GRANT WRITING CURRICULUM: WORKSHOPS

FINDING FUNDERS—EXPLORING “PIVOT”:
Get an introduction to Pivot, the new subscription database accessible to Penn State faculty and staff. Pivot combines all aspects of the former Community of Science (COS) website into one powerful tool, so that Pivot users will be able to establish a profile, link with potential collaborators within and external to Penn State and find possible grant funders. Workshop participants will learn:

- About Pivot profiles and how to use them to the best advantage
- How to do funding searches in Pivot
- Pivot tips and tricks

Participants also will have an opportunity to conduct funding searches while the workshop instructor is present to provide advice and guidance.

IT’S ALL IN THE DETAILS: TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL WRITING:
This workshop provides an overview of ideas for preparing, writing and revising grant proposals. While designed primarily for faculty participants, the workshop should be useful and accessible for staff planning programming proposals. Topics include organizing the work, contacting program officers, ideas to keep in mind while writing, and how to address reviewers’ comments.

EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR THE SCIENCES
Aimed specifically at science faculty, this workshop provides an overview of programs targeting faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions, including those at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The workshop also includes basic proposal-writing tips and ideas for establishing a funded research program. Participants will:

- Learn more about opportunities for funding research, equipment and teaching
- Discover strategies for writing grant proposals
- Focus on programs that have funded University College faculty

FUNDING FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS
This workshop examines opportunities available for funded research at predominantly undergraduate institutions and also for pedagogical improvements. Participants will get an overview of available opportunities in the sciences and humanities, as well as tips and ideas on getting projects funded.

MOCK PROPOSAL REVIEW
This workshop is different from the others offered. We ask participants to supply a draft of their proposal and the funder’s guidelines at least two weeks before the workshop. Copies are distributed to all workshop participants for a peer review, similar to those performed for journal articles.

During the workshop, we will discuss the summary, objectives, methods, budget, and language of each proposal, concentrating on the following:

- Was it understandable?
- Did it respond to all of the points in the guidelines & RFP?
• Was the summary short and to the point, but covering all major aspects of proposal?
• Were the objectives measurable?
• Were the methods qualitative/quantitative?
• Did the budget relate directly to objectives/methods?
• Was the budget accurate?