NSF Grant Workshops

WORKSHOP LEADER  Robert Porter, PhD, has presented grant writing workshops at leading universities and medical schools internationally. Formerly Director of Research Development at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Porter has received the Distinguished Faculty Award by the Society of Research Administrators International. With thirty years' experience as a tenured professor, private consultant and research administrator, his proposals have won more than $8 million in awards from government agencies and private foundations. A national leader in the growing field of research development, he has presented papers and workshops on grant writing at national conferences and has published prize-winning articles in the Journal of Research Administration and Research Management Review. Dr. Porter has previously taught at Virginia Tech, Swarthmore College, Susquehanna University and Eastern Washington University. He holds graduate degrees in Speech Communications from the University of Michigan.

WRITING SUCCESSFUL GRANTS (3 hrs)

For those who are new to the grant game, this introductory workshop covers basic principles of good grant writing, starting with the phrasing of a compelling research theme to the actual construction of the proposal itself. Major differences between traditional "academic prose" and persuasive grant writing are highlighted. Common pitfalls that can lead to early rejection of good ideas are reviewed, matched with practical strategies for better writing. Special attention will be paid to the perspectives of grant reviewers and how to write in ways that will meet their expectations.

- Killer mistakes in grant writing and how to avoid them
- Two critical steps that will double your chances for success
- How to win over the grant reviewer
- Simple keys to a more powerful writing style
- Visualization: Using illustrations to "sell" your project

BUILDING THE NSF GRANT PROPOSAL (3 hrs)

Competition for National Science Foundation grant awards is especially intense, as increasing numbers of proposals have strained the agency’s budget limits. Successful proposals are written by investigators who combine sound principles of grant writing with an understanding of NSF’s overall merit review process. This workshop will focus on critical aspects of interacting with the agency as well as proven techniques for effective writing in each section of the NSF grant proposal. Samples from successful proposals will be cited to illustrate key points.

- Overview of NSF Mission, Structure and Budget
- Characteristics of Successful Proposals
- NSF Merit Review Process
- Critical Steps in Planning and Writing Your Proposal
- Formulating Precise Goals and Objectives
• Using Visual Illustrations
• Building in Quality “Broader Impacts” Components
• Postdoc Mentoring and Data Management Plans