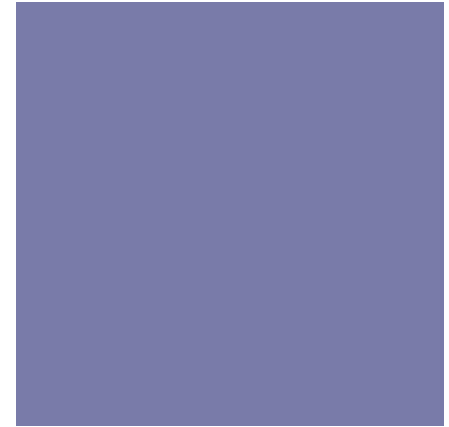




Getting Inside the Grant Process



Writing Grants For Education Research

Institute for Research on Teaching and Learning
Doctoral Student Research Support
September 2012

+ Introductions



+ What is IRTL?



Get started



Find funders



Prepare proposals

<http://education.msu.edu/irtl/>

We hope this will be a valuable reference source and accommodate the busy lives of all doctoral students. All participants will also receive a digital copy of the presentation.

+ What's the plan today?



Get started

- Target proposals



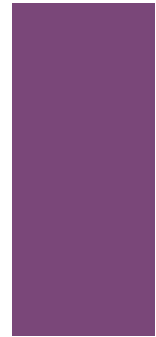
Find funders

- Search in the right places
- Know relevant agencies
- Learn grant cycles



Prepare proposals

- Plan workable timeline
- Write competitive proposal
- Develop reasonable budget

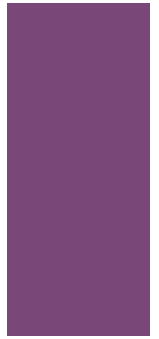
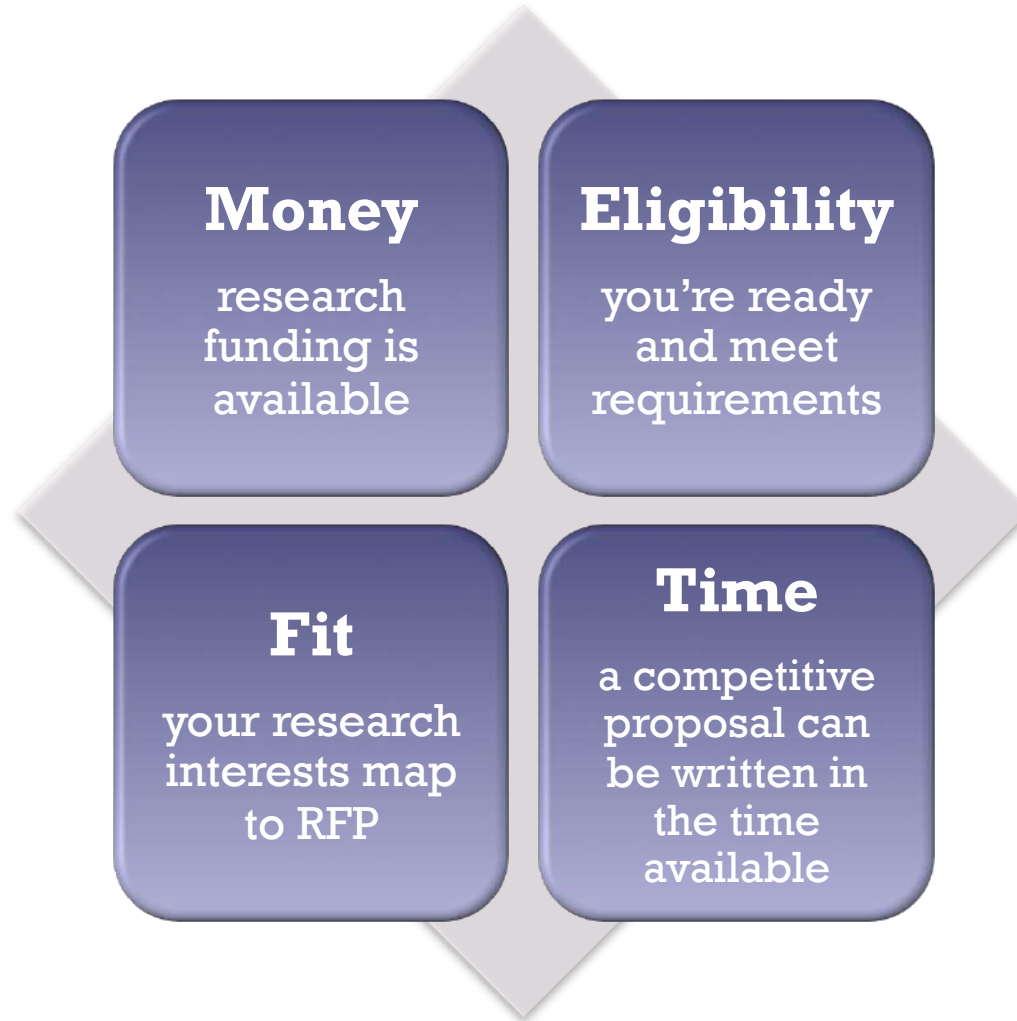




