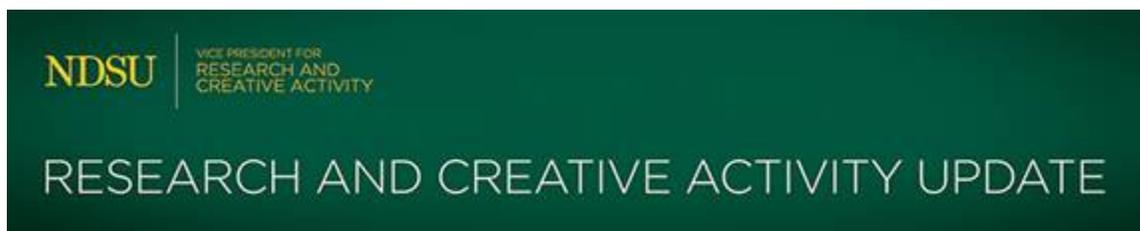


**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2018 2:46 PM  
**To:** NDSU-EMPLOYEE-OFFICIAL@LISTSERV.NODAK.EDU  
**Subject:** RCA Update - January 29, 2018 Edition



### **Welcome to the Research and Creative Activity Update!**

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.

These weekly email updates are archived on the [RCA Website](#).

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- [FFAR Fellowship Program](#)
- [USDA / DOE Joint Research Solicitation: Plant Feedstock Genomics for Bioenergy](#)
- [Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy \(ARPA-E\) OPEN 2018 Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Defense Enterprise Science Initiative \(DESI\)](#)
- [Limited Submission Program: NSF Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM \(NSF 18-532\)](#)

### **NOTICES**

- [NDSU Students Selected to Attend National Science and Engineering Conference](#)
- [Changes to FastLane and Research.gov](#)

### **EVENTS**

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- [Research Connections: A Research Networking Event](#)
- [Proposal and Award Management Session #11](#)
- [Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers' Attention, Get Your Grant Funded](#)

### **FFAR Fellowship Program**

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) has announced the [FFAR Fellowship Program](#). The goal of the program is to combine cutting-edge food and agriculture science research with professional development training *to better prepare graduate students for the workforce*. The program will address the "STEM Paradox," or the observation that science, technology, engineering, and math students have strong scientific skills but sometimes lack other professional skills that make them successful in the workplace. Unlike other programs, the FFAR Fellowship focuses exclusively on food and agriculture sciences. Students apply and can compete in either of two categories: **Research & Professional Development** or **Professional Development**. Application deadline still be to determined.



### **USDA / DOE Joint Research Solicitation: Plant Feedstock Genomics for Bioenergy**

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE) and the Department of Energy's Office of Science, Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) announce the [interagency program](#) to support genomics-based research that will lead to the improved use of biomass and plant

feed stocks for the production of fuels such as ethanol or renewable chemical feedstocks. Research to overcome biological barriers, like resistance and tolerance to disease and weather, to the low-cost, high-quality, scalable, and sustainable production of dedicated bioenergy biomass feedstocks using the tools of genetics and genomics is encouraged. Please note that applicants will submit applications through DOE and a pre-application is requested rather than a letter of intent. *Pre-application due date (to DOE): Friday, Feb. 9, 2018.* Pre-applications will be reviewed for responsiveness of the proposed work to the research topics identified in this FOA. DOE will send a response by email to each applicant encouraging or discouraging the submission of a full application by February, 23 2018. *Final Application Deadline: April 20, 2018*



## **Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) OPEN 2018 Funding Opportunity**

The [Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy \(ARPA-E\)](#) at the U.S. Department of Energy funds high-potential, high-impact energy technologies that are too early for private-sector investment. ARPA-E awardees are unique because they are developing entirely new ways to generate, store, and use energy. ARPA-E projects have the potential to radically improve U.S. economic prosperity, national security, and environmental wellbeing.

Approximately every three years, ARPA-E issues OPEN Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) as a means to address the full range of energy-related technologies and fund those potentially disruptive technology concepts not currently supported through an ARPA-E focused FOA.

A broad variety of projects will be welcomed, and examples include electricity generation by both renewable and non-renewable means; electricity transmission, storage, and distribution; energy efficiency for buildings, manufacturing and commerce, and personal use; and all aspects of transportation, including the production and distribution of both renewable and non-renewable fuels, electrification, and transportation energy efficiency.

