Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

Please note that this session is being recorded
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT (RFD)

Mission: To provide the resources and services to University of Idaho faculty that enhance their success and productivity in their field of scholarly efforts, with the ultimate goal of growing the U of I’s research enterprise.

- Alignment with U of I strategic plan
- Across all disciplines
WHAT DOES RFD DO?

Successful, funded research leaders

- Faculty Development
- Proposal Development
- Leadership Development
PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Level 0
• Brainstorming
• Strategic planning for submissions

Level 1
• Search for funding opportunities
• Training to use Pivot

Level 2
• Preparing to contact Program Officers
• Assessing “fit” of a proposed idea

Level 3
• Strategize for a resubmission
• Analyze reviews, develop responses

Level 4/5
• Ensure proposal and ancillary documents are clear, concise, cohesive & responsive to the solicitation

Level 6
• Support for large, complex proposals
• Center grants, infrastructure, etc.

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis

REQUEST RFD SERVICES
Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

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Please note that this session is being recorded
OBJECTIVES

IN THIS SESSION, WE WILL DISCUSS:

- Program basics
- UI limited submission process and timeline
- NRT - Goals, Architecture, Themes, Review Criteria
- Tips for competitive proposals
- Q&A Session - Dr. Daniel Denecke, NSF NRT Program Director, 1:10 -1:30 p.m.
NRT PROGRAM – BASICS

Two Tracks:

- Track 1: Up to $3 million for projects up to 5 years (R1 and non-R1 eligible)
- Track 2: Up to $2 million for projects up to 5 years (R1 not eligible)

Full Proposal Deadline – September 6, annually

Budget requirement:

- All awards include minimum $34K for 12 months per trainee

Limit on Number of Proposals per Institution = 2

- An eligible organization may participate in only 2 proposals per NRT competition as lead or collaborative non-lead
- RFD uses internal review process to determine which proposals will be submitted
NRT PROGRAM – BASICS

What’s new in 21-536? *also see NRT FAQs

- Letter of Intent (LOI) no longer required
- AI and QISE added to national priority areas
- Trainee support can be continuous or may be distributed over their traineeship tenure.
- Evaluators can be external or internal – *if internal, then project must justify how lack of bias is insured*
- Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via FastLane or Grants.gov
- March 1 Start Date for FY2023 and subsequent competitions
- Project Description has updated subheaders and new required content (e.g., Demographic Table, Independent Advisory Committee)
NRT - LIMITED SUBMISSION PROCESS

USING INFOREADY:

Notice of Intent Deadline
Feb. 28, 2022

Concept Paper Deadline
Mar. 21, 2022

Internal Awardee Notification
Apr. 8, 2022

Full Proposal Deadline (confirmed)
Aug. 30, 2022

via UI’s InfoReady System

OSP 4-Day Rule Deadline
Sept. 6, 2022

Fastlane.gov*

*All deadlines are at 5:00 pm Pacific Time.
Encouraging the development of innovative models for interdisciplinary/convergent STEM graduate training

Key Traineeship Elements

- Interdisciplinary/Convergent Research and Training
- Inclusive Workforce Development (both broad and diverse)
- Institutional Transformation
NRT PROGRAM – THREE GOALS

1. Catalyze and advance cutting-edge interdisciplinary or convergent research in high priority areas

2. Increase the capacity of U.S. graduate programs to
   - produce diverse cohorts of interdisciplinary STEM professionals
   - with technical and transferable professional skills
   - for research and research-related careers within and outside academia

3. Develop new approaches and knowledge that will promote transformative improvements in graduate school
NRT PROPOSAL - FOCUS

NRT Proposals should focus on:

- Technical and professional training of STEM graduate students that emphasizes:
  - Research training
  - Technical and professional skills development
  - Mentoring and vocational counseling

- Techniques, languages, and cultures of interdisciplinary or convergent research fields.
CORE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AN NRT

Research
Interdisciplinary/Convergent

Training

Institutional Change

Workforce Development
Interdisciplinary or Convergent* Research Theme as a key emphasis

*Research driven by a specific and compelling problem where there is deep integration across disciplines, potentially leading to new frameworks, paradigms, or disciplines
NRT CONVERGENT NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS (21-536)

Interdisciplinary research themes of national priority

Special emphasis on

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE)
- Six research areas listed in NSF's 10 Big Ideas
CORE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AN NRT

RESEARCH
Interdisciplinary/Convergent

TRAINING

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

• Integrate training and research
• Do not extend time to degree
• Carefully consider the competencies you will develop
  • both content-area and career aligned career sets
• Who are trainees?
WHO ARE TRAINEES?

STEM graduate students accepted into an institution’s NRT program, irrespective of funding status, who complete required NRT elements (e.g., courses, workshops, projects, training activities).

Must be master's and/or doctoral STEM students in a research-based degree program that requires a thesis or dissertation.

Must be full-time students and hold U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.
CORE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AN NRT

• **Workforce Development:** Is this addressing a workforce need? Will students have opportunities to pursue a range of careers with their degrees?

• **Institutional Change:** Proposals should demonstrate the sustainability of successful elements beyond the funding period.
EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT

Critical project component – should assess

- Specific trainee competencies and outcomes
- How NRT project affects faculty teaching and research
- Institutional policies regarding interdisciplinary collaboration and STEM graduate education

Evaluator - considerations

- Should offer unbiased and external perspective
- Can be an internal or external consulting entity
- Have potential to develop sustainable, in-house capacity
- Must be one of the listed 10 core participants
- Include evaluator in the proposal preparation *tip
NSF & NRT REVIEW CRITERIA

Intellectual Merit*
Broader Impacts

Additional NRT Review Criteria
- Integration of Research and Education
- Interdisciplinarity/Convergence
- Professional Development and Training
- Integrating Diversity into NSF Program, Projects, and Activities
- Evaluation
- Sustainability & Model Dissemination

*Must address even though separate section labeled “Intellectual Merit” is not required for proposals to this solicitation.
NRT Proposal Preparation Tips

• Follow the solicitation guidelines
• Heed all “musts” and check all checkboxes
• Allow sufficient time for submission by deadline
• Heed institutional and PI/co-PI limitations on number of submissions
• Pay attention to limits and guidelines on:
  • institutional letter of support and/or
  • Required letters of collaboration from other NRT-eligible organizations that appear in the budget and/or
  • Other, optional letters of support
• New NSF-wide PAPPG and Biosketch guidelines
TIPS FOR COMPETITIVE NRT PROPOSALS

1. Review NRT Program webpage
2. Familiarize yourself with NSF's 10 Big Ideas, AI, QISE
3. Review national reports on STEM graduate education
4. Get copies of funded NRT proposals (NSF Awards Advanced Search)
5. Get help to contact Program Directors – RFD Level 2 service request
6. Request RFD services
   - Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
   - Url: https://www.uidaho.edu/research/about/orfd
Q & A with Dr. Denecke, Program Director in NSF Directorate for Education & Human Resources

- Brief overview about NRT
- NSF Preparation Tips
- Q&A session

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