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Getting Started

+ Target the proposal at the intersection where:





Money

...there's research funding available.

Internal Funding

- The Graduate School
- International Studies and Programs
- College of Education

External Funding

- SciVal Funding
- IRTL Database
- Other Databases
- Government Agencies



IRTL's Focus



+ Eligibility ...you're ready

Early Stage funds tuition and fees, as well as a stipend for living for early doctoral students.

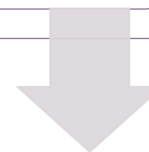
Predissertation funds research and experiences that aid research, such as travel, language study, and supplies.

Dissertation funds research and experiences that aid research, such as language study, travel, supplies, facility use, and stipend for living after the defense of dissertation proposal to completion.

Write-Up tuition and fees, stipend for living expenses to concentrate mostly or only on writing and completing the dissertation.

Postdoctoral funds opportunities towards the development of an academic career.

Think one
step ahead!

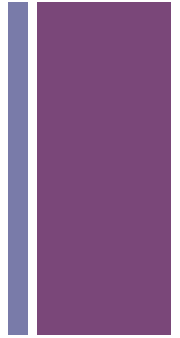




Eligibility

...and you meet the sponsor's requirements.

- ✓ **Citizenship**
- ✓ **Comprehensive exams and coursework complete?**
- ✓ **Dissertation proposal defense complete?**
- ✓ **Employed?**
- ✓ **Faculty advisor's "OK"**



+ **Fit**

...your project matches the funder's goals and priorities.

Many sponsors have websites with helpful information:

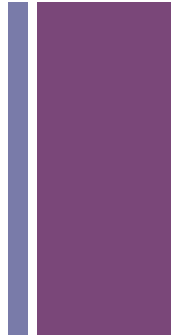
- ✓ What are the sponsor's goals and priorities? What have they funded in the past?
- ✓ What is their program focus? population? method? issue?
- ✓ Who can I contact for information for assistance, guidance, or advice?
- ✓ What are the review criteria? Do they have sample proposals?



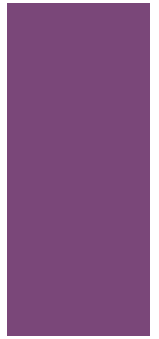
+ **Time**

... a competitive proposal can be written in the time available.

- Start early.
- Assess your research/graduate school timeline (e.g. when will you complete doctoral program requirements? collect data? conduct analysis? write up?)
- What does the grant fund? e.g., tuition, pre-dissertation/practicum, dissertation data collection, writing, etc.
- How long does it take for a decision? When will the funds become available?
- Can you reapply?



