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News and Opportunities

Office of Research & Engagement

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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Campo recognized for service

Miriam Campo, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, was recognized recently with the Chancellor's Award for Extraordinary Customer Service. She has been director of the office since 2009, after starting as a research administrator in the College of Engineering in 2006.

Set aside TN-SCORE dates

TN-SCORE has announced the dates of its annual conference, which will be held in Nashville on June 10 and 11, 2013 at the Airport Marriott. The meeting, in its third year, allows participating graduate and undergraduate students to showcase their research in poster sessions and oral presentations. TN-SCORE is the Tennessee committee charged with responding to the National Science Foundation EPSCoR program to increase the state's share of NSF funding.

Details: http://www.tnepscor.org/Articles/2013_tn-score_annual_conference_with_poster_and_oral_presentation_competition.aspx

Site can help with 'broader impacts'

The National Science Foundation now includes people with disabilities in its definition of underserved groups, making inclusion of people with disabilities a significant way to meet the agency's "broader impacts" criterion in proposals. The National Service Inclusion Project can provide technical assistance about inclusion of people with disabilities in various projects. Elizabeth Burman (eburman@utk.edu), UT Knoxville's director of engagement and outreach, recommends contacting NSIP for practical guidance about including people with disabilities in proposals.

Contact: NSIP (nsip@umb.edu, 888-491-0236)

Details: <http://www.serviceandinclusion.org/index.php>

Visualization contest announced

The National Science Foundation and the journal *Science* have announced their annual International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge.

The contest, which honors visual methods for conveying and understanding scientific findings, is seeking entries in five categories: photography, illustration, posters & graphics, games & apps, and video. This year's challenge is the 10th the organizations have sponsored. Winning entries will be featured in a special section of *Science*, and winners will receive a one-year online subscription to the magazine.

Key date: September 30, 2013 — submission of entries

Details: http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/challenge.jsp

UT to follow new guidelines on minors in university activities

UT's Minors on Campus Risk Assessment Committee has identified actions to be taken immediately on university-related camps and programs that will include minors this summer. Supervisors of all faculty, staff, and volunteers who may have direct contact with minors should complete a check of the state and national sexual offender registries. Every UT employee, student, and volunteer who may have direct contact with minors must read and sign the document, "Tennessee Law on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse," available from Jeff Maples (maples@utk.edu).

Key date: June 1, 2013 — signed documents and registry checks to Jeff Maples (405B Andy Holt Tower, CAMPUS)

Registries:

Tennessee — <https://health.state.tn.us/AbuseRegistry/Default.aspx>

Federal — <http://www.nsopw.gov/en-US/Search/Verification>

Tennessee increases overall NSF funding, will move out of EPSCoR support program

The State of Tennessee has increased its share of National Science Foundation research funding from less than three-quarters of a percent to 0.94% and will cease to be eligible in the future for a special program that supports states which receive a minimal share of NSF monies.

EPSCoR, the NSF Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, provides special research awards to universities in states that do not win at least 0.75 percent of NSF research expenditures nationally. The awards and related programs are designed to increase the states' capacities for winning a larger share of federal research monies.

Tennessee has used EPSCoR support to set up TN-SCORE (the Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage using Outreach, Research and Education program), which seeks to leverage NSF money to enhance research capacity across the state in ways that make Tennessee academic institutions more research-competitive.

In the most recent EPSCoR rankings, California institutions received 13.76% of NSF funding, followed by New York state at 6.59% and Massachusetts at 6.47%. Tennessee ranked 24th, in a tie with Connecticut and ahead of Iowa and Utah.

"Over the past four years, UTK has been effective in winning large NSF awards. . . . The upward trend in funding is a good sign for UTK and the state . . ." — John Hopkins

"Over the past four years, UTK has been effective in winning large NSF awards, and Vanderbilt has also seen a significant upward trend in NSF funding," said John Hopkins, director of TN-SCORE and director of strategic operations for the UT System's Office of the Executive Vice President.

Hopkins said that, with the improvement in its ranking, the state will cease to be eligible for new research infrastructure improvement awards under EPSCoR, but that existing projects like TN-SCORE and other special support will continue until completed.

"The upward trend in funding is a good sign for UTK and the state, and I expect that the collaborative network we have established . . . in TN-SCORE will help some of the smaller schools improve their awards in the future," Hopkins said. "Our TN-SCORE experiences provide good lessons in outreach and broader impact that will be useful in executing large, multi-institutional research programs, and we will continue to share those as we work through the remaining two and a half years of the program."

In 2010, the University of Tennessee was in the top 25 public universities in terms of NSF research funding.

NSF completes transition to Research.gov

The National Science Foundation has successfully transitioned all project reporting to Research.gov. Researchers with NSF awards must submit interim, annual and final project reports through the new web site, as well as project outcome reports.

