Mentoring Program to Support NSF Grant Proposals by MSI Faculty

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Agenda for the Day

**10:15 – 10:30**
Next up: Danielle Dickens will give an overview of what you should expect if selected for the mentoring program

**10:30 – 11:30**
Nancy Lutz will provide basic insights into the National Science Foundation and its programs (30 mins) and then entertain NSF-specific questions (30 mins)

**11:30 – 12:00**
Break

**12:00 – 12:30**
Senay Agca and Kaye Husbands Fealing will provide perspectives as Past Program Officers and Principal Investigators, e.g., dos/don’ts and anecdotes

**12:30 – 14:30**
General Question & Answer (NSF should be able to stick around)
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/idues/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
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Grant Administrator

Renee Jones
Spelman College
Program Coordinator
Project Advisory Board

Senay Agca
George Washington University

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

Kaye Husbands Fealing
Georgia Institute of Technology

Patrick Mason
Florida State University
Representative, National Economic Association

Sinead Younge
Morehouse College

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!