+ Target the proposal at the intersection where:

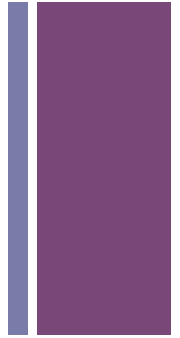




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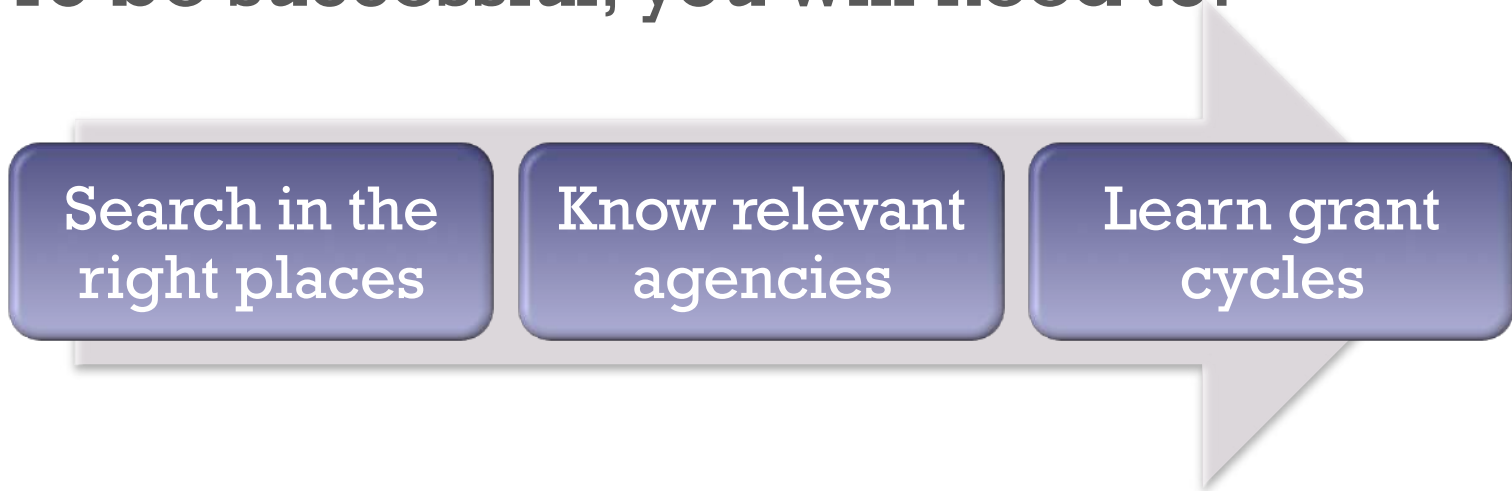
Find Funders





It's never too early or too late to start searching, but you will need to cut through the clutter and be a “smart searcher”

To be successful, you will need to:



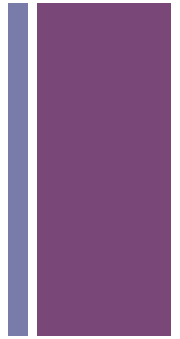
Search in the right places

Know relevant agencies

Learn grant cycles

+ A (Very) Quick Overview

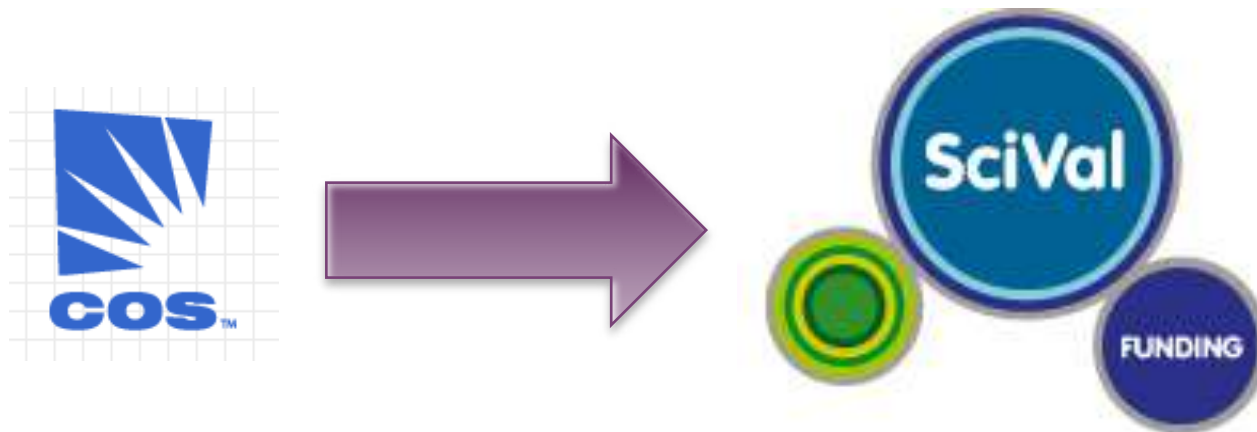
- <http://education.msu.edu/irtl/grad/search.asp>



