



The Nuances of Federal Grant Writing

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Grant writing has become the new normal expectation for university research funding. At the same time, researchers encounter increasingly fierce competition for these limited, historically low, funds. The new reality for grant seeking seems bleak in that there exist low funding rates, constrained university budgets, and the need for universities to remain the center for research and economic development. However, with a better understanding of the process the new normal need not be so bleak.

The purpose of this session was to shed insights on the federal grants programs by providing an insider's perspective on the nuances of federal grant writing, projections for future funding, and a vision for charting the future. The session began with comments from Dr. Robbin Shoemaker, National Program Leader for Economics and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Dr. Shoemaker delivered his comments via Adobe Connect. Following Dr. Shoemaker's talk, we convened a panel of members of the NCCC065 group and other ITAA members, along with Dr. Shoemaker, to discuss grant-related topics such as understanding the nuances of the RFP, matching your ideas to the RFP, forming interdisciplinary collaborations, working with your campus office of research and the agency program director, budget development, professional standards and ethics, review process, solicitation from industry, the value of a grant writer, grant management, finding international collaborators, and reporting.

Obtaining a better understanding of the grant writing and submission process from an insider's perspective and an opportunity to discuss issues with successful grant writers in our field provided participants with much needed insights and helpful tips to increase grantsmanship success.

Members of the panel included:

Melody LeHew, Kansas State University, Writing your Proposal to the RFP
Veena Chatterman, Auburn University, Forming Collaborations Outside the Discipline
Elena Karpova, Iowa State University, Finding International Collaborators
Jooyoun Kim, Kansas State University, Building Collaborations for the Grant
Jung Ha-Brookshire, University of Missouri, Budget Development and Management
Robbin Shoemaker, NIFA/USDA, The Insider's Perspective

This panel discussion and keynote delivery was organized and presented by the NCC065 Multi-State Research Coordination Committee. Members of the committee include: Joan Ellis, Jana Hawley, Scarlet Wesley, Melody LeHew, Elena Karpova, Cynthia Jasper, Jane Hegland, Juanjuan Wu, Elizabeth Bye, Srikant Manchiraju, Pam Norum, Juyoung Lee, and Sonali Diddi.

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