Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Getting an NSF ATE Grant, But Didn't Know Whom to Ask

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1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

Produced by CASE
in Partnership with Mentor-Connect: Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE

CASE

MENTOR CONNECT

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Introductions

Elaine Craft
Principal Investigator, Mentor-Connect
Florence-Darlington Technical College, SC
President, Elaine L. Craft Educational
Consulting, L.L.C.

Laurie Miller-McNeill
Director of Institutional
Advancement
Westchester Community
College, NY

Matthew Swenson
Grants Director
Green River College, Washington

Agenda

- Distinctive purpose, community, and culture of NSF ATE
- How NSF grants differ from other federal grants available to community colleges
- Very specific and nuanced requirements that you likely won't understand from just reading the Program Solicitation
- How "in-the-know" grant writers learned to prepare more competitive NSF ATE proposals

- STEM . . . with limitations
- Researchers
- Merit Review
- Program Officers
- Solicitations
- Communications
- Fastlane & Research.gov

Limitations
- Agency-wide limitation on health care
- Exclusion includes animal science and veterinary disciplines

This work funded by National Institutes of Health

NSF Overview

Researchers
> Research-focused agency
> Faculty should conceive and lead grant
> Discipline specificity critical

NSF Overview

Merit Review

> NSF is "gold standard"

> Designed to ensure proposals funded have intellectual merit and broader impact

> Shields review process from political influence

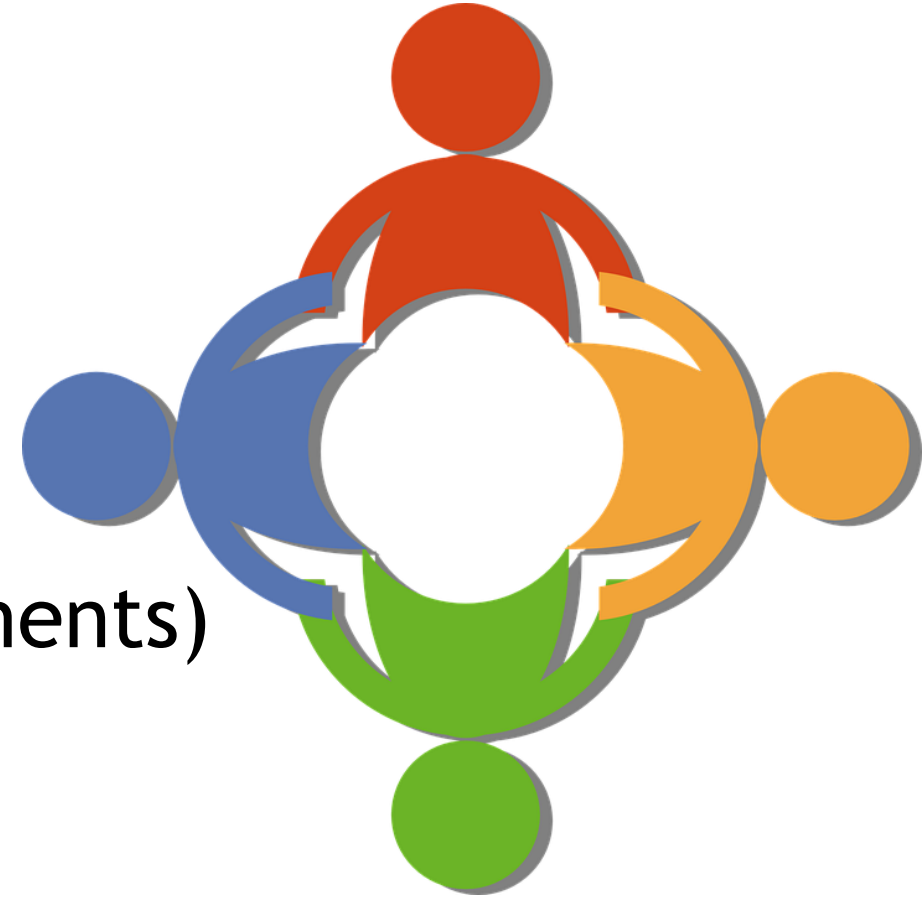> Reviewed by discipline experts, peers, industry representatives, and other qualified personnel

NSF Personnel
> Program Officers
>> Permanent
>> Rotating
> Financial side
(Division of Grants and Agreements)

Solicitations
- Usually issued for multiple years
- Provides lead time

Example: NSF ATE 21-598

Communications
- › User-friendly
- › Accessible
- › Regular
- › Review one-page concept paper
- › Electronic – no letters or checks in the mail

Once Funded
- › Principal Investigator
- › Grant Finances (Business Office)

NSF Overview

Submission
- Use NSF Portal – fastlane.gov or research.gov (not grants.gov)
- Supports all NSF required forms
- Compliance checks
- All post-award processing handled through portal

