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Office of Research & Engagement

8-9-2012

Office of Research, News & Opportunities, August 09, 2012

University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Recommended Citation

Office of Research, University of Tennessee, "Office of Research, News & Opportunities, August 09, 2012" (2012). *News and Opportunities*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_researchnews/59

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Overdue NSF reports cause delays in awards

The Office of Research has received several notices from the National Science Foundation in recent weeks regarding overdue reports and how those reports are creating delays in issuing new awards and releasing incremental funding for active projects. We want to encourage you to ensure all reports are filed on time in order to ensure that your funding as well as colleagues' funding does not experience delays. As NSF and other federal agencies near the end of their fiscal year, their issuing of funds is very time-sensitive and we want to ensure our researchers get their funding as quickly as possible.

Miriam Campo
Director, Sponsored Programs

The NSF guidelines are specific and detailed in their requirements for submission of annual project reports, continuing grants, final project reports, and other unique reports or items. Sponsored Programs staff can provide further information and assistance with reporting requirements.

Contact: David Smelcer
(dsmelcer@utk.edu, 865-974-1840)

Tenn ranks 44th in state agency R&D spending

Tennessee ranked 44th in research expenditures made directly by state agencies in 2009, the latest year for which data are available.

A National Science Foundation report counted some \$1.2 billion in research-and-development expenditures made directly by state agencies in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. That total is up 7 percent from the 2007 total of \$1.1 billion.

Tennessee expended \$3.88 million, between Massachusetts at \$4.36 million and New Hampshire at \$2.19 million. While ranking 44th in state R&D spending, Tennessee ranks 17th in population, according to the 2010 Census

Five states accounted for almost 50 percent of state R&D expenditures: California (12.1%), New York (10.4), Ohio (10.1), Pennsylvania (8.5, and Florida (5.5). All others totaled 53.4 percent.

Details: http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=124920&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Map locates campus defibrillators

The UT Office of Environmental Health and Safety has published a map locating the 80-plus automated external defibrillators in buildings on the Agriculture and main campuses.

Contact: Mark D. Smith
(865-974-5084), director for environmental health and safety

Details:
<http://web.utk.edu/~ehss/pdf/campusmap.pdf>

Evaluating the research environment

American universities face resource limits, high expectations

Research universities are torn between unprecedented pressures and increasing expectations, a recent study from a group of U.S. research institutions has concluded.

The study, "The Current Health and Future Well-Being of the American University," found that U.S. research universities are facing limited resources and growing competitive pressures at a time when scientific research is expected to solve increasingly complex technological and societal problems.

University of Tennessee professor and former vice chancellor for research Brad Fenwick was lead principal investigator on the study, and Greg Reed, UT associate vice chancellor for research, was co-PI. The study was conducted for the Research Universities Futures Consortium, an organization of 25 U.S. public and private universities supported by Elsevier B.V., a Netherlands-based publishing and educational services company.

"American universities are at a crossroads," Fenwick said. "They are facing a combination of pressures, such as a decrease in funding, an increase in competition, intensifying compliance requirements, and a loss of political and public confidence in the value of academic research. At the same time, the expectations for scientific research to solve today's global challenges have never been higher."

The study's conclusions:

- A scarcity of resources has caused a hypercompetitive environment and increased the difficulty of managing academic research activities.
- The growth in regulations, reporting requirements, and unfunded mandates have increased pressure on administration and diverted faculty time from research.
- Better monitoring of research activities is needed to provide transparency and enable more effective management.
- Credible data on local, national, and global research activities are necessary for administrators to make strategic decisions.
- The value of academic research to society must be communicated better.
- Administrative leadership in an academic research environment is complex and fragile but is crucial to increase productivity and build competitive advantages.

In addition to UT Knoxville, major public universities like Arizona State, Colorado State, Florida State, and campuses of the California system joined private institutions like Duke, Emory, Vanderbilt, and Yale as part of the consortium.

Staff members from the UT Office of Research made significant contributions to the report, including Miriam Campo, Linnea Minnema, Elizabeth Neilson, David Smelcer, and Jennifer Webster.

Report: http://www.researchuniversitiesfutures.org/RIM_Report_Research%20Future's%20Consortium%20.pdf

NRC identifies actions needed for U.S. research vitality

A new report from the National Research Council establishes three broad goals for ensuring that research universities in the United States continue to have a significant economic and security impact on the nation and identifies 10 steps toward achieving those goals.

Titled *Research Universities and the Future of America: Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to Our Nation's Prosperity and Security*, the report is the National Academies' response to a congressional request for an assessment of the competitive position of America's research institutions.

The goals include revitalizing the partnership among universities, federal and state governments, philanthropy, and the business community; strengthening the productivity of research institutions; and building a pool of talent that keeps the best students and scholars in the world engaged in U.S. research.

The report identifies factors that challenge the future success of university research, including unstable and declining federal funding, eroding state higher-ed funding, the demise of large corporate research labs without corresponding new partnerships in academia, management and administration issues, and underinvestment in campus infrastructure, among others.

The ten recommendations:

- Federal research policies, practices, and funding that are stable and effective
- Greater autonomy for public research universities and restored state higher-ed appropriations
- A strengthened role for business in research collaborations and technology transfer
- Cost-effectiveness and improved productivity in university research
- Creation of a strategic investment program to fund research/educational initiatives for key national priorities
- Full funding of federal projects in a consistent, transparent manner
- A reduction of regulatory burdens that impede productivity, increase costs, and deflect energy from research
- Improved attrition rates, time-to-degree, funding, and career alignment in graduate programs
- Increased availability of STEM education to a fully diverse population
- Improved and streamlined processes for attracting and retaining international students and scholars

"[E]ducated people, the knowledge they produce, and the innovation and entrepreneurial skills they possess, particularly in the fields of science and engineering, are keys to our nation's future," the report concludes.

