

## STEM-NET Webinar “Major Institutional Grants”

### *\*Questions from the webinar (03/11/2020 at 10:00am) attendees:*

1. Upcoming funding opportunities?  
We encourage you to contact your research and sponsored programs office on campus for upcoming funding opportunities. In addition, utilizing PIVOT or Grant Resource Center (GRC) is encouraged.
2. Tips/thoughts for smaller CSU campuses/departments and campuses/departments with limited infrastructure/support (lab space, etc.).  
Collaborating with larger campuses is encouraged. A great option is to work with other faculty on a collaborate proposal (within your university, other CSU campuses or outside the system) and either be a co-PI or subproject PI.
3. Hearing about opportunities; what sort of collaborations were needed for successful proposals and successful projects.  
In terms of CREST at CSUSB, established relationships with UNL, NASA-Armstrong, and two community colleges were already in place prior to receiving CREST I funding.
4. Does multi institution collaborations help in research center based institutional grants?  
For our CREST projects, these collaborations have been key to our getting funded.
5. Is there any interest or are there any opportunities for faculty in the Social & Behavioral Sciences to participate in these grant initiatives?  
It is becoming more common for faculty in non-STEM fields to be involved in STEM proposals given the interdisciplinarity of many projects and grant programs. It is encouraged to seek out these faculty to collaborate with to determine any synergism in the project objectives.
6. Strategies for NSF MRI proposals specifically?  
It is recommended that the instrumentation proposal reflect the need of multiple users, departments, and/or colleges. In addition, demonstrating potential use outside the campus (other universities and faculty) is also recommended.
7. What opportunities are best sought after as a multi-campus proposal and what are best as a single institution? What does the CSU consider a major grant?  
While there is no actual dollar amount defined, for this webcast we are considering those grants that involve multiple faculty and students. There can be different interpretations of a major grant.
8. Could you provide information about training grants to fund M.S. student research?  
The presentations by Drs. Pacheco-Vega, Nicholas Kioussis and Keith Trujillo cover programs that can fund MS student research. I encourage you to contact them for further information.
9. Opportunities to fund river-related research (particularly monitoring and research related to the Klamath Dam removal)?  
NSF funds geologic and water-based research. Starting here and conducting a search of previously funded proposals is recommended.
10. How far in advance should we begin interfacing with our office of research and sponsored projects?  
This is campus-dependent and your office should have a timeline available.
11. What interdisciplinary grants are available?

While there are specific calls that target interdisciplinary projects, there is frequently the possibility of submitting a proposal of this type to many programs. It is recommended that the PI correspond with the program officer to determine he/she is open to said and that the project is aligned with the objective of the program.

12. Do major institutional grants need to be initiated and led by VPs or Presidents or can others facilitate those proposals and even lead them with the VP/President support?  
Campuses have different protocols for institutional grants; some are led and/or initiated by administrators while others are faculty driven. It is recommended that prospective PIs consult their offices of research and sponsored programs and/or deans in their colleges for further information.
13. Ongoing support for the equipment?  
Typically, faculty in the CSU have applied for funding from the NSF MRI program. There is also DoD and NIH programs that support instrumentation.
14. Timeline for NSF grants; Importance of relationships with grant officers  
It is integral to make contact with program officers prior to submitting any proposal to discuss with him/her your ideas and if your project fits within the scope of the program they direct.
15. International research collaboration grants?  
NSF periodically has joint programs with other nations and there is a foundation that provides funding for collaborations between US and foreign scientists.
16. What are the chances of CSU faculty getting a grant when competing with other research universities? Is there any statistics on the above issue? What incentives are there to really support faculty to put the time for grant proposal preparation? How to survive course buyout effect in the budget when it is such a big amount per course?  
This is potentially negotiable: the cost to buy out a grant is often sufficient (especially when combined with benefits/indirect) to hire a lecturer to teach two courses. You should inquire on your campus if this is possible.
17. Why was it necessary to find a Center for this work, vs seeking large individual grants?  
Having a center provides many advantages: including sharing admin support, and pursuing interdisciplinary research projects.
18. What is the relationship between the Centers and Departments and Colleges? At CSUSB our center involves two departments in the same college; this simplifies some of the logistics.
19. In approximate order of amounts: faculty assigned time/summer salary; Student support (stipends, salaries, summer housing, travel), full time administrator; equipment and supplies. How much time does the running of the center take, and does it detract from or enhance the research time or productivity of the Center leads? Yes, there is a bunch of administrative tasks that can be done only, or primarily by faculty. Our lead has additional assigned time (over research time) for this role.
20. Funding opportunities for grad students, CSU wide opportunities and CSUSB specifically  
This is a good question! At present, the major support for grad students is as teaching assistants. We've applied (unsuccessfully so far) for Dept of Education support to initiate grad programs; our application included grad student support. Other CREST centers fund grad students through research assistant stipends. Our MS program in Materials is not yet underway.
21. How does your institution support the administrative functions of your institutional grant including processing applications, annual reports, participant tracking, payroll, purchase order

requests, travel requests, program retreats and event planning? Is this work supported by the granting agency alone or are some administrative functions supported state-side? Our UEC (post-grant office) does some of this, but we budgeted a full time program coordinator. In CREST II we upped the pay/expectations for this position.

22. What was your strategy to secure institutional support?

Start early. For CREST I and CREST II it was 6 months-1 year prior to proposal submission. Prepare presentations of advantages (with acknowledgements of costs) to administrators. Make sure to invite these same administrators to open houses and meetings, share student/faculty success, participate in campus fora that highlight successes.