

# WHICH JOURNEY WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Presentations marked with a  will be released via On-Demand Video and do a LIVE discussion during Hosted Conversations days.

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

**On-Demand Video | Released at 9:30 AM ET**

The first set of pre-recorded video presentations are released for attendees to view at their leisure.

## **NSF Strategy Into the Future**

*Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director  
National Science Foundation*

## **The Benefit of Linking Undergraduate Research and an Application for a Prestigious National Scholarship**

*John Mateja, President, Goldwater Scholarship Foundation*

Undergraduate research helps a student define and develop a career direction. Prestigious nationally competitive scholarships like the Goldwater provide financial support students need to pay for school. While both support student success, few students link the two until it is time to submit the scholarship application, long after work on a research project was started. Synergistically linking the scholarship application to the undergraduate research experience PRIOR to beginning the research experience will help guide the research experience and provide for a more competitive scholarship application. The strategy will be outlined and its merits discussed.

## **Summer Team Impact Grants: Collaborative Seed Projects for Students and Faculty**

*Bethany Usher, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Dr. Jesse Guessford, Associate Director, Undergraduate Education  
George Mason University*

In 2017, George Mason University launched the Summer Team Impact Grants, a new type of undergraduate research project aimed at supporting multidisciplinary, scaffolded research. Mason was interested in creating communities of faculty who were approaching problems or challenges from multiple perspectives, and serve as models for external support that included undergraduates (such as NSF REU). Simultaneously, we wanted to increase accessibility to research for all of our students, including students who without an independent project for our traditional programs. We support 7-11 projects each summer (each with 2-3 faculty, 6-10 undergraduates, and up to 2 graduate students). Projects span all schools and colleges, and, as a part of our Mason Impact initiative, span traditional research, along with community engagement and entrepreneurship. In our presentation, we'll outline the model for the program that could be replicated at other schools, as well as how the program has adapted over time to meet Mason's needs (including in response to the COVID crisis). We'll also highlight the successes of the program, including publications, performances, publicity, and external grant funding. The Summer Team Impact Grant is now a signature Mason program that has exceeded our goals.

## **The NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program**

*Randy Phelps, Staff Associate, Office of Integrative Activities (OIA)  
National Science Foundation*

The NSF MRI Program supports the acquisition or development of research instrumentation that is, in general, too costly or inappropriate for support through other NSF programs. An overview of the program and a brief synopsis of successful strategies for proposals will be presented.

## **Opportunities for Early Career Faculty Through RCSA - Scialog and Cottrell Scholars**

*Andrew Feig, Program Director | RCSA*

Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to the support of early-career faculty in the physical sciences. We run two major programs relevant to CUR Members, Scialog and Cottrell Scholars. Scialog (Science + Dialog) provides an opportunity for faculty to explore through facilitated conversations the formation of new collaborations on interdisciplinary topics and apply for catalytic funding to initiate this work. Each theme runs for approximately 3 years. Cottrell Scholars, our second major program, is an early career award open to faculty in the third year of their tenure-track appointment to teacher-scholars who are excelling in both the laboratory and the classroom. The program becomes a life-long community of scholars who meet annually across the represented disciplines to discuss current challenges and solutions to problems facing higher education in the physical sciences and develop a supportive community of like-minded individuals to help improve STEM education at their own institutions and through national collaborative efforts. The recorded video and the subsequent live conversation will go into greater detail regarding each program, as well as timelines and the application/nomination processes.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 9, 2021

**2**

**Coffee Chat Discussions | 10:00 - 11:00 AM ET**

These are optional, informal brainstorming sessions with a couple discussions prompts. Attendees are also encouraged to post questions/answers in the CUR Dialogues Community Forum to maximize the collective body of knowledge.

Day two Coffee Chat will be set around introductions, getting a sense of how things will work, and will include 'Pair + Share' Assignments.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 10, 2021

**3**

**Hosted Conversations**

Live hosted discussions where attendees can engage with presenters and fellow attendees to ask questions, discuss topics, etc.