Details: <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/bhew/researchuniversities/index.htm>

Center for the Study of Social Justice offers proposal development initiative for fall '12

The Center for the Study of Social Justice is inviting exceptional faculty researchers to apply for participation in the center's Fall 2012 Proposal Development Initiative. The program is intended to support researchers in applying for external funding in the social and behavioral sciences, with the goal of providing structure and support to transform a research plan into a completed proposal for submission in spring 2013.

Applicants will be selected on the basis of readiness to submit or resubmit an NIH or NSF proposal as the principal investigator, as well as their record of publications and the potential for funding of their research proposal.

Program participants must be available to meet every other Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and must meeting program goals and writing deadlines.

Key date: August 15, 2012 - submission of CV and a one-page description of research project to Diana Moyers, coordinator, CSSJ
Contact: Diana Moyer (dmoyer@utk.edu, 865-974-5909)

State seeks bids for breastfeeding hotline

The Tennessee Department of Health is soliciting proposals to provide a statewide toll-free, dial-in, telephone-based assistance program known as the Tennessee Breastfeeding Hotline. The purpose of the hotline is to foster the healthy development of children by providing expert information about breastfeeding and lactation care to nursing mothers, their families and partners, expectant parents, and health care providers. Training and outreach for health educators and health care providers throughout the state will be part of the successful proposal.

Key date: September 6, 2012 - submission of proposal
Contact: Sheila H. Stevens (sheila.h.stevens@tn.gov, 615-532-7774), contract analyst, Tennessee Department of Health
Details: <http://www.tn.gov/generalserv/purchasing/ocr/rfp.shtml>

Grant-writing courses open for fall '12

The Office of Research is offering workshops in grant-writing, proposal development, compliance, and other topics related to research and sponsored programs. All workshops are free of charge for current UT Knoxville faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students.

The office also offers the UT Certificate in Grant-Writing and Proposal Development, a curriculum of eight workshops and online mini-courses that provides specific training for working within the UT proposal development system.

The workshop schedule and registration is available online at <http://research.utk.edu/training>

Information about the certificate program is at <http://research.utk.edu/training/certify.shtml>

Contact: ortraining@utk.edu

July issue of funding newsletter posted

The June 2012 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 2, No. 11) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- NSF Industrial Innovation and Partnerships
- Red-Teaming the Solicitation
- Program Officers Are Not All Alike
- Avoid the Generic Introduction
- Narrative Silos Are like Weeds
- Why Halloween Is Bad for Proposals, Part 4
- Research Grant Writing Web Resources
- Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
- Funding for Grad Students and Postdocs
- Agency Research News
- Agency Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps
- New Funding Opportunities
- About Academic Research Funding Strategies

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The Office of Research subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

SPOTLIGHT ON INTERNAL FUNDING

The UTK Office of Research administers a variety of funds available to faculty and principal investigators whose departments fall under the jurisdiction of the chancellor of UT's Knoxville campus. The programs can provide internal support for costs of scholarship that are often overlooked by external funders.

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES is focusing on individual internal funding programs in order to make faculty more aware of the internal support that is available to them.

Cost-Sharing on External Proposals

The Office of Research administers funds used to provide matching dollars for external proposals. If cost-sharing is required by a sponsor or if a project is considered strategically important to the university's research agenda, the Office of Research will provide 60 percent of the cost-share if any combination of other units provides 40 percent of the cost-share.

Requests for cost-sharing should be directed to Greg Reed (gdreed@utk.edu), associate vice chancellor for research.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/matching.shtml>

New office to handle UTK locks, keys

UT's Lock & Key Services has been renamed Access Systems, and its offices have been moved to Room G015 on the ground floor of Greve Hall, 821 Volunteer Blvd.

Contact: 865-974-4371 or chrisb@utk.edu

Summer *Advance* magazine issued

The summer 2012 issue of *Advance*, published by the UT Graduate School of Medicine, is now available in paper and electronic formats. The magazine includes stories about research collaborations between the GSM and UT Knoxville.

Contact: Amanda Johnson (afjohnso@mc.utmck.edu, 865-305-9190)

OIT announces lineup of technology training

Faculty in need of hands-on training on classroom technologies can sign up for a variety of fall-semester workshops sponsored by the Office of Information Technology.

Instructor-focused workshops are available for

- Classroom technology (SMART Classrooms, Smart Board/Symposium System, Turning Point Clicker Technology, Advance Uses of Clicker Technology)
- Course management system (Online@UT courses, including introduction, best practices, blogs and Wikis, and assignment tools, and Grade Center best practices)
- Introduction to UTK on iTunes U
- Productivity tools for instruction (Powerpoint with Voiceover, Camtasia for online instructional video creation, Adobe Captivate, office productivity)
- Synchronous learning (various LiveOnline@UT courses)

Most instructor-focused workshops are taught in Training Room 110, Hoskins Library.

Details: <https://oit.utk.edu/Training/instructor-led/instructor/Pages/default.aspx>

NOTE: OIT's instructional support and research computing support groups will move within a few weeks from Hoskins Library to the fifth floor of Greve Hall.