Applicants must address the potential impact of the proposed technology on the agency's Mission Areas:

- Reducing imported energy
- Reducing energy-related emissions
- Improving energy efficiency

Cost share is required; see the [funding opportunity announcement](#) for details.

**Concept Papers are due February 12, 2018, by 4 p.m.** For more information, visit the [OPEN 2018 website](#), download the [funding opportunity announcement](#), or read this [program summary](#) with concept paper guidelines.



## **Defense Enterprise Science Initiative (DESI)**

The DoD is piloting a new program, the [Defense Enterprise Science Initiative \(DESI\)](#). Its purpose is to support use-inspired basic research performed by university-industry teams. The recommended topics include:

1. Power Beaming
2. Highly-maneuverable autonomous UAV
3. Soft Active Composites with Intrinsic Sensing, Actuation, and Control
4. Metamaterial-based Antennas
5. Alternate topics are also encouraged

Much more detail on the topics is included in the [BAA](#). Teams must include at least one university member and at least one industry member.

Early-career university researchers and current recipients of young investigator programs across the federal agencies are strongly encouraged to seek industry partners for this program.

*The deadline for proposals is February 28, 2018.*



## Limited Submission Program: NSF Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (NSF 18-532)

[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 Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM \(NSF 18-532\): Notify RCA by 02/09/2018, 5 p.m.](#)

Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (CCE STEM) 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 the fields of science and engineering that NSF supports. 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. CCE STEM 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 students with this knowledge. In some cases, projects will include the development of interventions to ensure responsible research conduct. The maximum amount for 5-year awards is \$600,000 (including indirect costs) and the maximum amount for 3-year awards is \$400,000 (including indirect costs). The average award is \$275,000. *NSF Full Proposal Deadline: April 17, 2018.*



## NDSU Students Selected to Attend National Science and Engineering Conference

Elisabeth Wilson, graduate student (zoology) and Wyatt Whiteaker, undergraduate (chemistry education) have been selected to attend the 2018 Catalyzing Advocacy for Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop March 18–21, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

The CASE Workshop is a program held annually by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). It's designed for students in science, technology, engineering, and math fields who want to learn about science policy, the structure and organization of Congress, the federal budget and appropriations process, and tools available for effective science communication and civic engagement.

The entry-level program aims to empower attendees with strategies and methods to become voices for basic research throughout their careers. NDSU is a 2018 sponsoring institution of the event and both students' participation costs will be covered by the Office of Research and Creative Activity.

Attendees were selected based on recommendations from faculty and others involved with their education. Elisabeth Wilson's recommendations noted her ability to purposefully connect with everyone she interacts with from technicians, staff and faculty, and her peers and her keen interest in learning about science policy. Wyatt Whiteaker's recommendations included how he is an advocate for engagement in science and engineering and how the future K-12 teacher's role as a STEM coach for teachers and students will be strengthened through the workshop content.

In addition to the learning content of the CASE Workshop, student attendees will also have the option to form teams and conduct meetings with their elected Members of Congress and congressional staff.



## Changes to FastLane and Research.gov

Effective today, January 29, 2018 NSF is implementing changes in FastLane and Research.gov to support policy updates.

[Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 18-1). These changes will also run updated Budget Justification page limit automated compliance checks in FastLane. Here are the changes:

### *Standard Collaborators and Other Affiliations Template Implementation:*

- The revised PAPPG (NSF 18-1) incorporates the standard Collaborators and Other Affiliations (COA) template that has been in pilot phase in FastLane since April 2017.
- FastLane system instructions will be updated in accordance with the new policy.

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the COA template are available at <https://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/coa.jsp>.

*Budget Justification Page Limitation Increase:*

- The Budget Justification page limitation will increase from three pages to five pages.
- To align with the new policy, FastLane will run an automated compliance check for the Budget Justification page limitation across several proposal types and will generate an error or warning when the submission validation compliance check is not met.
- Compliance checks are run during “Check Proposal,” “Forward to SPO,” and “Submit Proposal.” The complete list of FastLane automated compliance checks effective January 29, 2018, is available at [https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/autocheck/compliancechecks\\_jan18.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/autocheck/compliancechecks_jan18.pdf).

*New “Substitute Negotiator” Associated Document for Change of Principal Investigator (PI) Requests:*

- A new “Substitute Negotiator” Associated Document will be available in FastLane’s Notifications and Requests module when a “Change of PI” request is made (e.g., to be utilized in cases where a former employee or Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) is being reappointed as a PI or Co-PI to an award they were previously involved with).