Research.gov is the NSF's grants management system that provides easy access to research-relation information and grants management services. It modernized FastLane, which provided proposal submission services to researchers seeking NSF monies. FastLane continues to do automated compliance checking to ensure that all required proposal sections have been submitted.

Details: http://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/PublicOutcomesReport.html

Info sought on investigators' administrative workload

Over the past decade Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty Workload surveys in 2005 and 2012 have indicated that administrative burdens associated with federal research funding are consuming roughly 42 percent of an awardee's available research time. To help address these issues, the National Science Foundation recently created a Task Force on Administrative Burdens. The task force is seeking recommendations from principal investigators for reducing the administrative workload associated with their federal awards. Responses to this request for information will be considered as the board develops recommendations to ensure that investigators' administrative workload is at an appropriate level.

UT PIs can respond to this initiative by visiting the task force web site.

Key date: May 24, 2013 — final date for response

Details: http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/ab/tskforce_ab_rfi.jsp

NIH program supports small projects

The National Institutes of Health awards up to \$300,000 over three years for small-scale research projects in the biomedical and behavioral sciences conducted by faculty and students.

The awards are available to investigators who do not have current support from the NIH. Preliminary data are not required, and the grants are renewable. The projects are meant to support meritorious research, expose students to research, and strengthen the university's research environment.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is an eligible institution in terms of the AREA program requirements and the program does not require competition against large universities that have large total support from NIH. Funding is available from most of the NIH institutes.

Key dates: June 25, October 25, and February 25 — standard deadlines for general research

September 7, January 7, and May 7 for AIDS-related projects

Details: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>?

and http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area_grant_objectives.htm

Looking for information on foreign collaborations

In order to encourage more faculty members to consider applying for Fulbright fellowships, we would like to gather information about foreign universities where faculty members have current research collaborations.

The intention is to use this list as the basis for promoting Fulbright applications from those researchers currently engaged in foreign collaborations, and also by other faculty with related research interests. We believe there may be significant research benefits to spending a year abroad among new researchers and new approaches.

Please send information to Alan Rutenberg (arutenberg@utk.edu).

Greg Reed
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement

May issue of funding newsletter posted

The May 2013 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 3, No. 9) is available on the Office of Research & Engagement website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- USDA/AFRI Competitive Grants Program, 2014
- Red Teaming: Scalable, Adaptable & Versatile
- Budgeting Strategies for Team Proposals
- Resources for Your CAREER Education Plan
- Lawmaker Proposes New Criteria to Select NSF Grants

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 password. The login process does not support all browsers.

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

Internal Funding Support

Targeted Funding Announcements

To help UT Knoxville faculty stay abreast of research opportunities announced by federal agencies and other funding sources, the Office of Research & Engagement monitors requests for proposals and other solicitations for research.

Agency announcements are combed daily, and resulting opportunities go out to targeted LISTSERVs. Included in the LISTSERVs are subscribers who are interested in opportunities from the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, NASA, and the National Institutes of Health, as well as a list that combines all subscribers to the individual lists. A separate LISTSERV offers notifications about opportunities for which the university may submit only a limited number of proposals, which sometimes requires an internal competition among faculty proposers.

Contact: Jim Lloyd (flloyd@utk.edu)

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/target.php>

First RAOR forum held in April

Researchers from across campus gathered on April 24 for a meet-and-greet, the first in a series of open forums designed to foster casual discussions on research-related topics in research administration.

Sponsored Programs Accounting and the Office of Sponsored Programs are sponsoring the forums, which are called Research Administrator OutResearch (RAOR). The meetings are designed to elicit informal discussions about ways to streamline research administrative processes and identify and work on issues before they become problems.

Staff with a role in research administration are encouraged to attend future meetings.

Contacts: Carol Malkemus (cmalkemu@utk.edu), SPA director
Miriam Campo (mcampo@utk.edu), OSP director

UT elected to engagement consortium

The University of Tennessee has been accepted as a member of the Engaged Scholarship Consortium, an international organization of state/public and private institutions of higher education that share a broad scholarly agenda to advance university-community efforts.

Elizabeth Burman, ORE director of engagement and outreach, will serve as the university's representative to the consortium.

The ESC is composed of 27 universities (including UT) that work collaboratively to promote strong university-community partnerships anchored in rigorous scholarship and designed to help build community capacity.

Compliance Corner Institutional Review Board

The Office of Research & Engagement administers the university's Institutional Review Board, which regulates all research activities involving human subjects on the UT Knoxville campus.

The IRB committee ensures that the rights, safety, and welfare of human research subjects are ensured and that researchers comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The IRB conducts reviews of human subject activities that may include the initial research plan, continuations, modifications, unanticipated problems, and allegations of noncompliance. The committee ensures that that UT Knoxville researchers operate within the provisions of the Federalwide Assurance of Compliance under the Office for Human Research Protections of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact: Brenda Lawson (blawson@utk.edu)

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/humansubjects/>