**9:30 - 10:15 AM ET**

**Benefit of Linking Undergraduate Research and an Application for a Prestigious National Scholarship**


*John Mateja, President, Goldwater Scholarship Foundation*

**10:45 - 11:30 AM ET**

**Summer Team Impact Grants: Collaborative Seed Projects for Students and Faculty**

*Bethany Usher, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Dr. Jesse Guessford, Associate Director, Undergraduate Education  
George Mason University*

**“CUR  
DIALOGUES”**  
connecting you to funding + grants

Presentations marked with a  will be released via On-Demand Video and do a LIVE discussion during Hosted Conversations days.

**DAY** Continued...

**3**

**12:30 - 1:15 PM ET**

**The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) at the National Science Foundation (NSF)**


*Christopher Hill, Program Director  
Division of Graduate Education (HER/DGE)  
Dr. Narcrisha Norman, Program Director  
National Science Foundation*

NSF Program Officers will answer questions regarding the GRFP Program.

 **1:45 - 2:30 PM ET**

**The NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program**

*Randy Phelps, Staff Associate, Office of Integrative Activities (OIA)  
National Science Foundation*

 **3:00 - 3:45 PM ET**

**Opportunities for Early Career Faculty Through RCSA - Scialog and Cottrell Scholars**

*Andrew Feig, Program Director | RSCA*

**4:15 - 5:00 PM ET**

**NEH Office of Digital Humanities: Awards and Opportunities that Involve Undergraduates**

*Jennifer Serventi, Senior Program Officer, Office of Digital Humanities  
National Endowment for the Humanities*

The NEH Office of Digital Humanities offers grants to encourage innovation in the digital humanities. In addition to project-based activities, the office funds professional development opportunities on various methods and approaches in the digital humanities for humanities scholars and professionals. In this session, the NEH representatives will review how these grant opportunities might support programs that involve undergraduate students in scholarly research and public engagement projects. Building on the conversations from last year's CUR Dialogues, they also would welcome an opportunity to learn from the audience how the programs of the Office of Digital Humanities might better respond to the needs of the field.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 11, 2021

**4**

**On-Demand Video | Released at 9:30 AM ET**

The second set of pre-recorded video presentations are released for attendees to view at their leisure.

**AERA Professional Development and Funding Opportunities in Education Research**

*George Wimberly, Director of Professional Development  
American Educational Research Association (AERA)*


 **IMLS Library Discretionary Grant Programs**

*Anthony Smith, Associate Deputy Director, Library Discretionary Grants  
Institute of Museum and Library Services*


This presentation will provide a general overview of the federal funding opportunities available through the Office of Library Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

 **TBA**

*Colette St. Mary, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education  
(EHR/DUE) National Science Foundation*

 **New solicitation for S-STEM and I could also discuss that or the Vision and Change movement in Undergraduate Education**

*Pushpa Ramakrishna, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education (EHR/DUE) | National Science Foundation*

 **Planning for an Effective Program: Logic Models and Assessment Strategies that Align with Federal Funding Requirements**

*Anne Boettcher, Director, Undergraduate Research Institute and Honors Program | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott  
Stephanie Foster, University of Colorado - Boulder*


Feeling a bit daunted by applications for an REU or other funding agency? Let us help! Understanding how your program works and how it supports student success outcomes are key to writing an effective proposal and to winning support for new and expanded programs at your institution. Planning for practical and meaningful assessment will help educators determine and demonstrate gains in learning and professional and personal development of undergraduate researchers. In this session, we will support program planning and assessment efforts by guiding participants through the development of a logic model. We will discuss assessment strategies that can be aligned with both federal funding models and university strategic plans. Emphasis will be on supporting the needs of underrepresented students. Participants will leave with models and worksheets to be able to apply these strategies in their own programs. Note that this session will be a flipped workshop-style model with a brief pre-session preparation exercise and active engagement in the synchronous meeting.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 12, 2021

**5**

**Hosted Conversations**

Live hosted discussions where attendees can engage with presenters and fellow attendees to ask questions, discuss topics, etc.

 **9:30 - 10:15 AM ET**

**IMLS Library Discretionary Grant Programs**


*Anthony Smith, Associate Deputy Director, Library Discretionary Grants  
Institute of Museum and Library Services*

**10:45 - 11:30 AM ET**

**TBA**


*Jon Lorsch, Director*

*National Institute of General Medical Sciences*

 **12:30 - 1:15 PM ET**

**TBA**


*Colette St. Mary, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education  
(EHR/DUE) National Science Foundation*

 **1:45 - 2:30 PM ET**

**New solicitation for S-STEM and I could also discuss that or the Vision and Change movement in Undergraduate Education**

*Pushpa Ramakrishna, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education (EHR/DUE) | National Science Foundation*

**“CUR DIALOGUES”**  
connecting you to funding + grants

Presentations marked with a  will be released via On-Demand Video and do a LIVE discussion during Hosted Conversations days.

