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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Overdue NSF Reports cause delays in awards
The Office of Research has received several notices from the National Sci-
ence Foundation in recent weeks re-
garding overdue reports and how those reports are creating delays in
issuing new awards and releasing incre-
m ental 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 experi-
ence 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 sub-
m ission of annual project reports, con-
 tinuing grants, final project re-
 ports, and other unique reports or
items. Sponsored Programs staff can
provide further information and assis-
tance with reporting requirements.
Contact: David Smelcer
dsmelser@utk.edu, 865-974-1840

Tenn ranks 44th in state agency R&D spending
Tennessee ranked 44th in research ex-
penditures made directly by state agen-
cies 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 di-
 rectly 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 billion, be-
tween Massachusetts at $4.36 million and New Hampshire at $219 million.
While ranking 44th in state R&D spend-
ing, Tennessee ranks 17th in population,
according to the 2010 Census
Five states accounted for almost 50 per-
cent of state R&D expenditures: Califor-
nia (12.1%), New York (10.4), Ohio (10.1),
Pennsylvania (8.5), and Florida (5.5). All others totaled $3.4 percent.
news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=124920&whm_c id=USNSF_51&WTmc_evr=click

Map locates campus defibrillators
The UT Office of Environmental
Health and Safety has published a
map locating the 80-plus automated
defibrillators in buildings on the
Agriculture and main campuses.
Contact: Mark D. Smith
(865-974-5084), director for environ-
mental health and safety.
Details: http://web.utk.edu/~ehhs/pdf/cam-
pusmap.pdf

Evaluating the research environment
American universities face resource limits, high expectations
Research universities are torn between unprecedented pressures and increasing expecta-
tions, 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 pres-
sure, but it is also true that scientific research is expected to solve increasingly complex techno-
 logical 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 Else-
vier B.V., a Netherlands-based publishing and educational services company.
“American universities are at a crossroads,” Fenwick said. “They are facing a combina-
tion of pressures, such as a decrease in funding, an increase in competition, intensifying com-
pliance requirements, and a loss of political and public confidence in the value of aca-
demic 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 in-
creased pressure on administration and diverted faculty time from research.
-- Better monitoring of research activities is needed to provide transparency and en-
able more effective management.
-- Credible data on local, national, and global research activities are necessary for ad-
ministrators 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 frag-
ile 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 re-
port, including Miriam Campo, Linee Minnema, Elizabeth Neilion, David Smelser, and
Jennifer Webster.

%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 en-
suring that research universities in the United States continue to have a significant eco-
nomic and security impact on the nation and identifies 10 steps toward achieving those
goals.

Title: 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 gov-
ernments, 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, in-
cluding unstable and declining federal funding, eroding state higher-ed funding, the
denial of large corporate research labs without corresponding new partnerships in
academia, management and administration issues, and underinvestment in campus in-
frastucture, among others.

The ten recommendations:
-- Federal research policies, practices, and funding that are stable and effective
-- Federal support for public re-
searc h 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-de-
gree, funding, and career alignment in
graduate programs
-- Increased availability of STEM edu-
cation to a fully diverse population
-- Improved and streamlined process-
es for attracting and retaining interna-
tional students and scholars

[E]Educated people, the knowledge they produce, and the innovation and en-
trepreneurial 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/bhw/researchuniversities/index.htm
The 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 meet program goals and writing deadlines.

**Key date:** August 15, 2012 - submission of CV and a one-page description of research project to Diana Meyers, 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 (sheilia.h.stevens@tn.gov, 615-532-7774), contract analyst, Tennessee Department of Health

**Details:** http://www.tn.gov/general serv/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. II) 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 Tools for 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. 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/dgwn.shtml

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