

Mentoring Program to Support NSF Grant Proposals by MSI Faculty

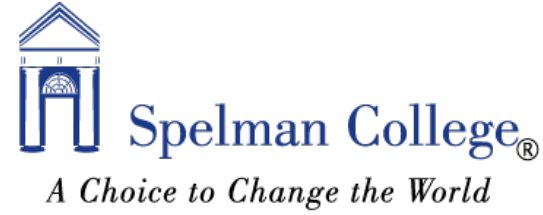
Angelino Viceisza

Spelman College and NBER

Twitter: @aviceisza

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Agenda for the Day



Rationale for the BAM! Program

- The NSF has received comparatively low numbers of grant proposals from Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) in scientific areas that the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate supports
- The reason for the low level of proposal activity is not fully clear; however, candidate explanations include:
 - Lack of information on the part of faculty at MSIs
 - Lack of time to prepare proposals
 - Lack of mentoring about how to write proposals
- This mentoring program “Boosting Applications and Awards by MSIs (BAM)!” seeks to understand and relax these constraints by focusing on MSI faculty only (even though this workshop is open to all)

What is an MSI?

- We are using the NSF Build and Broaden definition of an MSI, which is based on the following eligibility matrix:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/itudes/eligibility.html>
- A non-exhaustive list of examples of MSIs is HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs
- To qualify as an MSI, an institution must be in the United States or a US territory
- We will be verifying MSI status for every application prior to selecting mentees for the next stage

Day-to-day Project Management



Danielle Dickens
Spelman College
Principal Investigator



James Poterba
MIT and NBER
Principal Investigator



Angelino Viceisza
Spelman College and NBER
Principal Investigator



Elisa Pepe
NBER
Grant Administrator



Renee Jones
Spelman College
Program Coordinator

Project Advisory Board



Larry Chavis
University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill
*Representative, Association
for Economic Research of
Indigenous Peoples*



Patrick Mason
Florida State University
*Representative, National
Economic Association*



Sinead Young
Morehouse College



Senay Agca
George Washington University



Kaye Husbands Fealing
Georgia Institute of Technology



Sandra Orozco-Aleman
Mississippi State University
*Representative, American
Society of Hispanic Economists*

In Conclusion: My Own Story

- My first NSF award came after 8-9 submissions, which included:
 - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant proposals (Economics)
 - Standard proposals (Economics and/or Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences and/or Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Programs)
 - CAREER proposals (Same as former)
- I recall it being December, I was about to travel to the National Economic Association (ASSA) Meetings, and I got a rejection from NSF so decided never to apply again!
- After finishing my presentation at the NEA Meetings, two people came up to me and asked if I had considered applying to NSF:
 - One of those people was Kaye Husbands Fealing who ended up providing detailed comments on my next proposal draft
 - The other was Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong (before he became a Program Officer at NSF) who ended up providing much encouragement
 - The rest, as they say, is history
 - The moral of the story: If getting NSF funding is important to you, you might need to persevere!