CAYUSE 424—ELECTRONIC PROPOSAL ROUTING AND SUBMITTAL SYSTEM

The SJSU Research Foundation Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is pleased to introduce Cayuse 424—an electronic proposal routing and submittal system offered by Evisions. Cayuse 424 connects to the federal grants.gov proposal system, and OSP managers have used Cayuse 424 since fall 2012 for submitting federal proposals and tracking all proposals. Now it is time to pilot the next step—electronic routing. During the pilot phase, OSP and Principal Investigators who are participating in the pilot have begun working on and routing proposals through Cayuse, but with concurrent routing of proposals in the traditional manner. Full implementation is slated for September 2014. When fully implemented the new electronic system will help to eliminate routing delays and improve process efficiencies. During the pilot phase, transition, and beyond OSP will also partner with users on streamlining the many forms and processes that are required to ensure compliance to federal, state, and other sponsor regulations. User training workshops for Cayuse 424 are planned for June, July, and August for Principal Investigators who would like to use Cayuse 424 during the pilot stage. Specific training workshop dates will be announced soon, and additional Cayuse 424 workshops will be held in the fall.

CHANGES TO THE NIH BIOSKETCH FORMAT EXPECTED

In a recent Extramural Nexus post, Dr. Sally Rockey, Deputy Director for Extramural Research, announced National Institutes of Health’s plans to significantly change the manner in which a body of work is to be portrayed when applying for NIH funds. With strong support from its leadership, NIH will soon roll out a new biographical sketch format. Currently being piloted, the new format will allow up to five pages and will emphasize accomplishments instead of just a list of publications.

The primary focus of the new biographical sketch will be “the magnitude and significance of the scientific advances associated with a researcher’s discoveries and the specific role the researcher played in those findings.” The change is intended to help reviewers evaluate researchers not by where they have published or how many times, but instead by what they have accomplished. Dr. Rockey further states, “We strongly believe that allowing a researcher to generate an account of his or her own work will provide a clearer picture of each individual’s contributions and capabilities.” NIH plans to roll out the new biosketch format “for all grant applications received for FY 2016 funding and beyond (which generally refers to applications submitted in early 2015).”

NIH CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW ISSUES TWO PEER REVIEW CHALLENGES

In its efforts “to ensure that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant applications receive fair, independent, expert, and timely reviews so NIH can fund the most promising research,” the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has recently issued the following peer review challenges.

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Challenge #1
New Methods to Detect Bias in Peer Review
This challenge seeks ideas on approaches, strategies, methodologies or measures that would help to detect bias among reviewers due to gender, race, ethnicity, institutional affiliation, area of science, and amount of research experience of applicants. Prizes will be offered for the best empirically based idea and for the most creative idea. Additional details can be found at the Federal Register Notice website.

Challenge #2
Strategies to Strengthen Fairness and Impartiality in Peer Review
Challenge 2 invites ideas on how to strengthen reviewer training methods to enhance fairness and impartiality in the peer review process. Full development of training materials is not required. However, ideas should include enough detail to assess their ability to address fairness and impartiality in review with regards to gender, race, ethnicity, institutional affiliation, area of science, and amount of research experience of the applicant. Prizes will be offered for the best overall ideas. Additional details can be found at the Federal Agency Notice website.

A first prize in the amount of $10,000 and a second prize in the amount of $5,000 will be offered in each category. Submissions must be received by 11:59 PM (EST) on June 30, 2014. Winners will be announced September 2, 2014.

For more details visit the Federal Agency Notice website.

Spring 2014 OSP Workshop Presentations Now Available Online
In case you missed an Office of Sponsored Programs workshop during the semester, or would like to review a presentation from a workshop that you attended, the entire list of PowerPoint presentations offered during 2014 spring OSP workshops is now available online. To view the 2014 workshop presentations or archived presentations from previous semesters, visit the Workshops page on the SJSU Research Foundation website.

Spring 2014 OSP Workshops
February 20 – NSF Framework for Improving STEM
March 13 – Potential Sources of Funding for New or Early Career
April 17 – National Institutes of Health R15 AREA Program
May 8 – Advanced Budget Workshop

Fellowships and Scholarships
The SJSU Research Foundation receives notification of fellowship and scholarship opportunities for faculty and students. Highlights this month include:

Program: NIJ FY 14 Tribal Program Postdoctoral Research Associate Fellowship
Agency: Department of Justice
Deadline: June 10, 2014

Program: Child Care Research Scholars
Agency: Administration for Children and Families
Deadline: June 16, 2014

Program: Graduate Equity Fellowship
Agency: SJSU Office of Graduate Studies & Research
Deadline: June 20, 2014

Program: Research Fellowship Programs
Agency: American Institute of Indian Studies
Deadline: July 1, 2014

Program: Fellowships
Agency: Grant (William T.) Foundation
Deadline: July 9, 2014

Program: Kluge Fellowships
Agency: The Library of Congress
Deadline: July 15, 2014