Research Assistance Grants Available for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Undergraduate and graduate students conducting research can receive up to $500 in assistance from the Research and Grants Center. Funds for this program are given by the offices of the President, the Vice President, and the office of Graduate Studies and Research.

These grants only pay for operating expenses, such as paper, duplicating, mailing, special equipment, lab equipment, chemicals, software, and travel necessary to conduct research or to present at a conference. The maximum grant is $500 and the research must be submitted for presentation at a national conference. A faculty member must endorse the research.

Applications forms are available in the Research and Grants Center. There is no deadline for application. Please share this information with your students who are conducting research. For additional information, you may contact Pam Fillmore at ext. 5351 or at fillmorp@emporia.edu.

Preliminary deadline December 29 for FIPSE Comprehensive Program

The Comprehensive Program is the central grant competition of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The competition is designed to support innovative reform projects that hold promise as models for the resolution of important issues and problems in postsecondary education. All nonprofit institutions and organizations offering postsecondary education programs are eligible to receive FIPSE grants. Those grants may be in support of any academic discipline, program, or student support service.

FIPSE grants encourage bold thinking and innovative projects. The resources of the Comprehensive Program are devoted to new ideas and practices and to the dissemination of proven innovations to others. FIPSE will support controversial or unconventional projects, as long as they are well justified, carefully designed, and responsibly managed.

In its Agenda for Improvement, FIPSE identifies common issues and problems affecting postsecondary education and invites applicants to address these or other problems imaginatively. The Comprehensive Program welcomes proposals addressing any and all topics of postsecondary improvement and reform. FIPSE's goal is to support implementation of innovative reform ideas, to evaluate how well they work, and to share the lessons learned with the larger postsecondary education community.

As a potential applicant, one of the first things you should do is to investigate how others are responding to similar problems or opportunities. How does your idea compare to common or traditional educational practice? More importantly, how does it compare to the experiments of other leading-edge educational reformers? Your project should be designed to make a unique contribution to the professional community.

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Grants may provide one, two, or three years of funding. Since Comprehensive Program grants may support improvement projects of varying scope and complexity, there is no minimum or maximum grant award. FIPSE expects to award grants ranging from $150,000 to $600,000 or more over a typical three-year period.

Applicants submit a 5-page preliminary application in the first stage of the application process. The deadline for preliminary applications is December 29. Full proposals will be due April 20, 2001. FIPSE will conduct technical assistance workshops according to the following schedule: November 3-University of North Carolina, Charlotte; November 6-U.S. Dept. of Education, Washington, D.C.; November 13-Roosevelt University, Chicago; and, November 15-California State University, San Bernardino. If you think you may be interested in submitting a FIPSE proposal, you are strongly encouraged to attend one of these workshops. Information on the workshops, as well as additional information about the program, is available at http://www.ed.gov/officials/OPE/FIPSE.

**Obtaining copies of funded proposals**

For those just beginning to write grant proposals, or for those with more experience, obtaining copies of funded proposals for a specific grant program can be very beneficial. Many granting agencies, especially federal agencies, post abstracts of funded proposals on their web sites. From that information, you may be able to contact the principal investigator to ask if he/she would be willing to share the proposal with you. It helps to know someone that has received a grant from the agency you are interested in, but if you do not, copies of funded proposals are available from other sources.

The Research and Grants Center has several CD’s of winning grant proposals from agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants Resource Center web site also contains many links to funded proposals. Proposal abstracts are available in the GRC Proposal Library and information is provided there on how to obtain full proposals, as well as information on proper use of proposal information. The web address is: http://www.aascu.org/grc/researchtools/proposaldevelopment/fundedproposals.htm. This is a good resource and we encourage faculty to take advantage of it. If you would like assistance in obtaining copies of funded proposals, please contact Pam Fillmore.

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**December 12 deadline for Faculty Research & Creativity Committee proposals**

Proposals to the ESU Faculty Research and Creativity Committee are due in the Research and Grants Center by 5:00 p.m. on December 12. This program is intended to provide seed money for projects that have potential for external funding. Full-time faculty employed at the rank of instructor or above are eligible to apply. Funds may be requested for year-long OOE grants, summer OOE grants, student hourly wages, and graduate assistants for FY 2002.

The committee is offering proposal workshops in November to assist faculty in proposal development. The workshop sessions will cover topics such as: a) when you should apply for a ‘seed’ grant; b) allowable budget items; c) the role of graduate research assistants and teaching assistants; d) the use of qualitative research methods; and e) how to write for reviewers outside of your discipline. Participants are also welcome to introduce topics or areas of concern. Both sessions will cover the same material, so you may attend either one. You may contact Pam Fillmore for additional information. The workshop schedule is:

**Thursday, November 2, 3:30 p.m., KSTC Room**

**Wednesday, November 8, 3:30 p.m., Heritage Room**

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**Research & Grants Center Staff**

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