+ 1. Search in the right places

■ Community of Science → SciVal Funding

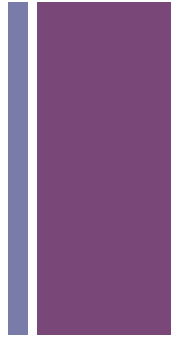
- MSU no longer subscribes to CoS.
- SciVal Funding is the replacement service, but does not have the robust educational opportunities that CoS did.



+ 1. Search in the right places

■ IRTL Selected Funding Opportunities

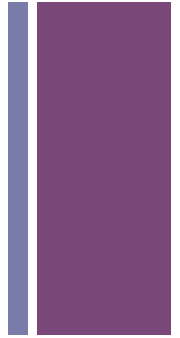
- Instantly search IRTL selected funding opportunities on the IRTL website.
- Subscribe to the IRTL monthly funding alert newsletter, if you have not already.
- To subscribe simply email Megan Drangstveit at mdrangst@msu.edu with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.





1. Search in the right places

- **Start local. Talk to your advisor and/or committee members.**
- **MSU Libraries**
 - <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/index.htm>
 - The Foundation Center – east end of the 1st floor
- **Explore professional/academic associations**





1. Search in the right places

■ Government databases & agencies

- Government databases (e.g. grants.gov)
- Government agencies (NSF, NIH, etc.)

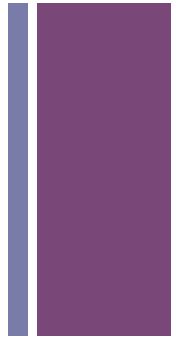
■ Other databases

- Graduate & Postdoctoral Extramural Support (GRAPES) Database:

<http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/grapes/search.asp>

- Ford Foundation:

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/Fellowships/PGA_046300



+ 2. Know relevant agencies



AAUW



(here's just some)



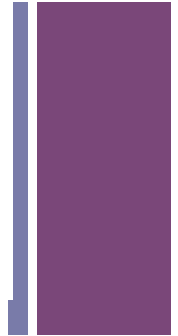
Fulbright Programs



- For students to **conduct research in other countries in foreign languages and area studies for periods of 6 to 12 months.**
- **Fulbright-Hays (DDRA).** For Ph.D. candidates only. Proposals focusing on Western Europe are not eligible. Projects deepen research knowledge and help the nation develop capability in areas of the world not generally included in U.S. curricula.
- **Fulbright IIE.** For anyone with a Bachelors and allows for individually designed study/research in a single country. A list of eligible countries is available on the Fulbright IIE website
- Must apply through MSU. Contact: Frank D'Itri in ISP
MSU Deadlines: IIE—September 23rd, DDRA—October 17th



National Academy of Education Spencer Dissertation Award



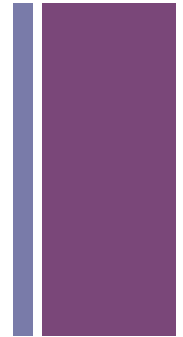
- To encourage a **new generation of scholars** from a **wide range** of disciplines and fields to undertake research for the improvement of education while bringing **fresh and constructive perspectives to history, theory, or practice.**
- **Candidates should be interested in pursuing further research in education** once the doctorate is attained.
- Not intended to finance data collection or the completion of doctoral coursework, but rather **to support the final analysis of the research topic and the writing of the dissertation.**
- **Deadline: October 5th**

