

CELS Research Committee Meeting January 29th 2020 - Meeting Notes and Discussion

In attendance: Thomas Boving, Niall Howlett (Chair), Jason Kolbe, Elizabeth Mendenhall, Carlos Prada Montoya, Tom Sproul, Mark Stolt, Carol Thornber (ex officio)

Absent: None

Professor Marta Gomez-Chiarri joined the committee to discuss her experience with the NSF-NRT graduate training program application process.

NSF link: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19522/nsf19522.htm>

- Extremely competitive program - 262 applications submitted - multiple rounds of review - very few selected for funding - URI application made it to the third round
- From program synopsis: 'The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development and implementation of **bold**, new, and potentially **transformative** models for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduate education training. The NRT program seeks proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed **to pursue a range of STEM careers**.
- Above: this is a common theme between NIH and NSF: the concept that we need to create innovative and transformative graduate training programs designed to prepare students for a wide range of STEM careers
- The overall concept needs to be creative and unique - regarding uniqueness, important to discuss overall theme/idea with the appropriate agency contact very early in the process
- Application had a science education (Bryan Dewsbury/Biological Sciences) and big data/data sciences theme (Joan Peckham/Computer Science/Statistics)
- Multiple faculty/broad range of expertise: Social sciences, STEM education, computational/data analysis skill sets/natural resources & environmental sciences
 - Tracey Dalton (MAF)
 - Emi Uchida (ENRE)
 - Tatiana Rynearson (GSO)
 - Gavino Puggioni (Computer Science/Statistics)
 - Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS) - lead PI
 - Chris Lane (BIO)
 - Bethany Jenkins (CMB)
- Important to have multiple senior investigators but to have one overall lead, in this case Marta
- Institutional support a major aspect of these proposals; and becoming increasingly important for larger graduate training grant or program grant applications, e.g. new NIH COBRE award guidelines

- Assessment and evaluation is another critical aspect - need to determine whether to include an internal or external assessment individual or team, e.g. RI-INBRE uses the Center for Program Design and Evaluation at Dartmouth
- Inclusion of internship program another important feature - potential to work with the Center for Career and Experiential Learning to develop plan for this