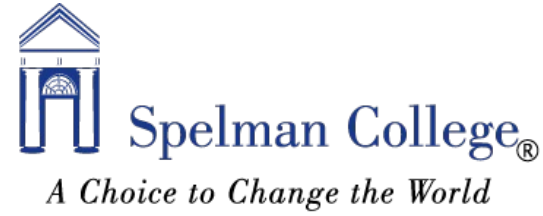# Mentoring Program to Support NSF Grant Proposals by Economics and Economics-Adjacent MSI Faculty

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in   Angelino Viceisza

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Slides posted on the website!

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:
  - Time to prepare proposals
  - Information on the part of faculty at MSIs
  - Mentoring about how to write proposals

- This mentoring program "Boosting Applications and Awards by MSIs (BAM)!" seeks to understand and relax all these constraints by providing economics and economics-adjacent faculty at MSIs with a mentor <u>plus a course release</u>
  - Note that this workshop is open to all regardless of discipline/MSI status

What is an MSI?

- We are using the NSF Build and Broaden definition of an MSI, which is based on the following list:

  https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html

- To qualify as an MSI, an institution must be in the United States or a US territory. Examples of MSIs are Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and Predominantly Black Institutions

- We will be verifying MSI status for every application prior to selecting mentees for the next stage
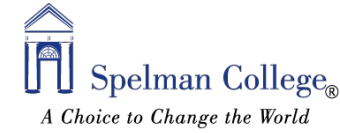 - If unclear, reach out to Elisa Pepe at epepe@nber.org

BAM! Timeline Part I

February 5, 2024	Applications are due by 11:59 PM ET. Assemble in one pdf (1) cover letter, (2) CV, (3) one-page summary of research projects (intellectual merit and broader impacts). Administrator letter sent to epepe@nber.org
Feb-March 2024	Decisions sent out (Cohort of 5 mentees)
	Participation in BAM! is conditional on you being able to take one course release (funded by our grant) at your institution and thus, being subawarded by Spelman
	So, if selected as a mentee
	Spelman will need to be in touch with your institution ASAP, e.g., Sponsored Programs Office, to set up the subaward
	This can take time, so please respond to our inquiries quickly
	The funds must be used for release time as opposed to a course overload
May-July 2024	"Speed-dating" meetings between mentees and potential mentors First meeting between mentees and mentors (as a group plus one on one)

BAM! Timeline Part II

August 2024	Release time available at your institution First draft of primary documents (project description, project summary, and budget + justification) to mentor
September 2024	Mock review panel with all mentees, mentors, BAM! team First draft of secondary documents (references, bio, current and pending support, facilities, etc.) to mentor
October 2024	Peer review workshop (mentees only)
November 2024	Reader panel (mentees and reader only)
December 2024	Internal routing begins at your institution Dotting i's and crossing t's phase
Spring-Summer 2025	Proposal submission to NSF
Throughout	Feedback from BAM! PIs and mentors Surveys and focus groups

Day-to-Day Project Management

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BAM! by the Numbers

- For context
  - My story: It took about eight attempts before I got funded by NSF
  - Through trial and error, I came to see the need for a mentoring program of this type
  - So, BAM! has truly been customized based on my personal, and thus, the MSI, experience

- BAM! statistics to date
  - Nine faculty at seven MSIs have received course releases to develop proposals
  - Seven faculty have submitted proposals
    - Cohort 1: 4 submissions
    - Cohort 2: 3 submissions
  - The other two are developing proposals for submission in 2024
  - One faculty member is developing a proposal for resubmission
  - Two of the four proposals submitted by cohort 1 have been funded for a total of $785,727.00