

Workshop Topic: Writing Successful Grant Proposals

Presented by: Diana Lipscomb, Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Biology
Carol Sigelman, Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Academic Affairs; Professor of Psychology

Dean Lipscomb gave the audience tips for writing a successful grant proposal:

- The lifecycle of a proposal submission is usually 90 days, and the overall lifecycle can reach 8 months.
- Federal and non-federal sponsors have different requirements.
- Parts in a grant proposal include: cover or title page, table of contents, abstract, narrative, and budget.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) Merit Review uses intellectual merit and the broader impact of the proposal (significance, approach, innovation, investigator, and environment) as decision criteria
- Reviewers look for clear, well-organized, and proof-read proposals that answer a set of important questions.
- Budget is an important part of the proposal and items should be justified thoroughly.
- You need to be persistent.

VP Sigelman identified major funding sources and highlighted general tips on how to get the grant you are looking for:

- Have a good idea, communicate why it is a good idea, and why you are the right person or have the right team to pursue it.
- Apply to the right funder.
- Follow instructions, staying focused on the stated needs and priorities of the funder.
- Make sure information is correct - carefully edit the proposal.
- Build your arguments on literature and show how you will advance understanding.
- Lay out a clean plan and package your ideas well.
- Make sure that the proposed tests, methods, scientific procedures are suited to your stated objective.

Summary provided by Gonul Basak Kaya, MBA Candidate