Welcome to the Research and Creative Activity Update!

To share information quickly rather than through multiple emails, we provide weekly updates for researchers, scholars and staff to keep up-to-date on grant program changes, deadlines, notices and training, with links to expand the information you may be interested in.

Thank you for your contributions to research and creative activity at NDSU.

These weekly email updates are archived on the **RCA Website**.

EVENTS
- **Spring Semester Gear up for Grants Seminars**
- **Forums on Research and Scholarly Activity**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- **Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water (INFEWS)**

NOTICES
- **January 2017 Issue of Research Development and Grant Writing News Available**
- **NIH Implementation of Final Research Performance Progress Reports (F-RPPR)**
- **NSF Fastlane Changes Effective January 30, 2017**
- **Progress Reports**
- **RCA Annual Report for FY2016**
- **Take Care in Proposal Preparation**

Spring Semester Gear up for Grants Seminars
Mark your calendars for these upcoming Gear up for Grants Seminars:

Education Outreach: Working with K-12
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 | 3-4:30pm | Memorial Union Hidatsa Room
Register Now!

All-Day Interactive Grant Proposal Development Workshop
Facilitated by Lucy Deckard, Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 | 8:30am-4:30pm | Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room
Register Now!

For more information, visit the **Research and Creative Activity Calendar**.

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Forums on Research and Scholarly Activity

Please join Vice President for Research and Creative Activity, Dr. Kelly Rusch, throughout the semester for a conversation on research and scholarly activities. While there is no agenda for the forums, Dr. Rusch would like to engage in dialogue and hear your thoughts on growing the research, creative activity and scholarly enterprise on campus as we work to meet the Strategic Plan. These forums are scheduled for the following times:

- February 16, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Arikara Room
- March 16, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Room of Nations
- April 20, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Room of Nations
- May 18, 2017 | 1:00pm-2:00pm | Memorial Union Arikara Room

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Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water (INFEWS)

Interconnections and interdependencies associated with the FEW nexus create research grand challenges for understanding how the complex, coupled processes of society and the environment function now and in the future. To meet these grand challenges, there is a critical need for research that enables new means of adapting to future challenges. Interagency cooperation between USDA and NSF allows the partner agencies to combine resources to identify and fund projects to catalyze well-integrated interdisciplinary research efforts to transform scientific understanding of the FEW nexus in order to improve system function and management, address system stress, increase resilience, and ensure sustainability.

Application Deadline: March 6, 2017

USDA: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/innovations-nexus-food-energy-and-water
NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505241

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January 2017 Issue of Research Development and Grant Writing News Available

The January 2017 issue of *Research Development and Grant Writing News* is now available. There are many informative articles and links to website resources including:

- *Don't Force Your Reviewers to Think Too Much*
- *To Submit or Not to Submit*
- *Funding for Cybersecurity Research*
- *Agency Research News*
- *Educational Grant Writing Web Resources*
- *Research Grant Writing Web Resources*

To access this publication go to the **RCA website** and click on ***Research Development and Grant Writing****.* You will then need to enter your NDSU login information.

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NIH Implementation of Final Research Performance Progress Reports (F-RPPR)

Effective January 1, 2017, NIH implemented a new format for submission of final progress reports by replacing the Final Progress Report (FPR) with the new Final Research Performance Progress Report (F-RPPR). As of January 1, NIH will only accept final progress reports in the new F-RPPR format. The F-RPPR format is similar to the annual RPPR but also adds a new project outcomes requirement. This new section will be made publically available and will require PI's to include a concise summary of the projects' outcomes or findings. Please see **NIH notice NOT-OD-17-022** for further details.

NSF Fastlane Changes Effective January 30, 2017
Effective January 30, 2017, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will implement the following changes in FastLane to support the policy updates in the ***Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide*** (PAPPG) (NSF 17-1) and to run new and enhanced automated compliance checks on proposals:

Proposal Submission
- Two new types of proposals will be incorporated into the PAPPG with new required supporting documents and automated proposal compliance checks.
  - Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI): GOALI is a type of proposal that seeks to stimulate collaboration between academic research institutions and industry. The new GOALI automated compliance checks will require that at least one Co-Principal Investigator (PI) exists on the proposal and the "GOALI-Industrial PI Confirmation Letter" is uploaded at the time of proposal submission. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to GOALI proposals. GOALI proposals were previously submitted via a program solicitation.
  - Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE): The RAISE proposal type supports bold, interdisciplinary projects. The new RAISE automated compliance checks will require that a "RAISE-Program Officer Concurrence Email" is uploaded at the time of proposal submission, the proposal award budget is less than or equal to $1 million, and the proposal duration is less than or equal to 5 years. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to RAISE proposals.
- The Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) type of proposal will be included on the FastLane dropdown menu. All automated compliance checks applicable to Research proposals will apply to FASED proposals.

