Strategies to Support and Expand External Funding for Social Science Research

CAHSSA Leadership Meeting
March 2, 2023

Barbara Endemaño Walker, Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the Executive Vice Chancellor, University of California, Santa Barbara

Holly Hapke, Ph.D.
Director of Research Development, University of California, Irvine

Billy Wagner, Ph.D.
Professor of Health Sciences & Sociology, California State University, Channel Islands
& Executive Director, Social Science Research & Instructional Council of the CSU

Leslie Ponciano, Ph.D.
Director, Research Opportunities, California State University, Chancellor's Office

Jemima Moses
Graduate Student, Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Cal State University, Channel Islands
California Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Social Science Advancement (CAHSSA) Overview

Collaboration between UCSB, UCI, CSU CI, and CSU CO to build and broaden grant-seeking in the social sciences within the UC and CSU systems (NSF Build & Broaden grant award)

- Webinars (recorded and available on CAHSSA website)
- Mentored Writing Groups for Individual Proposals (ongoing)
- Mentored Writing Retreat for Collaborative Proposals (April 2023)
- Research
  - UC and CSU social science faculty survey (completed)
  - Analysis of formal review feedback on social sciences NSF proposals (in preparation)
- Social Science Leadership Seminar Series
  - November 10, 2022
  - March 2, 2023
  - TBD
Agenda

• Erika Wright, Cal Poly Humboldt
  • Best Practices for Engaging Faculty in the Social Sciences

• Bill Maurer, UC Irvine
  • Advancing Social Science Research: Strategies to Expand External Funding

• Moderated Questions & Discussion
Best Practices for Engaging Faculty in the Social Sciences

Erika Wright, Research Development Lead
Challenges

Retention, Tenure and Promotion Process

High teaching, advising & emotional support loads

Feeling that grants are additional work that they don’t get paid for

Intimidation & lack of experience

Belief that there are no grants for them

If a grant is not necessary to do their research – why bother?

Match funding poses a significant challenge

Junior faculty often mention being actively discouraged against research
Campus Wide Strategies

Outreach & education
Incentives
Pivot: curated lists & support coordinators
Supportive Administration
Award announcements
PI Celebration & Million Dollar Club
Created a match fund
Support & Visibility
Arts & Social Science Specific Strategies

- Supportive Dean
- Grant writing workshops
- Publicize the work that the CSU does
- Increased Internal grant opportunities
- Making strategic connections with other faculty
- Interdisciplinary work & Curriculum Development
Advancing Social Science Research: Strategies to Expand External Funding

CAHSSA Academic Research Leaders Event
March 2, 2023
Context

- Challenge: Low level of grant activity
  - Low incentive; underdeveloped skill in proposal writing

- Goals:
  - Increase grant activity across school (quantity and quality)
  - Enhance capacity to go after large, collaborative opportunities
  - Effect long-term cultural change

- Action: Hired a Research Development Director at school level in Sept 2018
Outreach
* Dept visits
* Curated funding opps
* Targeted communication
* New Faculty Orientation
* One-on-one Research Coaching

Concierge Support
* Finding funding
* Project conceptualization
* Proposal development, submission and re-vision
* Research program planning

Convenings
* Facilitated discussions around themes and/or funding RFPs

Training
* Workshops
* Grant Proposal Writing Institute
Office of Faculty Development and Diversity

- Research/teaching coaching
- Faculty Development Institute (required of new faculty, open to all)
- Writing in Color and Changemakers series
- (equity.socsci.uci.edu)
Grant Proposal Writing Institute

- 6 2-hour session program February-June – 2020 pilot (10 participants); 2022 (15 participants, 2 sections)
- Combination of instruction and instructor/peer workshopping of draft proposals
- Incentives:
  - Stipend/research funds ($500-1000) to a) complete program, and b) to submit a proposal within one year;
  - Seed funds to support pilot research
- Most impactful for increasing grant activity at scale and for effecting cultural change
Outcomes

- Most Impactful Programs: Concierge (Individualized) Support and Proposal Writing Institute
- 8/10 participants in 2020 cohort submitted 28 proposals in 2 years after Institute, 9 (32%) of these were funded for >$650K
- 9/15 2022 participants have submitted proposals to date
- Overall, 2018-present, 35% increase in number of faculty submitting proposals over 2013-2018
- In 2022 – First time teams received internal OR seed funds (2 of 4 proposals funded)
- Several large collaborative proposals submitted or are in progress
Takeaways

• Value of investing resources in Research Development

• Value of having an RD person in communication/collaboration with other RDs across the campus – larger, collaborative grants, scoping out more opportunities (Mercury SSRC, e.g.)

• Make full use your Research Development person!
Questions & Discussion

Please type your questions/discussion topics into the chat!

Presenters:
Erika Wright, Cal Poly Humboldt
Bill Maurer, UC Irvine

CAHSSA team:
Leslie Ponciano, CSU Chancellor’s Office
Holly Hapke, UC Irvine
Barbara Walker, UC Santa Barbara
Billy Wagner, CSU Channel Islands & SSRIC