

## RCA UPDATE

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June 24, 2019



Dear Colleagues,

Happy almost mid-summer! As is the case with many of you, summer is a great time for the teams at Research and Creative Activity to renew and refresh. But the RCA teams are focused on supporting ongoing research efforts at NDSU as summer can also be a busy time to concentrate fully upon your research activity. This is definitely a time when our land grant mission is in full display and I'd like to update you on a few initiatives happening locally that either link with or complement that mission.

Grand Farm is a regional initiative by Emerging Prairie with a goal of creating the first fully autonomous farm. The group recently had a ribbon cutting on a donated 45 acre plot of land south of Fargo and they plan to make their goal a reality by 2025. Given the many facets of this project, NDSU will find numerous connection points for our researchers ranging from autonomous air and vehicle systems to traditional agriculture practices. Watch for more information about the ways in which you may partner with this exciting new venture.

The Red River diversion project is a \$2.75 billion project that aims to divert flood waters around the Fargo Moorhead area via a 30 plus mile channel. After years of planning, the project is now moving ahead. While various NDSU researchers have already contributed their expertise to aspects of the project, a coordinated effort is now underway to provide additional opportunities for our researchers to work on the project. Contact Jack Norland, associate professor in Natural Resources Management [[jack.norland@ndsu.edu](mailto:jack.norland@ndsu.edu)], if you're interested in this initiative.

Given NDSU's long history with coatings and polymers, it's no surprise that the University has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to become a university site of the Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (CB<sup>2</sup>). The center is part of NSF's Industry–University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC) program and NDSU joins current CB<sup>2</sup> sites at Iowa State University, Washington State University, and the University of Georgia. In addition, the CB<sup>2</sup> Industry Advisory Board (IAB) has named NDSU as the lead site given that CB<sup>2</sup> founder and director and NDSU engineering professor David Grewell recently moved from Iowa State University to NDSU. Dean Webster, NDSU professor and chair of Coatings and Polymeric Materials at NDSU, will serve as the Fargo site director.

After joining NDSU in 2018, Ozbun Executive Director of Entrepreneurship Scott Meyer has worked to connect research with the area's business community. He has set up the Nice Center, a group that celebrates innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship in the area. For more information about their initiatives, see <https://medium.com/thenicecenter>. In addition, the Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth represents a \$50 million investment in transformative, interdisciplinary research focused in areas of global innovation, trade and economic growth.

One aspect of summer I really enjoy each year are the various Field Days tours conducted by our Extension Centers. A great opportunity to get out

and interact with our extension colleagues and agriculture producers in the area, the Field Days take place July through August. For a complete list, see <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/research/field-days>.

Finally, the NDSU Research and Technology Park has a new executive director. NDSU alumni and past North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Brian Kalk recently took the position and brings years of leadership experience in the state to the role. The Research and Technology Park continues to be a great model with a full slate of companies of all sizes conducting business in the incubator.

While this isn't meant to be an exhaustive list, it does show that there are some great initiatives happening in our area. Thanks for all you're doing in your own research and industry activities and I invite you to tell our office about your successes – we like sharing the good news of research!

**Jane Schuh**  
**Vice President**  
**Research and Creative Activity**

## **Innovation Loan Fund to Support Technology Advancement**

In this year's session, the North Dakota Legislative Assembly created a new innovation loan fund to support technology advancement, called LIFT. The Department of Commerce will administer the loan program, which begins July 1, 2019. Eligible entities will be able to apply for loans through the LIFT program, which will be financed by the Bank of North Dakota. Loans will have 0% interest for the first 3 years, 2% interest for the next 2 years, and then an interest rate equal to a standard Bank of North Dakota loan for the remaining years.

NDSU Vice President of Research Jane Schuh commented that, “Although, given the initial guidelines, it appears that NDSU researchers will not be able to directly participate in this program, we see LIFT serving as a catalyst for new ideas from our area’s industry partners which will benefit everyone”.

Final guidelines are not yet available for this program, but if you have a private sector partner who is interested in supporting your research through this program, please contact the Business Development office ([ndsu.businessdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.businessdev@ndsu.edu)) for guidance.