*New “Other Request” Type:*

- A new “Other Request” type will be added to Research.gov’s Notifications and Requests module. This request will be reviewed and approved by the NSF Program Officer.

*New Award Abstract Text:*

- In connection with NSF’s transparency and accountability efforts for award abstracts, the Foundation will add the following final paragraph to all award abstracts for awards with start dates of March 1 or later: “This award reflects NSF’s statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation’s intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.”

**Note about Proposal File Updates (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.



**IRB Training Opportunity**

“Protecting the Rights and Welfare of Human Research Participants” is a one-hour in-person training session that is available February 1 at 3:00 p.m. in the Mandan Room of the Memorial Union. Seating is limited. Please register at this [link](#).



**Research Connections: A Research Networking Event**

Research Connections is a new type of event hosted by the Research and Creative Activity Office to provide an opportunity for networking and interaction among colleagues in the research community at NDSU. Each session will feature a different theme with the goal of bringing researchers together to facilitate discussion and develop collaborations. For more information, visit the Research Connections [webpage](#).

The upcoming event is focused on the National Science Foundation grant opportunity, [Expeditions in Computing](#). For this program, investigators are encouraged to come together within or across departments or institutions to combine their creative talents in the identification of compelling, transformative research agendas that promise disruptive

innovations in computer and information science and engineering. There are no limits on the number of proposals submitted per organization. Awards will be funded at levels up to \$2M per year for five years.

The event will include remarks by Ken Nygard, NDSU Professor and Chair of Computer Science, and Dane Skow, NDSU Executive Director of the Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST).

### **Research Connections: A Research Networking Event**

Thursday, February 1, 2018 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Memorial Union Prairie Rose Room

[Register Now!](#)



### **Proposal and Award Management Session #11**

The next session in the Proposal and Award Management series will be held on **Thursday, February 15 from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. in EML, Room 170**. The topic area for this meeting is Electronic Research Administration and Compliance (ERAC). NDSU is working with Novelution Corp. on a software solution for electronic research administration and compliance (ERAC) which will permit faculty and researchers to build their proposals in the system and electronically route proposals for necessary approvals/signatures.

These sessions are being offered monthly by Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) and Grant & Contract Accounting (GCA). These sessions will provide information and training on topics that are relevant to various aspects of proposal submission and award management. Anyone that participates in any way or has an interest in proposal or budget development, routing and submission of proposals, processing or approving expenditures on awards (allowable costs, payroll, equipment, materials, etc.), overall award management, award compliance, locating funding opportunities, or electronic research administration is encouraged to attend. These sessions are open to all faculty, researchers, and staff. Materials from the sessions are available on the [Sponsored Programs Training](#) website.

Room 170 in EML is enabled with videoconferencing (IVN), so if you need to participate via IVN, please contact Faye Klein in SPA (231-8045 or [faye.klein@ndsu.edu](mailto:faye.klein@ndsu.edu).) IVN participants will need to reserve their site and let Faye know so that SPA can set up for each requesting site. SPA will need the room name and the IP address no later than 10:00 a.m. the day prior to the session. Participants who cannot attend in person or via IVN may be able to connect in two other ways:

1. directly from their laptop or desktop computer using a specific software application, or
2. via an audio connection that can be added to the IVN event.

Participants via personal computer or audio-only will want to contact Faye as soon as possible to ensure adequate time for connections, configuration, and testing.

Note: Although Sessions are scheduled to be completed within 45 minutes, SPA and GCA representatives will be available for at least 15 minutes after each Session in order to answer any additional questions that participants may have.



### **Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers' Attention, Get Your Grant Funded**

The Specific Aims Page and Narrative Sections can make or break reviewer interest and enthusiasm, and if they aren't written effectively, they can sink your grant application before it is read in detail. You are invited to attend this webinar to learn strategies for writing effective Specific Aims and Narrative sections to keep reviewer interest and improve your chances of being funded.

This webinar will be presented by Christopher Dant, a PhD-trained medical researcher and educator with over 40 years' experience in government, academic, and biopharmaceutical settings. His PhD training was in immunology and cellular biology and he previously conducted research for several medical institutions in the United States. Dr. Dant was trained in grant writing at the NIH and was a former journal editor at JAMA.

### **Webinar: Specific Aims & Narrative Sections: Grab NIH Reviewers' Attention, Get Your Grant Funded**

*Presented by Christopher Dant, PHD // Principal Investigator Leader*

Thursday, February 15, 2018 | 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. | EML Room 170

[Register Now!](#)



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