

Securing Funding & Collaborating Workshops

Spring 2005

Securing Funding Workshop

On May 12, 2005, ADVANCE and the URI Research Office jointly sponsored a 2.5 hour workshop on Securing Funding. Topics included how to find the right sponsor, how to present an idea, how to write a proposal, and how it will be evaluated. Panelists included Peter August, Professor of Landscape Ecology and the Director of the URI Coastal Institute, Nancy Fey-Yensan, Associate Professor of Nutrition & Food Sciences, and Gail Scowcroft, Manager, Marine & Environmental Education. There were 16 attendees, including 4 assistant professors, 3 staff, 4 graduate students, 1 undergraduate, and 2 others. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, attendees rated the workshop 4.29. Other evaluations included:

- Was the workshop a helpful match to your research and grant funding needs? 4.21
- Was the material relevant to you and your work and will it be useful? 4.14
- How would you rate the panelists in their knowledge, preparedness and presentation? 4.71

Positive representative comments included:

- "As I am in the beginning stages of learning the grant writing process, there were great tips and information."
- "How to seek help when my funding proposal is rejected."
- "I am a newcomer to the whole grant writing game and this was very helpful as a primer for me."
- "Good/excellent tips on what to do/not to do."
- "I intend to more regularly check the granting agency websites and work on developing relationships here in RI."
- Definitely would recommend. I think the 3 co-leaders of the workshop provided a diverse yet complementary overview of the topic."
- "Good speaker diversity. Speakers were very enthusiastic and presentations were well planned and informative."
- "Motivational!"

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Much of the information was advice I'd heard before. More emphasis on how to get the smaller grants and how to find others to collaborate with would be useful to those of us starting out."
- "Give some special workshop for graduate students."
- "Might have been a bit better if the 3 panelists had more of a discussion amongst themselves bouncing ideas around."
- "Provide outlines from each presentation. Make the slides available online."
- "More examples of outreach projects."

Collaborative Proposals Workshop

On May 19, 2005 a 2.5 hour workshop was held to help attendees learn how to initiate, fund and operate a collaborative research endeavor. Panelists included Phil Clark, Professor of Gerontology, Mark Wood, Associate Professor of Psychology, and David Rowley, Assistant Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. All have worked extensively on externally funded, multidisciplinary projects.