Grant Proposal Guide, January 2013

New Merit Review Criteria: Requirements for Proposals

- Project Summary will contain the following required separate statements:
  - Overview of the Project
  - Statement on Intellectual Merit
  - Statement on Broader Impacts
- Project Description must contain a separate section with a discussion of the Broader Impacts
- Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the Broader Impacts criterion that are not intrinsic to the research

How Broader Impacts Will Be Reviewed

The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements should be considered in the review for Broader Impacts:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who can I partner with for my broader impacts activity and how do I get started?
A. The SP@ISU website contains a comprehensive list of campus programs that partner with faculty and information on each (www.spisu.iastate.edu, click Programs on the left). In addition, faculty may meet with SP@ISU staff to discuss their broader impacts plans or potential partnerships.

Q. How does SP@ISU coordinate with the needs of colleges and departments?
A. Associate deans and faculty from the STEM colleges are represented on the Advisory Council, and SP@ISU formally involves faculty leaders and equity advisors from these colleges. A listing of these members can be found at www.spisu.iastate.edu (click About on the left, then Who We Are).

Q. What other initiatives partner with SP@ISU?
A. SP@ISU shares goals, ideas, and resources with campuswide and statewide programs such as Iowa EPSCoR and IINSPIRE-LSAMP. All of these programs have components that emphasize broader impacts.

Q. As a faculty member, how am I rewarded for this work?
A. A tangible benefit is through NSF funding. The revised proposal review criteria have new expectations for broader impacts. SP@ISU is working to promote a culture that recognizes the contributions of faculty undertaking broader impacts activities.

SP@ISU provides and coordinates opportunities and resources to assist faculty as they develop broader impacts plans and integrate broader impacts activities into their research programs. Postdoctoral research associates and advanced graduate students also participate as they prepare their professional credentials for the professoriate. SP@ISU fosters collaboration and integration across projects and programs, and it is advancing the conversation on faculty rewards and recognition for broader impacts work. The results of these efforts will include more competitive NSF proposals, a new generation of faculty who integrate broader impacts work with their research, and increased participation of those traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—all outcomes that will strengthen the professoriate.

SP@ISU has delivered programs that strengthen and diversify the professoriate and integrate broader impacts efforts into the research enterprise. It has facilitated networking among campus programs that share the mission of enhancing the STEM workforce. Through SP@ISU there is continued university-wide engagement to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and women in faculty, postdoctoral scholar, and graduate student ranks.

—Sharron Quisenberry, Principal Investigator, SP@ISU

Resources for Researchers

- **Workshops**—Opportunities to learn more about broader impacts and resources on campus that have expertise in this area.
- **Catalog of Programs**—A comprehensive listing of programs on campus that work in areas of broader impacts and information on how faculty can effectively partner with them.
- **Resources**—Informational links and recent literature that supports aspects of broader impacts.
- **Consulting**—Assistance in exploring areas of broader impacts of interest to faculty and in identifying opportunities; for assistance, contact the SP@ISU office.

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Strengthening the Professoriate

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