**DAY** Continued...

**5**

**3:00 - 3:45 PM ET**  
**Title VI Funding Opportunities**

*Sarah Beaton, Director, Advanced Training and Research Division (ATRD), International and Foreign Language Education Office, Office of Postsecondary Education | US Department of Education*

This session will discuss the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays funding opportunities for FY 2021 and provide tips for writing a successful application.

**4:15 - 5:00 PM ET**

**Planning for an Effective Program: Logic Models and Assessment Strategies that Align with Federal Funding Requirements**

*Anne Boettcher, Director, Undergraduate Research Institute and Honors Program | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott*  
*Stephanie Foster, University of Colorado - Boulder*

**DAY** FEBRUARY 15, 2021

**6**

**On-Demand Video | Released at 9:30 AM ET**

The third set of pre-recorded video presentations are released for attendees to view at their leisure.

**The HHMI Science Education Alliance: An Inclusive Research Education Community**

*Danielle Heller, Program Officer*  
*Vic Sivanathan, Program Officer*  
*David Asai, Senior Director*  
*Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

The Science Education Alliance (SEA) supports a nationwide community of faculty members at 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities to collaborate and engage undergraduate students in research-based curricula early and often in their academic careers. This community is an inclusive Research and Education Community (iREC), a model for providing authentic research opportunities for all students and driving system-level change in science education. The SEA iREC currently implements two projects. In the Phage Hunters Advancing Genomic and Evolutionary Science (PHAGES) project, students from participating colleges and universities isolate and characterize bacteriophages from local environments, annotate the phage genomes, and submit the annotated sequences to the National Center for Biotechnology Information GenBank database. As a capstone experience, student and faculty representatives from participating schools attend the SEA Symposium, a scientific meeting at which students share and discuss their discoveries. In the 2018-2019 academic year, more than 5,500 undergraduates from 126 different colleges and universities took part in the PHAGES project; 80% of these researchers were first or second-year college students. PHAGES research has generated over 100 publications to date, many with students as co-authors, and participation in this iREC is linked with higher student persistence in STEM (Hanauer et al., PNAS, 2017). Launched in 2019, the Gene-function Exploration by a Network of Emerging Scientists (GENES) project now offers a third semester of course research to undergraduates that are in their second year and above at 20 SEA institutions. This expansion allows students to participate in a cohesive three-semester research sequence. The SEA also aims to serve as a faculty learning community, supporting faculty in developing, sharing, and evaluating resources and pedagogical strategies. With this rich faculty network and centralized programmatic and scientific support, we believe that the SEA provides an extraordinary opportunity for students and faculty, particularly at schools with limited research infrastructure, including community colleges and small primarily undergraduate institutions. Every year, we aim to add about 20 schools to the SEA; applications are accepted throughout the year.

**NEH Grant Support for Undergraduate Research**

*Julia Huston Nguyen, Senior Program Officer, Division of Education programs | National Endowment for the Humanities*

Senior Program Officer Julia Nguyen will discuss ways that NEH Education grants, including Humanities Initiatives and Humanities Connections, can support institutions as they develop undergraduate research program for humanities students.

**Optimizing Grant Funding through Working Relationships between Faculty Researchers and Sponsored Programs Staff**

*Sidney Johnston, Assistant Director of Grants and Sponsored Research*  
*Dr. Jason Evans, Executive Director of the Institute for Water & Environmental Resilience*  
*Stetson University*

This session will encourage conversations between faculty researchers and campus sponsored programs staff about the key services and roles of a sponsored programs office (SPO) relative to faculty research with undergraduates. The goal is to generate discussion leading to “takeaway” solutions for both faculty and SPOs and provide some next-steps to discuss and implement on your campus. Typical SPO services will be identified with a focus on brainstorming strategies for best using or providing those services to advance research programs; increasing faculty external funding opportunities; and ensuring responsible stewardship of extramural funds, especially at small to mid-size institutions.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 16, 2021

**7**

**Coffee Chat Discussions | 1:30 - 2:30 PM ET**

These are optional, informal brainstorming sessions with a couple discussions prompts. Attendees are also encouraged to post questions/answers in the CUR Dialogues Community Forum to maximize the collective body of knowledge.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 17, 2021

**8**

**Hosted Conversations**

Live hosted discussions where attendees can engage with presenters and fellow attendees to ask questions, discuss topics, etc.

