



Office of Educational Research Bulletin (ORB)

News and Notes

A week or so ago, 24 COE faculty representing all five departments and the dean's area completed a seminar, "Write Winning Grants," conducted by Dr. Stephen Russell and sponsored by IFAS. You can learn more about Steve and his operation, Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops, LLC, at <http://www.grantcentral.com>. The departments and OER sponsored our participation, and, from where we sit, it was money very well spent. The training focused on writing NIH, NSF, and USDA proposals and was excellent. Although nothing much was said about IES, or the Department of Education, or training grants, or qualitative research, we all came away edified and motivated. Russell was articulate, knowledgeable, and well organized. He proffered helpful answers to questions, kept things moving, and otherwise sustained our attention over 8 hours of what in others' hands might have been tedium. Most significantly, for COE colleagues, participation seemed to generate energy and enthusiasm, lots of exciting ideas, and keen interest in working together to make things happen in our college.

The training was fruitful for experienced and novice proposal writers alike. We learned what makes an idea fundable, what makes a proposal readable, and how to make proposal writing do-able. (Delegate, defer, and dump! was Steve's advice.) We learned how to sequence the writing of proposal sections, the importance of understanding the review

process, and what it takes to convince a reviewer to go to the mat on your behalf—because otherwise, during a review, your proposal may get no more than 5 minutes on center stage. We learned the importance of anticipating problems with the research and doing what you can in the proposal to deflect them, strategies for effectively and efficiently communicating key ideas, and the peril in low balling your budget. (You may get funded!)

We know that several of you who could not participate this spring are interested in participating next fall, when the seminar will be repeated. Mark McLellan, IFAS Research Dean, has agreed to provide us slots. Please let us know if you'd be interested. We recommend it.

Our office is sponsoring a series of follow-up sessions for participants—and anyone else who'd like to attend, for that matter—the next of which is scheduled for Friday, June 2 (at 10:00a.m. in 158 NRN). We plan to talk about next steps and future directions and how to capitalize on and sustain the momentum and energy we all came away with. Please join us if you can.

Faculty Professional Development Needs Survey Results

Increasingly, OER's efforts are focusing on professional development as well. The results of the faculty survey are in, and we are developing a sense of our collective retooling needs. The 39 of you who responded to the survey expressed interest in training topics that ranged from grant writing and project management fundamentals (e.g., *funding sources, project design and budgeting, orientation to Community of Science, Grants.gov, project management*), to basic methods (e.g., *overview of basic statistics, scholarly writing and publishing, SPSS*) and beyond (e.g., *mixed methods research, survey research, grounded theory, SEM and HLM*).

Formats are likely to vary. While some topics may be accommodated in an hour-long brown-bag (e.g., scholarly writing and publishing), others require more extensive planning and delivery time (e.g., mixed-methods research). We will begin developing plans, and coordinating and scheduling training sessions this fall. Many thanks to all who participated in the survey!

March Awards and Submissions

Congratulations are in order to **Linda Hagedorn (EAP)** for her Lumina Foundation award to support her proposal: *Achieving the Dream*; to **Rick Ferdig (STL)** for his Bellsouth Foundation award to support his proposal: *Establishing a Framework to Strengthen Virtual High Schools: A Collaborative Initiative to Improve Student Performance*; and to **Paul George (STL)** for the Helios Education Foundation award that will support his work on *Florida Public Education: The Middle Years*. Best wishes go out to **John Kranzler (EP)** for his proposal to the National Institutes of Health and to **Dave Miller (EP)** for his proposal to the National Science Foundation. John collaborated with Pediatrics on the NIH proposal, and Dave with Electrical Engineering on the NSF proposal. For more details about these awards and submissions, see the tables on the next page.

Paul Sindelar & Ana Puig

College of Education – *Funded Projects* – May 2006

Principal Investigator: L.S. Hagedorn
Funding Agency: Lumina Foundation for Education Inc.
Proposal Title: Achieving the Dream
Project Period: 05/01/06 – 10/31/06
Annual Award Amount: \$84, 600.00
Principal Investigator: R.E. Ferdig
Funding Agency: Bellsouth Foundation
Proposal Title: Establishing a Framework to Strengthen Virtual High Schools: A Collaborative Initiative to Improve Student Performance
Project Period: 05/16/06 – 05/15/11
Annual Award Amount: \$600,000.00
Principal Investigator: P.S. George
Funding Agency: Helios Education Foundation
Proposal Title: Florida Public Education: The Middle Years
Project Period: 05/03/06 – 05/02/07
Annual Award Amount: \$63,800.00

College of Education – *Submitted Proposals* – May 2006

Co-Principal Investigator: J.K. Kranzler
Funding Agency: National Institute of Health
Proposal Title: Neurocognitive Studies in Prader-Willi Syndrome and Early-onset Morbid Obesity
Requested Amount: \$30,523.00
Co-Principal Investigator: M.D. Miller
Funding Agency: National Science Foundation
Proposal Title: An Undergraduate Engineering Advance Learning Technology
Requested Amount: \$169,693.00