Looking Ahead to Spring!

I know the first few snowflakes have just begun to fly but I’m already looking ahead to Spring, Spring Semester that is.

We have a few grant applications in development for Computers in Education for the 21st Century, another submission for the NSF Major Research Instrumentation program and an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for studying the impact of globalization.

While these are already in progress, there is time to prepare many more! Don’t let the time fly without taking a look at the many funding opportunities available via www.COS.com. I will continue to send notices to departments in which I see a match of topic and opportunity but I ask that you take a moment and review the grant description. Most of the opportunities do not have lengthy lead times so we must be ready to spring into action when the irons are hot.

Happy Holidays to all! I’m looking forward to a busy Spring!

Looking Ahead to Spring!

Urgent Update on Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RCR)

Beginning January 4, 2010, the National Science Foundation implemented specific guidelines and requirements for the responsible conduct of research in Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act. The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, education in RCR is considered essential in the preparation of future scientists and engineers.

Original Statutory Requirement

"The Director shall require that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project.”

NSF Update

The original guidelines only required a plan should funding be received. Now, an institutional plan for certification of RCR training is required at the time of application. In addition, the rules apply to any student who receives funding or works on the specific research project involved. We have several pending applications that will fall under these new requirements. This regulation is not for science-related research alone! It covers any application to the NSF including humanities and education.

As King’s College looks to expand its research activities for faculty and student experience and in possible collaboration with other organizations, it is important that this new requirement be explored at the curriculum level. In addition, it is a component that will soon be required by other funding agencies and other educational disciplines.

Slides from a recent presentation for department chairs to explain the new guidelines and a DRAFT institutional RCR plan will be sent to all faculty this week. We ask that you please review the packet immediately and return comments and suggestions by email before December 31. Realizing that many of the points covered by RCR are already covered in several courses across campus, the King’s institutional plan will be strengthened if we can include related course syllabi to the plan as attachments.

The NSF considers interactive and multiple session discussion of RCR to be best practice for teaching students the importance and methods of responsible and ethical conduct. The online program by CITI discussed in the materials will be a required supplement to what you are already doing in the classroom.

Furthermore, it is a sign of support and common research practice for all faculty
involved in research activities to also complete the CITI online course. The course should not take long to complete and our grant applications will be much stronger if we can state that faculty are also certified in RCR.

Research components guided by ethics and responsible behavior include:

- Human subjects
- Animal subjects
- Research misconduct
- Conflict of Interest
- Student training
- Data management (protection, sharing, and collection)
- Collaboration (internal, external, international)
- Reporting and reviewing
- Handling misconduct
- Publication

Whose Job Is It, Anyway?

The on-going process of ensuring the integrity of the research record is the responsibility of everyone involved in research and sponsored programs, from the principal investigator, to the department administrators to the grant writer and financial managers. There can be no exceptions to upholding values which foster highest integrity in all levels of responsible research.

The following resources may be helpful to you and your students in explaining the importance of RCR:

- National Academies Video On Being a Scientist: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiBJGV3OB0o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiBJGV3OB0o)

King’s Receives Grant to Expand Physician Assistant Studies Program

King’s College recently received a $990,000 grant from the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase student enrollment in its Physician Assistant Studies Program. The five-year grant, funded by the Affordable Care Act Expansion of Physician Assistant Training Program, is designed to improve access to primary care services by increasing the supply of primary care physician assistants. King’s College was one of 32 physician assistant training programs nationwide to receive funding. Project funding will be used to support educational expenses for eligible students in the amount of $22,000 per student for each of two years study in the King’s Physician Assistant graduate program. A total of 25 PA program students will receive funding. Dr. Frances Feudale will serve as Project Director for the grant.

BIE Grant Poster Recognized at Directors’ Conference

Dr. Bindu Vyas, Associate Professor International Business/Management, Michael Horvath, NEPA Alliance and Karen Baker, Director of Academic Grants, were recognized for their outstanding poster presentation “Enriching International Business Curriculum Through Ethics and Entrepreneurship Initiatives at King’s College” at the U.S. Dept. of Education Business and International Education Directors’ Conference in Tampa, Florida. King’s was recognized along with Louisiana State University and Texas Tech University. King’s College received funding in July for the two-year Federal grant designed to enhance the International Business curriculum and expand study abroad opportunities for students at King’s College.

Pictured left to right: Tanyelle Richardson, BIE Senior Program Officer; Dr. Bindu Vyas; Karen Baker; and Dr. Hemant Rustogi, Conference Coordinator, University of Tampa.

For more information, contact: Karen Baker, Director, Academic Grants Voice: (570) 208-5900, Ext. 5798 / E-mail: karenbaker@kings.edu