+ National Science Foundation Dissertation Grant



- These grants provide funds for **items not normally available at the university level**, allowing the doctoral student to undertake data-gathering and field research that would not otherwise be possible.
- Proposals are judged on their **scientific merit**, importance of the **research question** and appropriateness of proposed **data and methodology**.
- **Deadline:** Due dates vary across programs

+ American Association of
University Women
American Fellowships



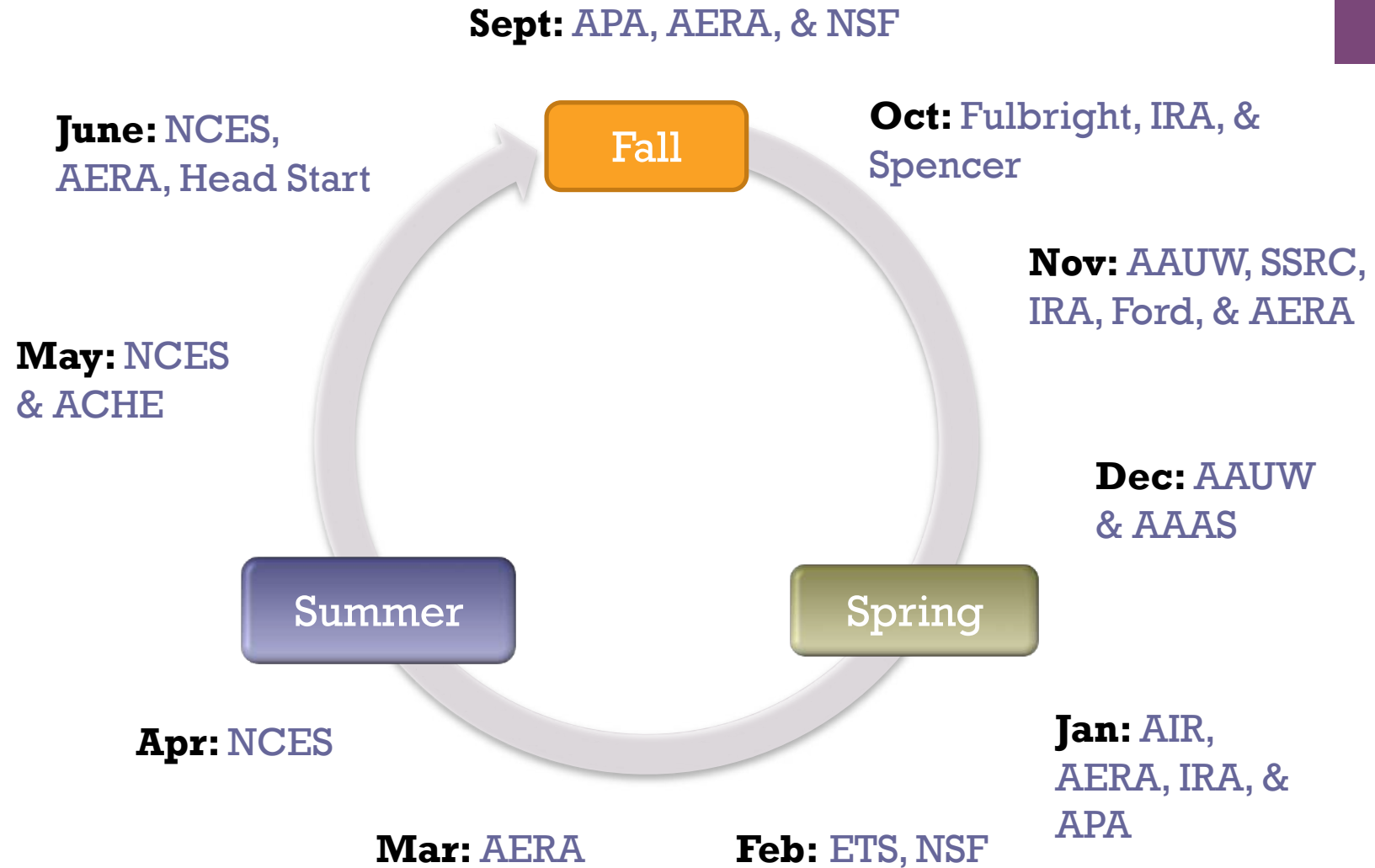
- **American Fellowships** support women doctoral candidates **completing dissertations**.
- Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence, **quality and originality of project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research**. Scholars engaged in researching gender issues are encouraged to apply.
- **Deadline: November 15th**

