among the microbiome, host, and environment. How these relationships affect robustness, resilience, and adaptability of individual organisms, populations, and communities are also of interest. Projects may apply existing ecological and evolutionary theory or develop new experimental, computational, or mathematical tools, models, and theory to: i) explain function and interactions in natural, experimental, and model microbiomes; ii) elucidate the molecular mechanisms that underlie communication between the host and the microbiome and among the members of the microbiome; and/or iii) comparatively analyze microbiomes to discover emergent properties that provide insight into the behavior of living systems. Successful projects will contribute to a portfolio of research that identifies general principles ("rules") that underlie a wide spectrum of biological phenomena across spatial, temporal (from sub-second to geologic), and/or complexity (molecular, cellular, organismal, population) scales. URoL:MTM projects must integrate perspectives and research approaches from more than one research discipline (e.g., biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geosciences, mathematics, physics, social and behavioral sciences). They must also incorporate best practices regarding protocol documentation, sample selection, data collection and analysis, model/algorithm development, as well as data sharing and accessibility. The interdisciplinary scope of URoL:MTM projects should provide unique training and outreach opportunities to train the next generation of scientists in a diversity of scientific approaches and to engage society more generally.

URoL:MTM supports basic science research projects of different scales and scope. The URoL:MTM Program offers two submission tracks: Track 1 for projects with a total budget of up to \$500,000 and an award duration of up to 3 years and Track 2 for projects with a total budget of up to \$3,000,000 and award duration of up to 5 years.

Letter of Intent deadline: January 17, 2020

Full Application deadline: March 2, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)



## **William T. Grant Foundation: Reducing Inequality and Improving the Use of Research Evidence**

The research grants program supports high-quality field-initiated studies that are relevant to policies and practices that affect the lives of young people ages 5 to 25 in the United States. Proposed research must address questions that align with one of the Foundation's two focus areas:

### [Reducing Inequality](#)

In this focus area, we support research to build, test, and increase understanding of approaches to reducing inequality in youth outcomes, particularly on the basis of race, ethnicity, economic standing, or immigrant origin status. We are interested in research on programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in academic, social, behavioral, and economic outcomes.

### [Improving the Use of Research Evidence](#)

In this focus area, we support research to identify, build, and test strategies to ensure that research evidence reaches the hands of decision makers, responds to their needs, and is used in ways that benefit youth. We are particularly interested in research on improving the use of evidence by state and local decision makers, mid-level managers, and intermediaries.

Letter of Inquiry deadline: January 09, 2020

[Track this program >>](#)



## Proposal Development Program

The next session of the RCA Proposal Development Program will focus on **Proposal Budgets**. It will take place on **Tuesday, November 19** from **12:30-1:30pm** in the **Memorial Union Hidatsa Room**. [Register for this session >>](#)

The purpose of the Proposal Development Program is to provide a professional development opportunity for those new to proposal writing or those seeking a refresher to hone proposal writing skills and increase knowledge about funding agency opportunities. [Learn more and see upcoming sessions >>](#)

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## NDSU Rodent Training Series

The final session of the NDSU Rodent Training Series will focus on **Venipuncture**. It will take place on **Wednesday, November 20** from **3-4:30pm** in **Van Es 107**. Space is limited so register early. [Register for this session >>](#)

The NDSU Rodent training series is a 4 course training series which covers basic mouse handling and techniques. The series is designed to provide foundational training and experience for faculty, staff, and students. The Rodent Training Series is sponsored by the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity. If you have questions about these sessions, please contact the IACUC Administrator, Josie Hayden, at 701.231.8114 or [josie.hayden@ndsu.edu](mailto:josie.hayden@ndsu.edu).

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## National Council of University Research Administrators Education Program Workshops

Sponsored Programs is sponsoring webinars that are a part of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) education program. This is the final webinar of a 3-part series.

**Financial Research Compliance Workshop:**

The Financial Research Compliance workshop is a professional development opportunity that focuses primarily on the financial regulatory compliance aspects of Research Administration. This workshop provides an in-depth look at financial compliance issues through a combination of lecture, case studies, review of Federal audit reports, and a discussion of best practices.

**Date: November 20, 2019**

**Time: 1:30PM – 5:00PM**

**Location: Research 1, Room 148/154**

If you have any questions about these webinars, please contact the Sponsored Programs Office at [ndsu.research@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.research@ndsu.edu) or call 701-231-8045.

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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.*

*You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.*

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