ATE

- Target Grantees
- Focus for Proposals
- Industry Involvement
- Commitment Letters
- Faculty Time on Projects
- ATE products & Knowledge: Using/Sharing
- ATE Community – Connectivity & Conferences
- ATE Support for Prospective Grantees

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Target Grantees
- Focus on two-year colleges
- Only NSF funding program with this priority
- Does not restrict other proposals but clear preference
- Associate degree granting institution must be integral to proposal
- Two-year faculty must be in leadership roles

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Focus for Proposals
- Workforce development program
- Advanced technologies that drive economy
- Prepare highly-skilled technicians
- Prepared to enter workforce
- Does NOT support projects where primary focus is college transfer, generic STEM, or younger students

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Industry involvement
> Expectation of all proposals
> Local industry involvement

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Commitment letters
> Unique in NSF program
> Letters permitted AND expected
> Demonstrate employer involvement

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Faculty time on projects
- Leadership and engagement expected
- Tied to budget requests
- Justify time
- NOT limited to 2 summer months

ATE Products & Knowledge: Using/Sharing
- Don't reinvent wheel
- Acknowledge knowledge and resources from prior project
- Funded grants should share
- Dissemination is required

ATE

ATE Community – Connectivity & Conferences
- Shares freely
- Mutually dedicated to advancement of technician education
- Supportive group
- Annual PI conference

ATE support for prospective grantees
> EvaluATE – Supports evaluation efforts
> ATE Central – Repository and communications hub
> Mentor-Connect (and others) – Provides no cost mentoring

Mentor-Connect

- Largest and longest-funded initiative
- Mentors all who are "New to ATE"
- Provides a "Second-Chance" Mentoring for those who were not funded
- Supports "Moving Up" Mentoring for future submissions
- Provides guidance through funding process
- After funding – Continued support

Laurie Miller-McNeill
> Support for Grant Writers and Administrators

The Mentor-Connect Advantage

- Expertise and coaching
- Methodical approach to planning and writing
- Gracious colleagues

Team Approach with Mentoring

- Bottom-up — Faculty perspective
- Authentic capacity building for STEM technical programs
- Strategic, comprehensive, partnered and deliberate team development

"Mentor Connect fosters belonging to and belonging in the NSF ATE community."

> # Lessons and Resources
>> Understand and master the solicitation elements
>> Goes beyond the solicitation to include NSF PAPPG, key concepts, responsibilities, reporting, next steps
>> Webinars, experts, mentors, team members, partner-peers

> # Ongoing Technical Support
>> Partners before/after (not alone)
>> If considered for funding — there are reviewers' questions, budget adjustments, award terms and requirements, and NSF expectations for membership in the community and reporting requirements
>> . . . and planning your next project ☺

"Mentor Connect is the best place to start your relationship with the NSF ATE community"

Matthew Swenson
> Support for Faculty . . .
                    . . .AND MORE

Support for Faculty

- The Mentor-Connect advantage
- Motivation and direction
- Mentoring support
- Leadership development
- Mentor Fellows ➡ Mentors

Benefits for YOU

- Be part of a proposal development team
- Learn about STEM, NSF, and ATE
- Work with an experienced mentor

Benefits for COLLEAGUES

▶ **Less frustration** over limited funding for exploratory, innovative projects that need additional evidence to be institutionalized

▶ A **supportive peer community** for faculty who often feel isolated or dismissed as fanciful idealists by their peers

▶ **Better understanding** of the opportunities and requirements associated with grant funding: e.g., when and for what to pursue it

Benefits for COLLEAGUES

➤ A clear, practical, **comprehensive proposal development** model to de-mystify grant seeking (and dispel false clichés or stereotypes)

➤ **Greater expertise and ownership** among faculty doing grant-funded work, leading to more satisfying outcomes for them and funders

▶ **Reduced dependence** on grant writers: from "*Can you get me money to...?*" to "*I need your help to write a proposal for...?*"

▶ **More openness** among faculty to consider pursuing grant funding, as a result of observing its impact and talking with their peers

▶ **Higher job satisfaction** among faculty who have valid ideas, but who feel thwarted by a lack of resources and/or interested peers

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Benefits for your COLLEGE

> A **broader awareness** of contemporary practices in STEM education, as well as the price of institutional complacency and resistance to change

> **Stronger accountability** to adequately support proposal development, including commitments to sustain grant-funded work

Due Dates

> September 8, 2:00 p.m. (ET) — WEBINAR
>   Orientation

> October 8, 5:00 p.m. (local time) —
> APPLICATION DEADLINE
>   Cohort Mentoring (to prepare proposals for October 2022)

> Other mentoring:
>   Rolling timelines — Contact Mentor-Connect

Connect with Mentor-Connect

843.676.8541

mentor-connect@fdtc.edu

QUESTIONS

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Connect with Mentor-Connect

Mentor-Connect@fdtc.edu

ATEMentorConnect

@Mentor_Connect

LinkedIn.com/MentorConnect

www.Mentor-Connect.org