+ AERA Dissertation Grants



- The program's goals are: to stimulate research on U.S. education policy- and practice-related issues using NCES and NSF data sets; to improve the educational research community's firsthand knowledge of the range of data available at the two agencies and how to use them; and to increase the number of educational researchers using the data sets.
- Deadline: September 19th, ~January 6th; ~March 9th

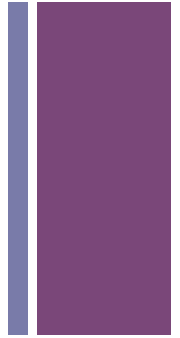
+ 3. Learn grant cycles.





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Prepare Proposals



“There is no amount of grantsmanship that will turn a bad idea into a good one, but there are many ways to disguise a good one.”

William Raub
former Deputy Director, NIH

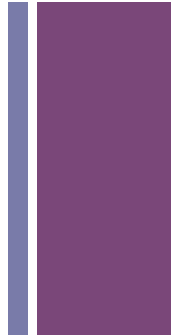
+ What makes a grant proposal successful?

There is intense competition for a limited amount of research funds. Listen for what makes a grant proposal successful as you watch this video from NIH.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AOGtr0pM6Q>

+ What makes a grant proposal successful?

- start early
- contact with funding sponsor
- research matches funding announcement
- aligned with priorities of sponsor
- written with the review process in mind
- captures reviewers' attention
- well-organized, engaging language
- clear focus
- follows the instructions precisely
- applicant seeks outside review before submitting
- compelling idea that advances the science
- not too ambitious or unrealistic
- no typos, grammatical errors
- reasonable and accurate budget
- submitted on time



+ Writing a grant proposal can be considered an art...

“A successfully funded grant proposal is a

- well-researched,
- meticulously prepared,
- compelling,
- persuasively written presentation of your work

aimed at individuals who decide whether they want to select and support your research project” (Gant, 2010).

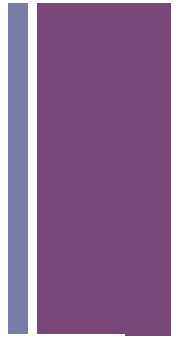
+ Some practical advice...

- **Start early.** Give yourself plenty of time to write a competitive proposal and revise, revise, revise.
- **Build your intelligence about the sponsor.** Map your research interests with sponsor's priorities and funding criteria.
- **Follow the proposal instructions.**
 - answer ALL the questions
 - stick to the format (font, margin, and page limits) and structure requirements
 - include a reasonable and accurate budget that meets the sponsor's requirements
- **Never be timid about contacting a program officer for assistance, guidance, and/or advice.**

+ Select resources

- Winning Grants Step by Step, Third Edition
(The Jossey-Bass Nonprofit Guidebook Series)
[Paperback]
Mim Carlson (Author), Tori O'Neal-McElrath
(Author), The Alliance for Nonprofit Managemer
(Author)
- MSU Libraries – Jon Harrison:
 - <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/index.htm>







Draft a compelling narrative

“Agencies will not fund an idea not embedded in a convincing pattern of narrative detail and performance specificity tightly mapped to funding agency objectives” (Cronan, 2007).

- The “hook” and the “compass paragraph”
- Importance of the abstract and reasonable budget
- Succinct, organized, engaging language that immediately captures the reviewer's attention and makes your proposal stand out.
- Avoid jargon, check spelling and punctuation.

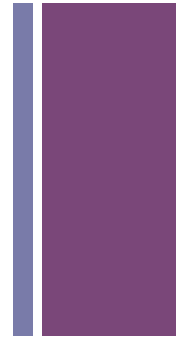


Sample Proposals & Budgets

- IRTL has samples of successful proposals from past grant applications and example budgets for different funding agencies.

