**Message from Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education**

**CFAES Annual Research Conference**

As we ramp up to finish out the spring semester, I'd like to remind you all to take a moment to acknowledge all of the work accomplished in the previous academic year. This time of year is a busy one for all of us, making it hard to slow down. Between poster competitions, conferences, exams, final papers, dissertation defenses, grant applications... the list goes on. However, don't forget to take a moment to celebrate all of our accomplishments as well as the students that will be graduating shortly.

On that note, I would like to encourage you all to attend the **CFAES Annual Research Conference**. At the conference, I will provide some updates about the state of research at the college, including final recommendations addressing the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) report and conclusions from the Research Advisory Committee. The rest of the event will be a celebration of CFAES research: several faculty and staff awards will be presented (see included agenda for the full listing) and there will be a poster viewing for the annual **poster competition**. This year we had over 70 entries to the poster competition and I look forward to seeing the breadth of research done by our talented students, staff, and postdocs.

The event will be held Monday, April 22 from 9:00am-12:15pm at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus, OH. Transportation is available from Wooster to Columbus for those interested. Registration and poster setup begins at 8am and remarks will begin at 9am. We ask that you register if you would like to attend; registration closes on Monday, April 8. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office.

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**New Online Training – Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources**

The Office of Research has launched a new online training to provide guidance for principal investigators and their staff. "**Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources**" is strongly recommended for principal investigators, but will benefit all members of the research community.

Course content explores the lifecycle of a sponsored project, covers research administration and compliance processes and provides access to many useful resources and tools. The course takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. For more information contact Jeff Agnoli, senior staff training and development specialist for the Office of Research. Access the training via BuckeyeLearn. Search for “Being a Principal Investigator: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources” to register, then click [Request], and select course from transcript to launch the training.

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**Fulbright Scholar Competition Open**

The Fulbright Scholar competition for academic year 2020-21 is open. The program offers nearly 470 teaching, research or combination awards to U.S. faculty and experienced professionals in more than 125 countries. Opportunities are available for college and university faculty and administrators as well as for professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, independent scholars and others. In addition to new program models to meet the changing needs of U.S. academics and professionals, Fulbright offers more opportunities for flexible, multi-country grants.

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**Higher Education Challenge Grants Program Webinar**

NIFA is hosting a webinar on April 10 from 2:30-3:30pm for applicants interested in the FY 2019 Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grants Program. No need to register, just follow the **HEC Webinar link** to join (call-in number 1-888-844-9904, access code 204 647 3). HEC focuses on improving formal, baccalaureate, or master’s degree level food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences education and first professional degree level education in veterinary medicine. More information about the HEC funding opportunity is available on NIFA’s website.

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grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FOUNDATION—GATES GRAND CHALLENGES: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR NEW SOLUTIONS IN GLOBAL HEALTH
The Gates Foundation is seeking proposals that apply an emerging technology for new and potentially transformative solutions in global health priority areas. Priority areas include: Discovery & Translational Sciences; Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases; HIV; Malaria; Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Discovery & Tools; Neglected Tropical Diseases; Pneumonia; Tuberculosis; and Vaccine Development and Surveillance. These priority areas encompass infectious disease outcomes, pregnancy and birth outcomes, child growth and development outcomes, disease surveillance, and research for the development of new vaccines, drugs (including non-hormonal contraceptives), and diagnostics.
Deadline: April 10, 2019 at 2:30pm

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY—LINKAGE AND LEVERAGE SEED GRANTS
The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) invites you to submit proposals for the Linkage and Leverage seed grant program. This program seeks to Link (forge transdisciplinary connections among OSU faculty, staff, students and external partners) and Leverage (bring new talents, expertise, and resources to our initiatives as a result of our collaborative work) to address compelling food security challenges by building on our strengths in climate, environment, technology and agroecosystems; local to global engagements; new food economies; and campus food cultures and education. Teams of faculty, staff, students, and external partners may apply, with one member of the team identified as the project director. Questions may be directed to Dana Hilfinger, InFACT Program Coordinator (hilfinger.8@osu.edu).
Deadline, Cycle 2: April 19, 2019