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## NSF Biographical Sketch Format

Current proposal submissions to the National Science Foundation (NSF) require a biographical sketch (limited to two pages) for each individual identified as senior personnel. Also, a separate biographical sketch PDF file, or other *NSF-approved format*, must be uploaded in FastLane for each designated individual. The biographical sketch and file format requirements also apply to NSF proposals submitted through Research.gov and Grants.gov. Beginning with the next iteration of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (anticipated effective date, January 2020), NSF will only accept PDFs for biographical sketches that are generated through use of an *NSF-approved format*. A description of *NSF-approved format(s)* will be posted on the NSF website when the PAPPG is issued.

NSF has designated the National Institutes of Health’s [SciENCv](#) (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) as an *NSF-approved format* for

submission of biographical sketch(es) and is encouraging its use to prepare a biographical sketch for inclusion in proposals to NSF. Use of an *NSF-approved format* aims to reduce administrative burden and improve efficiencies by providing proposers with a compliant and reusable way to maintain this information for subsequent proposal submissions to NSF, while also ensuring that the information is submitted in a searchable composition.

Multiple training resources are available on the [SciENcv](#) website. The following website resources may be of assistance to proposers preparing a biographical sketch using the SciENcv format:

- [SciENcv Background](#)
- [YouTube Video: SciENcv Tutorial](#)
- [YouTube Video: Integrating with ORCID](#)
- [SciENcv Help](#)

## 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 Innovations in Graduate Education](#)  
*Notification Deadline: July 12, 2019*
- [NEH Summer Stipends Program](#)  
*Pre-Proposal Deadline: July 26, 2019*

- [NSF Major Research Instrumentation \(MRI\)](#)  
*Notification Deadline: September 5, 2019*
- [NSF Research Traineeship \(NRT\)](#)  
*Notification Deadline: September 9, 2019*
- [NIH Collaborative Program for Multidisciplinary Teams \(RM1\)](#)  
*Notification Deadline: September 9, 2019*

## EXPORT CONTROLS FAQs

**Q: I'm giving a webinar / conference presentation on my research which will be shared internationally. What do I need to know?**

**A:** Information that is published or generally accessible to the public (for example, through a conference or webinar) is considered in the public domain or publicly available and not subject to export control regulations. However, you should assure that the webinar is indeed open to the public, such that all technically qualified members of the public are eligible to attend, and that attendees are permitted to take notes or otherwise make a personal record (not necessarily a recording) of the proceedings and presentations. A registration fee may be charged if it is reasonably related to the cost of putting on the conference, and reflects an intention that all interested and technically qualified persons be able to attend. However, you may limit actual attendance, as long as attendees either are the first who have applied or are selected on the basis of relevant scientific or technical competence, experience, or responsibility. Evaluation is case-specific; thus, it is recommended that you contact the Export Control Office to review your circumstances.

If you have questions, please contact the NDSU Export Control Office at [ndsu.exportcontrols@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.exportcontrols@ndsu.edu) for more information and assistance.

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## NOTICES

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Looking for  
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Equipment?  
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Click here to learn how!

## NEH: Summer Stipends - 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 Summer Stipends: The internal NDSU deadline for pre-proposals is 4pm on July 26, 2019. [Contact Christina Weber](#) for the pre-proposal requirements.**

NEH Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Eligible projects usually result in articles, monographs, books, digital materials and publications, archaeological site reports, translations, or editions. Projects must not result solely in the collection of data; instead they must also incorporate analysis and interpretation. Summer Stipends support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months. Summer Stipends support projects at any stage of development. Up to two applicants may be nominated by their institution.

*Application deadline: September 25, 2019 (for projects beginning May 2020)*



## **NIH Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1) – 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.

**NIH RM1: Notify RCA by 9/9/2019, 5:00 p.m. if you intend to apply.**

This National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding opportunity announcement (FOA / PAR-17-340) is designed to support highly integrated research teams of three to six PD/PIs to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) and are beyond the scope of one or two investigators. Collaborative program teams are expected to accomplish goals that require considerable synergy and managed team interactions. Project goals should not be achievable with a collection of individual efforts or projects. Teams are encouraged to consider far-reaching objectives that will produce major advances in their fields. Applications that are mainly focused on the creation, expansion, and/or maintenance of community resources, creation of new technologies or infrastructure development are not appropriate for this FOA.