**9:30 - 10:15 AM ET**

**The HHMI Science Education Alliance: An Inclusive Research Education Community**

*Danielle Heller, Program Officer*  
*Vic Sivanathan, Program Officer*  
*David Asai, Senior Director*  
*Howard Hughes Medical Institute*

**10:45 - 11:30 AM ET**

**NEH Grant Support for Undergraduate Research**


*Julia Huston Nguyen, Senior Program Officer, Division of Education programs | National Endowment for the Humanities*

**12:30 - 1:15 PM ET**

**TBA**

*Marlene Kaplan, Deputy Director of STEM Education, Office of Science and Technology Policy | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

**“CUR DIALOGUES”**  
connecting you to funding + grants

Presentations marked with a  will be released via On-Demand Video and do a LIVE discussion during Hosted Conversations days.


**DAY** Continued...

**8**

**1:45 - 2:30 PM ET**

**TBA**

*Kathleen McCloud, Staff Associate, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) | National Science Foundation*

 **3:00 - 3:45 PM ET**

**Optimizing Grant Funding through Working Relationships between Faculty Researchers and Sponsored Programs Staff**

*Sidney Johnston, Assistant Director of Grants and Sponsored Research  
Dr. Jason Evans, Executive Director of the Institute for Water & Environmental Resilience  
Stetson University*

**4:15 - 5:00 PM ET**

**USDA-NIFA: Developing the Next Generation of Professionals in the Food and Agricultural Sciences**

*Ray Ali, National Program Leader  
USDA - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development*


USDA-NIFA offers funding opportunities for eligible institutions to support undergraduate students in the food and agricultural sciences. These include the Multicultural Scholars Program and the Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates Program.

**DAY** FEBRUARY 18, 2021

**9**

**On-Demand Video | Released at 9:30 AM ET**

The last set of pre-recorded video presentations are released for attendees to view at their leisure.

 **Opportunities for Research Funding at the National Endowment for the Humanities**

*Daniel Sack, Program Officer, Division of Research Programs  
National Endowment for the Humanities*


The NEH Division of Research Programs supports scholars researching and writing in the humanities. This presentation will focus on programs for individual applicants, including the Fellowship and Summer Stipend programs. The session will describe the programs and offer applicant-writing tips.

 **Building Research Capacity in under-resourced institutions**

*Krishan Arora, Branch Chief  
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH/NIGM)*

The Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program broadens the geographic distribution of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for competitive biomedical research by developing and expanding research capabilities and research infrastructure in states that have not traditionally received significant levels of NIH research dollars. Twenty-three states and Puerto Rico are IDeA-eligible. The IDeA program supports three major initiatives, including the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). The INBRE implements the IDeA objectives by developing a statewide biomedical research network of doctoral degree-granting research institutions, primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs), community colleges, and tribal colleges with a multidisciplinary, thematic research focus. INBRE enhances biomedical research capacity and strengthens the research base by supporting faculty, fellows, and students participating at network institutions. A major objective of INBRE is to provide (1) undergraduate faculty and students with research support and (2) research experiences to students that will serve as a “pipeline” for undergraduate students to continue in biomedical and health research careers. Each INBRE has a required Bioinformatics Core that provides education, mentoring, and tools for researchers and students

across the network. The presenter will highlight an overview of the INBRE program and accomplishments made at these networks. Various ways to participate in these network opportunities will be described. All are encouraged to attend, whether or not their institution is in an IDeA-eligible state, as research infrastructure and partnerships fostered in an IDeA-eligible state may be leveraged and connected to other programs.

 **National Science Foundation – Understanding the Merit Review Process**

*Michelle Camacho, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Human Resource Development (EHR/HRD)  
Susan Carson, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE), Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)  
National Science Foundation*

Participants in this session will have the opportunity to review and discuss proposals submitted to the IUSE program. Through the mock-panel process, participants will gain valuable insights into the review process and the attributes that distinguish a competitive grant proposal.