FFAR—SEEDING SOLUTIONS 2019
The Seeding Solutions grants encourage the development of unique partnerships to support innovative – and potentially transformative – research focused in our Challenge Areas. For Seeding Solutions 2019, FFAR anticipates funding at least one proposal in each of our six newly updated Challenge Areas. This year, FFAR will prioritize funding projects that both demonstrate strong partnerships, and have the potential for significant agricultural advancements through innovation and new technologies.
Deadline: Pre-proposals due April 19, 2019

USDA-NIFA—CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES AT RISK (CYFAR) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PROJECTS
The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA announces the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) funding program to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System. The CYFAR program mission is to marshal resources of the Land-Grant and Cooperative Extension Systems to develop and deliver educational programs that equip limited resource families and youth who are at-risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive, productive, contributing lives.
Deadline: April 22, 2019

ODA—SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS
The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program provides funding for projects to enhance the competitiveness of crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts and nursery crops. Grant funding is provided by the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service. Grants range from a minimum of $25,000 to a maximum of $150,000. In addition, all applicants must provide a minimum match of 25 percent of the requested grant amount. Higher rankings will be given to projects that demonstrate profit potential for growers and that could boost employment opportunities in the specialty crop industry.
Deadline: May 3, 2019

USDA-NIFA—ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES
The AgrAbility program increases the likelihood that farmers, ranchers, farm workers and farm family members with disabilities will experience success in agricultural production. The program supports projects between State Cooperative Extension System and private, non-profit disability organizations who work in partnership to provide agricultural education and assistance directed at accommodating disability in farm operations for individuals with disabilities, and their families, who engage in farming and farm-related occupations.
Deadline: May 9, 2019

USDA-NIFA—POTATO BREEDING RESEARCH
The purpose of this grant program is to support potato (Solanum tuberosum L.) research programs that focus on varietal development and testing and potato varieties for commercial production. As used herein, varietal development and testing is research using conventional breeding and/or biotechnological genetics to develop improved potato varieties. Aspects of evaluation, screening and testing must support variety development.
Deadline: May 21, 2019
STRATEGIC RESEARCH TRAVEL PROGRAM
The Office of Research is pleased to launch a new travel program opportunity for Ohio State's research and creative expression community to create new opportunities for large, multidisciplinary team projects. The Strategic Research Travel Program provides funding for travel for Ohio State faculty and principal investigators to meet with program officers at current and potential sponsors to help drive the development of innovative programs and priorities for sponsor agencies. This kind of positioning activity occurs well before a sponsor releases a solicitation. Further, these efforts are usually part of a longer-term business development plan for pursuing larger, multidisciplinary funding opportunities.

Examples of positioning activities the grant is meant to encourage include:
- Building relationships with program officers/sponsor representatives
- Reviewing and providing input to potential sponsors' strategic plans
- Exploring potential opportunities for future collaboration

This travel program aligns with the university's research goals as outlined in Ohio State's Strategic Plan, Time and Change. Learn more.

NSF DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER
Building on NSF's history of investments in data and computational sciences and USDA/NIFA's history of investments in agricultural science, NSF and USDA/NIFA are jointly funding convergent research that combines methods in agricultural, biological, and computer and information science and engineering to address pressing challenges and opportunities in digital agriculture. Motivated by the increasing volumes of data, faster computation, and algorithmic advances, there is an opportunity to apply transformative, data-driven research methods to the agriculture sector that are responsive to and will yield meaningful insights for farmers, other stakeholders, and society at large. Applications should focus on economically important plants, animals, and their environments—in particular food, fuel, feed, and health—and where research outcomes in a particular application area may be transferable to, or informative for, other agricultural application areas. Relevant stakeholders can be integrated into the proposed research activities, including as partners in the project, if appropriate for the project. Read the full letter.

Proposals pursuant to this letter may be submitted to one of the three programs listed below:
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) program
- Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs—Information Integration and Informatics (III) program
- Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) program

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE PROPOSALS
APRIL 10, 9:00-10:30AM, 1080 SMITH SEMINAR ROOM, PHYSICS RESEARCH BUILDING (COLUMBUS)
In this presentation, Kathy Renick and Kate Hayes-Ozello from Ohio State's Proposal Development Office will outline some best practices that departmental grants managers can use to support the development of grant proposals, particularly large or complex ones. This will include: reviewing the RFP in-depth; developing an outline of all required components and making sure responsibility for each piece and part is assigned to someone; negotiating a proposal development schedule that everyone can live with; getting the team on the same page and keeping them there; and planning for mock reviews and/or feedback on the proposal draft prior to submission. We will also provide an overview of the Proposal Development Office, the services we offer, and how to connect with us. Register via BuckeyeLearn.

