

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research Newsletter

Fall 2021



WELCOME FALL!

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research is pleased to present you with our fall newsletter. Our goal is to share updates and resources related to sponsored programs that will be helpful to faculty and staff. As fall begins, we have settled back into our in-person workspace in room 111 Green Hall and welcome the opportunity to safely meet with anyone interested in learning more about grant opportunities here at TCNJ. Despite the twists and turns of the pandemic, we are happy to report that faculty have been active and successful throughout the summer in applying for new grants. We appreciate the hard work of all grant applicants, it is no small feat indeed!

This past summer, we sadly said goodbye to our highly esteemed Executive Director, Kortnay Woods, who has gone on to pursue new adventures outside of TCNJ. As we anticipate the new director coming in, we are working to refine our approach on serving you best. In this issue, please have a look at the webinars being offered by some of the larger grant agencies this fall. As well, take a moment to read about our updates, specifically our switch from using eGrants to eProposal.

Thank you for your continued interest in grant seeking. We look forward to the future as we approach new endeavors together!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research has now added a listing of available **external faculty fellowships by discipline**. This listing is a compilation maintained by OGSR to provide current opportunities by discipline for faculty to learn about the variety of support offered for research, writing, and scholarship. These external opportunities range from purposeful activities over the summer or academic year and are intended for individuals currently teaching or affiliated with an academic institution.

Faculty fellowships are awarded across the spectrum of academic ranks and a goal of the selection process is to create a diverse community of scholars. Applicants who are members of traditionally under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. Please take a tour of our listing and check back often as we will be adding to the list on a consistent basis. You can bookmark the link [here](#) for your convenience.



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OGSR UPDATES

E-PROPOSAL IS UP AND RUNNING!

If you've applied for a grant prior to 2021 here at TCNJ, you may remember using the OGSR grants notification and approval system, eGrants. This system, while somewhat functional, wasn't aging well and was a constant reminder to all that an effective software replacement was needed. Fortunately, our new system, eProposal, has been implemented and is up and running. Once you alert us that you are interested in an upcoming grant opportunity, OGSR (or your school's research administrator, if applicable) can enter an Early Notification in eProposal on your behalf.

Through eProposal, OGSR can:

- Automatically inform chairs, deans, and OGSR of intentions to submit a grant via the Early Notification;
- Automatically add the information of each submission and award to the "Grant, Contract, and Sponsored Research Activity" in the new Faculty180 system;
- Request and receive approval from chairs, deans, and OGSR; and
- Connect you with IT and/or Facilities if your grant requires their assistance.

The purpose of the Early Notification is to inform the OGSR, your dean, your chair and other campus offices that you are planning to submit a specific grant; thereby prompting each to support your efforts by beginning their role in the proposal development process.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FACULTY!

Salika Lawrence, Campbell Endowed Chair of Urban Education, has been awarded a grant from the Library of Congress for her project, Urban Education Roundtable (2021-2022). The Urban Education RoundTable uses a school-university partnership model to field-test strategies for increasing teachers' use of Library of Congress resources for rigor, student engagement, and critical conversations in high needs urban school districts.

Lauren Madden, Professor in Elementary & Early Childhood Education, has been awarded a grant from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium for her project, Enhancing Environmental Literacy Workforce Development. The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and the nonprofit Save Barnegat Bay (SBB) will have undergraduate preservice teachers work alongside practicing NJ teachers through five phases. 2022-2024

Stuart Roe, Associate Professor in Counselor Education, has been awarded five more years of support from the Department of Health and Human Services SAMHSA program for his project, Youth Mental Health First Aid: Addressing Mercer County's Continuing Need. This project raises awareness and provides training and referral education across a number of constituencies to build the capacity of adults working with area youth to appropriately detect and respond to mental health issues.

SPIN DATABASE

OGSR subscribes to InfoEd SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network), a searchable database of federal, non-federal, and international funding opportunities from more than 6,000 sources. You must sign in to search. Click the "Sign In" link on the [SPIN](#) page and create a new profile. Once you have created a user profile, OGSR will be notified via email and must approve the profile before you can sign in.

- **Searching** You can filter results to include specific sponsor types, project locations, and deadlines.
- **Saving & Retrieving Your Searches** Save your search queries and easily access those search results.
- **Automation & Email Alerts** Automate your funding searches! Have SPIN send you email notifications daily or weekly with recent funding opportunities so you never miss an opportunity or deadline.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINARS

NIH Virtual Seminar Program

For anyone new to working with the NIH grants process as an investigator or administrator, then this seminar is designed specifically for you! 4 days, including 50 concurrent sessions—this event is free.

Explore the Agenda: [NIH Virtual Seminar Agenda](#).

November 1 – November 4, 2021

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Basic Overview of Research Grants and Information for New Applicants to IES

In this webinar, IES staff provide general information about the funding opportunities in NCER and NCSEER, the research project types, and the peer review process. IES staff also provide tips for first-time applicants. If you have not applied to IES before, or you are considering applying to IES, this webinar provides a broad overview of its grant funding and some considerations to help you decide whether to submit.

On-Demand, Offered by IES

View this video [here](#).

Talking to Program Officers

Engaging effectively with a program officer can be what makes or breaks a grant submission. In this webinar, we will provide a primer on how to connect with program officers and the significance of doing so as part of your process for confirming fit and receiving valuable feedback to improve your chance of being funded.

On-Demand, Offered by Hanover Research

Please email grants@tcnj.edu to receive the video.

Grant Writing vs. Academic Writing

For many grant-seekers in higher education, developing competitive grant proposals requires a departure from the conventions of academic writing. In this webinar, Hanover Research will contrast the major differences between grant writing and academic writing, outlining how these differences should impact the proposal development process.

On-Demand, Offered by Hanover Research

Please email grants@tcnj.edu to receive the video.

OGSR WORKSHOPS

Budget Development for Grant Proposals

OGSR staff present this workshop to explain the how, what, and why of sponsored project budgeting. This workshop will guide attendees in creating and utilizing a research project budget.

December 8, 2021, 2:00 PM EST

Please email grants@tcnj.edu to register.

GET TO KNOW US!

MISSION

To promote excellence in learning, scholarship, engagement, innovation, and health through the pursuit of external funding. Focused on inspiring and serving faculty and staff, the OGSR actively partners with TCNJ community to acquire funding for research and special projects.

OGSR IS HIRING!

TCNJ is currently seeking to fill the vacant position for the Executive Director of OGSR. The position listing can be found [here](#). Feel free to share this posting among your networks. Thank you!

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Research partners with staff and faculty to provide the highest quality research administration. We would like you to get to know us! If you'd like to schedule a time to meet with us to discuss your research goals, please contact:

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SOME TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PROGRAM OFFICERS:

FIND THE ALIGNMENT: Earlier is better when contacting a Program Officer (PO) since it will prevent time wasted on developing a proposal that does not fit the program. OGSR seeks to assist faculty in finding opportunities that best align with their project. However, it can be useful to discuss this alignment between project and program with a PO since published material may not always reflect underlying considerations, as well program priorities can shift over time, while published materials remain unchanged. A PO's candid response may be a good predictor of success even though there is no guarantee.

EMAIL FIRST: Like the rest of us, POs are busy folks. Getting a cold call regarding a project they know nothing about probably isn't the best use of your time or theirs, and they may be hard to reach without a prior discussion. Therefore, once you identify the PO listed for your program, shoot them an email asking when it might be best to have a conversation. In your email, it's best to include the program you are inquiring about and a Pre-Abstract, which is a brief summary of your proposed project that provides your main objectives, methods and expected outcomes. Brief is best, more than half a page is generally considered too much.

GREAT QUESTIONS TO ASK: Remember that you are using this opportunity to obtain information that isn't readily available in print or otherwise. It is best that you review the solicitation and do your homework prior to the call. During the conversation, ask questions that focus on the big picture and try not to get buried in too much detail. Do use the following questions to shape your discussion:

- ◆ **Does my project fit with your current priorities?**
- ◆ **What would you recommend to improve my chances for a favorable review?**
- ◆ **What are some common reasons for proposal rejections?**
- ◆ **How will this proposal be reviewed?**

FOLLOW UP: A quick email to say thank you will keep the line of communication open.

Remember, don't be reluctant to get in touch with your PO, they are very willing to take the time to discuss your project.