Imagine it: after weeks – maybe even months – of waiting, you finally see an email in your inbox from that funding agency you applied to. You spent weeks on that proposal – getting the approvals you needed, developing your program design – even filling out that Intent to Submit a Grant Proposal form for College Advancement. You start reading and those dreaded words are right there on your screen: “We regret to inform you that your proposal was not selected for funding.”

“Regret?” Yeah right.

Those of you who have experienced the sting of rejection from a funding agency are in good company. In 2006, only 8% of first time proposal submissions were funded by the National Institutes of Health. But resubmission works! At the same agency the same year, 28% of those submitting proposals for a second time were funded. Rejections are a teaching moment for faculty seeking support for their research and for staff seeking support for their programs. The majority of federal, state, and city agencies evaluate proposals on an established and published set of criteria. Larger private foundations take this approach as well. Federal agencies such as the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health send all applicants reviews of their applications – successful or unsuccessful – which are important to evaluating the potential for the agency funding a subsequent re-submission.

Proposals get rejected for a variety of reasons – administrative errors, inappropriate choice of PI, project design, budget – even politics. A careful reading of the reviews provided will give you guidance on why your proposal was rejected. Once you have read your reviews, you need to evaluate whether to re-submit this proposal to the same agency, look for another source of support that may be more in line with your goals, or hold off on looking for funding at this time. Identify common threads in your reviews and evaluate if they are easily addressed. Discuss the reviews with a colleague you trust who is an expert in your area. Contact the program officer of the funding stream you applied for to see if they can provide insight into how you should address shortcomings. Assess the relevance and importance of your project – to your field if it is a research proposal, and to students if it is a program proposal.

Even if the funder you applied to does not provide formal reviews, contact a program officer or staff member to see if they can provide informal feedback on your proposal. These conversations can be very helpful to relationship-building. In the world of grantmaking, “no” does not always mean “never.” Grant success is a lifelong process. Anyone who writes grant proposals has received that rejection letter. The key is to take that rejection and learn from it.

If you are interested in re-submitting a rejected proposal, contact the Office for College Advancement to discuss strategies for addressing proposal weaknesses and increasing your chance of successful re-submission.

This article is based on a presentation by Marjorie Piechowski, Director of Research Support and Michelle Schoenecker, Senior Technical Grant Writer, both from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee College of Engineering and Applied Science, at the Society of Research Administrators 2010 Annual Meeting.

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Kirstin Swanson, Director of Development (kirstin.swanson@kbcc.cuny.edu or 5673) to discuss your proposed project.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY/WAITT GRANTS PROGRAM
The NGS/Waitt grants are designed to fund “proof of concept” research for applicants at an earlier stage in their careers. Special emphasis is placed on expedited grant processing and turnaround.
Decision: Within 8 weeks of application submission
Awarded: Rolling basis
Range: From $5,000 to $15,000 each

For more information and how to apply:
Visit [http://www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) for complete program guidelines.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONSERVATION TRUST**
The trust will fund projects that contribute significantly to the preservation and sustainable use of the Earth’s biological, cultural, and historical resources.

For more information see the trust’s website for complete funding guidelines & application information ([http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/grants-programs/conservation-trust.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/grants-programs/conservation-trust.html)).

**OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (ONR YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM (YIP))**
ONR’s Young Investigator Program (YIP) seeks to identify and support academic scientists & engineers who are in their first or second full-time, tenure-track or tenure-track equivalent academic appointment and for FY 2011, have begun their first appointment on or after 01 November 2005 and who show exceptional promise for doing creative research. YIP seeks to attract outstanding faculty members of Institutions of Higher Education to the Department of the Navy’s research program, to support their research, and to encourage their teaching & research careers.

Current closing date for applications is **December 22, 2010**.


**AMAGEN FOUNDATION, INC.**
The foundation seeks to advance science education, improve quality of care & access for patients, and support resources that create sound communities where Amgen staff members live and work. Grants should reflect Amgen’s dedication to impacting lives in inspiring and innovative ways. Organizations that are in alignment with the foundation’s guidelines and programmatic vision are given careful consideration.

For more information on the Foundation’s guidelines, please visit their website: [http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/apply_for_grant.html](http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/apply_for_grant.html)

**Deadline** is **continuous** but organizations must first submit an online letter of inquiry.

**NIMH RESEARCH EDUCATION GRANTS**
NIMH encourages applications from institutions/organizations that propose creative and innovative research educational programs to facilitate the development of a cadre of investigators in appropriate scientific areas to fulfill the objectives of the NIMH Strategic Plan.

NIMH is particularly interested in innovative R25 applications that propose to develop short courses or workshops, research mentoring networks, activities during medical school and/or residency that encourage the development of research-oriented physician-scientists, or that combine didactic instruction with ongoing mentoring & research opportunities.

Deadline: **October 19, 2010**


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**RECENT AWARDS**

**Michael Rodriguez – Men’s Resource Center**
Brooklyn Community Foundation
$10,000
*Under-Represented Male Student Initiative*

**Elizabeth Basile – Office of College Advancement**
National Grid
$30,000
*Environmental Sustainability Partnership*

**Khym Foundation**
$14,000
*Student Scholarships*

**Marie Mandara – Office of Student Development**
New York City Human Resources Administration
$333,517
*College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment*

**Denise Ryan – Department of Nursing**
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
$72,546
*Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students*

**Stuart A. Suss - Provost**
Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust
$284,712
*Accelerated Study in Associate Programs*
Michael Geller – Office of Student Development
New York City Council
$274,403.34
The Lighthouse

David Gomez – Office of the Dean of Instructional Services
New York State Education Department
$412,872
Liberty Partnerships Program

Josephine Murphy – Library & Media Services
New York State Education Department
$13,027.97
Library Collections Aid

Lawrence Pero – Office of the Dean of Instructional Services
New York State Education Department
$936,018
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education

Gary Sarinsky – Department of Biological Sciences
New York State Education Department
$95,223
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program

Georgia Lind – Department of Biological Sciences
New York State Education Department
$51,110
Science and Technology Entry Program

Saul W. Katz – Office of the Dean of Continuing Education
Office of the Mayor
$49,250
Adult Literacy

Frank Milano – Office of the Dean of Continuing Education
Robin Hood Foundation
$6,000
At Home In College

The Foundation Center has great resources for first-time and experienced grant writers. Check out www.foundationcenter.org for information on upcoming workshops and webinars.