AERA GRANTS PROGRAM DISSERTATION GRANT PROPOSAL COVER PAGE	
TITLE OF DISSERTATION: Making Sense of the Links: From Government Policy to Student Achievement	
APPLICANT: Marjorie R. Wallace	AGENCY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCES, DATA SET USED: <input type="checkbox"/> NSF, DATA SET USED:
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Michigan State University Institute for Research on Teaching and Learning 513 Erickson Hall East Lansing, MI 48824-1034	TELEPHONE: 517-432-2804
	EMAIL ADDRESS: wallacem@msu.edu
	AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$20,000
CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED MATERIALS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROPOSAL (4 PAGES MAXIMUM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUDGET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CURRICULUM VITAE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER FROM FACULTY ADVISOR	DATES OF PROJECT: 4/1/02-3/31/04
Is this proposal being submitted to another funding agency or institution? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If YES, please specify: AERA/OERI, Spencer	For our records, please complete the following (OPTIONAL): What is your race/ethnicity? (Choose one or more) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native Are you an American citizen? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, native born or naturalized citizen

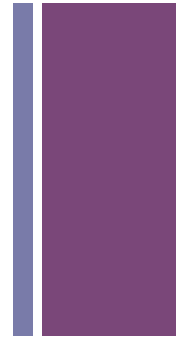
+ Sample



Education for All? – Girls with Disabilities in Primary Schools in Malawi

At the age of five I plummeted fourteen feet onto a solid cement floor on my family's farm. Due to the severity of my skull fracture and other head injuries, the doctors claimed that I would never walk or talk again – even if I did manage to survive. That was the day that began my passionate interest in disability education. Since that time I have diligently worked as a classroom teacher/ teacher trainer and advocate for those with special needs in Tunisia, China, and various urban schools in the United States.

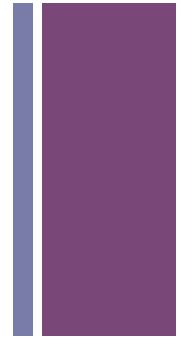
+ Sample



Educational Segregation in the United States

Even as racial and class segregation has gradually declined over the last half century, the United States has become increasingly segregated by educational attainment. In 1940, less than 5% of the adult U.S. population had a bachelor's degree or higher, but these college graduates were scattered relatively evenly across the American landscape. Today, more than 25% of American adults have completed a college education, but college graduates are highly concentrated. More than half of America's college graduates live in 10% of its counties, while vast stretches of the United States have small and declining populations of college graduates. This dissertation will use data from the decennial U.S. Census to document the rise of educational segregation at the county and the census tract level.

+ Sample



Where to Teach? Developing a More Comprehensive Framework to Understand Teachers' Career Decisions

Darlene, a teacher in an urban charter school, has impressive teaching qualifications, yet she didn't see herself as competitive in the teacher labor market. Indeed, she discouraged herself from applying to high paying suburban districts she considered desirable because she thought they would not hire her. She said, "they're not going to hire me . . . I'm African-American and I know in [District] our population is not very high over there."

Darlene's story illustrates how *teachers'* social and cultural background influences where they choose to teach. Yet, existing research on teachers' career decisions from economics and organizational sociology emphasizes *school* characteristics that influence these decisions (such as school location, class size, and new teacher induction).



Take Action!



Take a few simple steps to invest in your funding future



Simple Things You Can Do To Invest in Your Funding Future



Get Started

- Attend the "Getting Inside The Grant Process" workshop



Find Funders

- Bookmark the IRTL website at <http://www.msu.edu/~irtl/grad> on your browser.



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How can IRTL help?

+ How can IRTL help you?



Get started



Find funders.

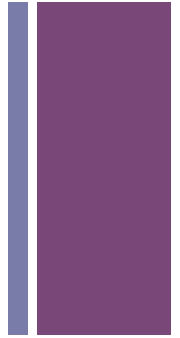


Prepare proposals.

- Workshops and other activities
- Sessions for groups and classes
- One-on-one consultation
- Budgeting, text review



Contact Us



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Q & A



Thank You!