Deadline Submission
- Organizations that are unable to submit a proposal prior to a deadline due to a natural or anthropogenic disaster will be required to submit a new Single Copy Document, "Nature of Natural or Anthropogenic Event," when attempting to submit a late proposal using the "Special Exception to the Deadline Date Policy" box on the NSF Cover Sheet.

Updated References and Terminology
- The PAPPG (NSF 17-1) has been modified in its entirety, to remove all references to the *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) and *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG). The document will now be referred to solely as the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* and is sequentially numbered from Chapter I-XII. All system references and links to the GPG and AAG will be updated to corresponding references and links in the PAPPG (NSF 17-1).
- "International Travel" type of proposals will be renamed to "Travel" and will be expanded to include domestic and international travel.
- "Facility/Center" type of proposals will be renamed to "Center/Research Infrastructure."

Enhanced Automated Compliance Checks
- In addition to the new compliance checks for the GOALI, RAISE, and FASED types of proposals, FastLane will run enhanced automated compliance checks across several proposal types and will generate errors or warnings when the submission or deadline validation compliance checks are not met.
- Checks are run during "Check Proposal," "Forward to SPO," and "Submit Proposal." The complete list of FastLane automated compliance checks effective January 30, 2017, is available **here**.

Note About Proposal File Update (PFU):
The automated compliance checks also apply when a PFU is performed on a proposal. The compliance checks will be run on all sections of the proposal, regardless of which section was updated during the PFU. Proposers should be

aware that if a proposal was previously submitted successfully, a PFU performed on the proposal will be prevented from submission if the proposal does not comply with the compliance checks in effect at the time.

Note About Grants.gov:
Grants.gov-submitted proposals are not compliance-checked by the FastLane system and therefore do not undergo the same set of automated compliance checks at submission as those submitted directly via FastLane. If NSF receives a proposal via **Grants.gov** that is not compliant, it will be returned without review.

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Progress Reports

When receiving externally funded awards, sponsors will most often require submission of one or more technical progress/project reports on a specific timeframe. Please make sure to consult your specific award notice and/or sponsor guidelines regarding technical reporting requirements. It is very important for reports to be completed and submitted in accordance with the sponsors specifications as delinquent reports can have negative consequences for not only the PI and NDSU, but collaborative institutions and even some sponsors as well. The following are examples of actions that may occur when technical progress/project reports are not submitted on time:

- Sponsor delay in issuing additional increments of funding
- Sponsor delay in response to administrative requests such as time extensions or rebudget requests
- Sponsor delay in issuance of pending awards to other NDSU PI's
- Sponsor closeout of an award prior to project completion
- NDSU may be designated as a high risk institution
- collaborative proposals (for example to the National Science Foundation) can experience delay in sponsor review if any institution involved in the proposal is delinquent in reports on other (NSF) awards
- audit findings as to failure to comply with award terms in regards to reporting

Grant and Contract Accounting will prepare and submit required financial reports to sponsors. However, it is the PI's responsibility to prepare and submit technical progress/project reports on a timely basis.

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RCA Annual Report for FY2016

The Research and Creative Activity Fiscal Year Annual Report for 2016 is now available online. To view, visit the **Reports** page on the **Research and Creative Activity site**.

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Take Care in Proposal Preparation

When preparing a proposal for submission in response to a sponsor's solicitation, please ensure that the proposal is completed in accordance with the provisions in the sponsor solicitation and relevant guidelines. Proposals that are determined by the sponsor to be non-compliant with either the program solicitation or a sponsor's guidelines are at risk of being returned by the sponsor without review, as they do not fulfill specified requirements and are therefore ineligible for funding.

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