TIME MANAGEMENT: MANAGING YOUR PRIORITIES
MAY 2, 1-2PM, AGRICULTURAL ADMINISTRATION (COLUMBUS)
MAY 3, 11-11AM, RESEARCH SERVICES 126 (WOOSTER)
There are only a certain number of hours in a day and days in a year, so how do we most effectively manage our time? This session will focus on time management through managing our priorities. Effectively managing your priorities can help de-stress your work environment and enhance personal and professional productivity. There is only so much time, so what you do within that time is critical in determining how effective you are in work and life. Priority management includes prioritizing and allocating tasks as well as planning and setting goals relative to those priorities. This session will provide helpful hints and strategies for you to organize your priorities to successfully accomplish needed tasks. Please register if you plan to attend.
Presenter: Jeff King, The OSU Leadership Center

See a full listing of upcoming events on our webpage.
Changes to 2019 Competitive RFAs Contained in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

You may notice changes to open and future requests for applications (RFAs) as well as to new competitive awards to adjust the language regarding indirect cost rate limitations and matching requirements. This is due to new provisions in the Agriculture Improvement Act (the 2018 Farm Bill).

Changes to Matching requirements
Section 7614 of the 2018 Farm Bill removed the matching requirements on NIFA competitive grants imposed under the 2014 Farm Bill. Therefore, there are changes to the matching requirements on many competitive grants awarded in 2019. For programs that were in existence prior to Oct. 1, 2014, they will revert to earlier legislative matching requirements. As a result, some programs will have no matching requirement, while others may have a 100% match requirement for all grantees, because some previously exempted entities are no longer exempt (cannot be waived by NIFA). To clearly convey the current matching requirements for NIFA’s competitive programs, including programs first-authorized or first-funded after Oct. 1, 2014, the table detailing matching requirements has been updated and may be referred to for information on specific matching requirements.

Indirect Cost Rate Limitation
There is also a different indirect cost limitation for new competitive awards under many of NIFA’s program. As applicable, under the Section 7125 amendment, indirect costs are limited to 30% of the total federal funds provided under the award and the limitation on indirect costs applies to both the initial grant award and to any subgrants, so that the total of all indirect costs charged against the total Federal funds awarded does not exceed the 30% limitation. The indirect cost recovery table has been updated to include the new indirect cost rate requirements by program.

For applicable programs, these requirements are effective for new awards issued after Dec. 20, 2018, regardless of whether grants are FY 2018 or 2019 funds. Where grants were awarded after Dec. 20, 2018, grantees will be contacted by the Awards Management Division regarding application of the new indirect cost provisions. For impacted RFAs that have closed, NIFA will work with entities recommended for funding, prior to award, to make any necessary changes to comply with the new provision. All impacted open RFAs have been modified to include the new provision. Future RFAs will include the new provisions as applicable.

Questions?
Questions on either the changes to matching requirements or indirect cost recovery may be directed to the program contact listed in the RFA, or the grant contact included on the Notice of Award. Additional information is available on the NIFA webpages: Match Requirement and Indirect Costs.

Grant Writing News March 2019
The latest issue of the Office of Research’s Grant Writing News is now available. Visit http://go.osu.edu/grantwritingnews, to access the current issue(login required). The provides a campus-wide subscription to this excellent newsletter. The writers are experts in proposal development and the content is helpful to those preparing a grant proposal. The recommendations are especially helpful to those who are new to grant writing or want to enhance their proposal-writing skills. The March 2019 issue includes:

- Planning Your NSF Funding Transition Strategy
- More on NSF Expectations for Convergence
- Basic Research: The Trial-and-Error Trap

The GDSU is a free service provided to all CFAES faculty and staff. Our specialists offer guidance to researchers in planning and conceptualizing externally funded research projects, finding funding opportunities, and submitting well-crafted and competitive applications. For more information, see our webpage: grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu.