

**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2016 2:46 PM  
**To:** NDSU-EMPLOYEE-OFFICIAL@LISTSERV.NODAK.EDU  
**Subject:** RCA Update - 9/19/2016 Edition



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

The Office of Research and Creative Activity wants to make sure you are provided with up-to-date information pertaining to research and scholarly activities and opportunities. Thus, to share information quickly rather than through multiple emails, we will continue to 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**

[Webinar Opportunity: The Foundation Center](#)  
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### **NOTICES**

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### **Webinar Opportunity: The Foundation Center**

Agency: [The Foundation Center](#)

Programs: *Working with Corporate Foundations*

Speaker: Kim Patton, Director of Foundation Center Northeast

Description: Working with corporate foundations presents unique challenges and opportunities for campuses seeking to support initiatives and programming. Hear from an expert about cultivating these important relationships and the opportunities they present.

**September 22, 2016 | 2:00-3:30pm | NDSU Quentin Burdick Building, Room 422**

The Research and Creative Activity Office is facilitating access to this webinar. The event is hosted by the [Grants Resource Center](#). Please consider attending if this program is of interest to you.



## Encourage Your Students to Register for NDSU EXPLORE – November 1, 2016

The 2016 NDSU EXPLORE Undergraduate Research Showcase will take place November 1, 2016 in the NDSU Memorial Union. Students present their creative projects, whether complete or in-progress, as a poster, oral presentation, or other format. Encourage your students to register to present their research and scholarly projects. For more information, including the registration link, visit the [NDSU EXPLORE](#) page online.



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## FY2017 Budget: Funding Social and Behavioral Sciences

Earlier this year, the Consortium of Social Science Associations ([COSSA](#)) published a 41-page analysis of future funding directions in the social and behavioral sciences (SBS). Entitled [COSSA's Analysis of the President's FY 2017 Budget](#), the analysis identifies which federal agencies fund SBS research, the specific SBS research programs funded at each agency, and the SBS priority research areas.

This report is an important tool for helping SBS researchers find a “funding home” at federal agencies.

Read an overview of the report in the [March 2016 issue of Research Development & Grant Writing News](#) (NDSU Login required), or [download the full analysis](#).



## Research Operations Recharge Center Tours

The RCA Research Operations Service/Recharge Center staff invite you to visit us for a tour of our facilities to gain an understanding of how our capabilities can enhance your research. Our areas of expertise include electronics device manufacturing/testing and materials synthesis/characterization.

If you would like to schedule a tour please contact Aaron Reinholz (1-5338 or [aaron.reinholz@ndsu.edu](mailto:aaron.reinholz@ndsu.edu)). For specific information on how to use the equipment, visit the Research Operations webpage at [https://www.ndsu.edu/research/research\\_operations/](https://www.ndsu.edu/research/research_operations/). Scheduling access to equipment can be made by reserving individual tools through the Microsoft Outlook calendar. The details for this process are included in the Research Operations Standard Operating Procedure which can be accessed [here](#).



## Research Toolbox Online Database

The NDSU Research Technology Park has developed an online database of equipment available at NDSU (<http://researchtoolbox.ndsuresearchpark.com/>). The Research Toolbox was created for businesses, university researchers, students, and others interested in specialized equipment and capabilities available at NDSU. The initial launch lists equipment with an acquisition cost over \$35K with plans to expand the listing in the future.

Requests to have equipment added to the Research Toolbox can be submitted at:

[https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_dgSYmyUkEP5tfKd](https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dgSYmyUkEP5tfKd)

Corrections or updates to equipment already listed in the Research Toolbox can be submitted at:

[https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_4Uhao7ygTVpjUNv](https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4Uhao7ygTVpjUNv)



## Non-Obviousness - Requirement for Patentability

Non-obviousness is another requirement for patentability. Whereas novelty for an invention can be defeated if a single piece of prior art contains all the elements of the new invention, non-obviousness can be defeated if the elements of a new invention are contained in more than one prior art AND if one skilled in the art would be motivated to combine those dispersed individual elements to arrive at the new invention.

What is obvious depends on several factors that are subject to interpretation. Who is “one of skilled in the art”? What does “motivation to combine” mean? There are hundreds of court cases that have attempted to clarify the ambiguity. Arguing against obviousness requires both scientific and legal arguments. A few guiding court rulings suggest it is “obvious to succeed” when the different elements are combined. However, it is not “obvious to try” to combine the different elements and see what happens. Also, in 1966, in the famous case of *Graham v. John Deere*, the Supreme Court said, “Commercial success, long-felt but unsolved needs, and the failure of others are secondary considerations that may also be relevant in considering the obviousness of an invention.”

If you have questions about patentability, contact the Technology Transfer Office: Henry Nowak (1-8173 or [henry.nowak@ndsu.edu](mailto:henry.nowak@ndsu.edu)) or Dale Zetocha (1-8931 or [dale.zetocha@ndsu.edu](mailto:dale.zetocha@ndsu.edu)).



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