**Accessing Short-Term Exchange Opportunities for Faculty and Professionals Through the Fulbright Specialist Program**

*Amirah Nelson, Senior Outreach Officer, Fulbright Specialist Program  
World Learning*

This presentation will convey how mid- and senior career U.S. academics, administrators, and professionals can engage with a range of overseas institutions through the Fulbright Specialist Program, a part of the larger Fulbright Program that provides opportunities to participate in short-term (2- to 6-week long) project-based exchanges designed by a range of overseas host institutions. Attendees will gain insight into the program’s Roster-based structure and application process, as well as examples of how participants have utilized the program to develop or strengthen relationships that lead to ongoing collaboration, such as collaborative research or faculty/student exchange.

**TBA**

*Sophie Pierszalowski, Director of the Undergraduate Research Program  
University of Washington*

**DAY** FEBRUARY 19, 2021


**10**

**Hosted Conversations**

Live hosted discussions where attendees can engage with presenters and fellow attendees to ask questions, discuss topics, etc.


 **9:30 - 10:15 AM ET**  
**Opportunities for Research Funding at the National Endowment for the Humanities**

*Daniel Sack, Program Officer, Division of Research Programs  
National Endowment for the Humanities*

 **10:45 - 11:30 AM ET**  
**Building Research Capacity in under-resourced institutions**

*Krishan Arora, Branch Chief  
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIH/NIGM)*


**“CUR DIALOGUES”**  
connecting you to funding + grants

Presentations marked with a  will be released via On-Demand Video and do a LIVE discussion during Hosted Conversations days.



DAY  
10

Continued...

 12:30 - 1:15 PM ET

**National Science Foundation — Understanding the Merit Review Process**

*Michelle Camacho, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Human Resource Development (EHR/HRD)  
Susan Carson, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE), Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)  
National Science Foundation*

1:45 - 2:30 PM ET

**How to submit a competitive REU, ROA and RUI proposal to BIO**

*Sally O'Connor, Program Officer, Division of Biological Infrastructure (BIO/DBI) | National Science Foundation*


The presentation will provide useful information for faculty interested in receiving funding for research and/or undergraduate research training. The goals of the program will be described and tips provided on how to prepare a competitive proposal.

3:00 - 3:45 PM ET

**Deepening the Teacher-Scholar Culture: A Comprehensive College/School-based Approach to Support Grant-writing**

*Jeff Osborn, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
The College of New Jersey*

The School of Science at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) has developed a comprehensive approach to support grant writing. As a strategic priority, this holistic approach focuses on student, faculty, and institutional success. In particular, the School has been working and investing in efforts to (1) increase awareness of the importance of grant writing, with the goal of creating opportunities and increasing intellectual vitality, and (2) increase proposal submissions and funding for strategic priorities and mission-central initiatives. These efforts have been highly successful at increasing interest in grant writing and at increasing submission rates and funding rates among the School's faculty and programs. The session will include a summary of TCNJ's approach, as well as an interactive component for session attendees to share their experiences and best practices from their own campuses.

 4:15 - 5:00 PM ET

**Accessing Short-Term Exchange Opportunities for Faculty and Professionals Through the Fulbright Specialist Program**

*Amirah Nelson, Senior Outreach Officer, Fulbright Specialist Program  
World Learning*

DAY  
11/12

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2021

**Beyond-the-Basics Workshop**

This workshop is designed to provide insight into crafting more competitive research grant proposals. Anyone who expects to be writing grant proposals or assisting others who are writing will benefit from the activities at this workshop. The workshop will help faculty members who have submitted grant proposals but have not yet been successful in securing funding. The workshop will help faculty members in the planning stages in refining their ideas and presentation to enhance their odds of obtaining funding. The workshop will be helpful to individuals in grants offices who work with faculty during the proposal submission process. Participants will have an opportunity to work on a plan for their intended project and get peer and instructor feedback on strengthening the case for funding of their project.

Registration for this workshop is separate from your Dialogues Conference. Please email [events@CUR.org](mailto:events@CUR.org) if you are interested in purchasing.



“CUR  
**DIALOGUES**”  
connecting you to funding + grants