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## **NSF Innovations in Graduate Education - 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 IGE: Notify RCA by 7/12/2019, 4:00 p.m. if you intend to apply.**

The National Science Foundation Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Program [[NSF 17-585](#)] is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative approaches to STEM graduate education training. The program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers.

IGE focuses on projects aimed at piloting, testing, and validating innovative and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education. IGE projects are intended to generate the knowledge required for their customization, implementation, and broader adoption. The program supports testing of novel models or activities with high potential to enrich and extend the knowledge base on effective graduate education approaches.

The program addresses both workforce development, emphasizing broad participation, and institutional capacity building needs in graduate education. Strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, informal science centers, and academic partners are encouraged.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** An eligible organization may participate in two Innovations in Graduate Education proposals per competition. **Participation includes serving as a lead organization on a non-collaborative proposal or as a lead organization, non-lead organization, or subawardee on a collaborative proposal.** Organizations participating solely as evaluators on projects are excluded from this limitation.

An individual may serve as Lead Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI on only one proposal submitted to the IGE program per annual competition.

## NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) – 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 MRI: Notify RCA by 9/5/2019, 5:00 p.m. if you intend to apply.**

The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program [[NSF 18-513](#)] serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education and not-for-profit scientific/engineering research organizations. An MRI award supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. **Cost sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost is required.**

An MRI proposal may request support for either the acquisition or development of a research instrument.

- Track 1: Track 1 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$100,000 and less than \$1,000,000. Two proposal submissions are allowed per organization.
- Track 2: Track 2 MRI proposals are those that request funds from NSF greater than or equal to \$1,000,000 up to and including \$4,000,000. One proposal submission is allowed per organization.

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** The MRI program requires that an MRI-eligible organization may, as a performing organization, submit or be included as a significantly funded subawardee in *no more than three MRI proposals*. Each performing organization is limited to a maximum of three proposals in the “Tracks” as defined above, with no more than two submissions in Track 1 and no more than one submission in Track 2.

## NSF Research Traineeship Program (NRT) – 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 NRT: [Notify RCA](#) by 9/9/2019, 5:00 p.m. if you intend to apply.**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Traineeship (NRT) program [[NSF 19-522](#)] is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative models for STEM graduate education training. The NRT program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based masters and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The program is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, and aligned with changing workforce and research needs. The NRT program addresses workforce development, emphasizing broad participation, and institutional capacity building needs in graduate education. Strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, informal science centers, and academic partners are encouraged.

**The NRT Program has announced the program's priority areas for FY2019 and FY2020.** For FY2019 and FY2020, the NRT Program requests *proposals in any interdisciplinary research theme of national priority*, with special emphasis on the six [NSF Research Big Ideas](#). The NSF Research Big Ideas are Harnessing the Data Revolution (HDR), The Future of Work at the Human-

Technology Frontier (HTF), Navigating the New Arctic (NNA), Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multi-Messenger Astrophysics (WOU), The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution (QL), and Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype (ROL).

**LIMITED SUBMISSION:** An eligible organization may participate in *two proposals* per competition. **Participation includes serving as a lead organization, non-lead organization, or subawardee on any proposal.** Organizations participating solely as evaluators on projects are excluded from this limitation.



## June Issue of Research Development & Grant Writing news

The June issue of [Research Development and Grant Writing News](#) is now available to view. Use your NDSU login information to access this resource. Various topics are covered, including:

- Don't Let the Organizational Ghosts of Proposals Past Haunt Your New Proposal
- White Papers and Concept Papers Are Often the First Step to Funding Success
- Know the Type of Project You're Proposing
- Does Your Office Assist New Faculty in Grant Writing? Here Are Some Tips
- Talking to New Faculty about Reproducibility and Replicability in Science



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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