Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Campus Center, Room H-313C, Tele. Ext. 3215

COVID-19

During these days of uncertainty, the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP) remains open for business, albeit via electronic means only. For assistance, contact Tom Murphy at murphyt@oldwestbury.edu or by phone at 516-876-3215. Messages left at our regular office number are retrieved daily.

Please keep in mind our office website too. To access, just add /research to the end of our College's URL, that is: www.oldwestbury.edu/**research**.

SUNY and the Research Foundation have established a special website listing availability of grant funds associated with the pandemic. A link is provided on the ORSP website. See red arrow at right. For direct access: https://www.rfsuny.org/about-us/covid-19/covid-19-funding/.

www.oldwestbury.edu/research

NSF "RAPID" Funding: Fighting and Learning from the Pandemic

One grant program of particular note to researchers from Old Westbury is the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism of the National Science Foundation. Information about the RAPID program can be found in Chapter II.E of the agency's Proposals and Award Policies and Prcedoures Guide (PAPPG). RAPID is a type of proposal used when there is a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to, data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. I would like to share with our social and behavioral scientists that the first COVID-19 award issued through the RAPID that I became aware of was in support of a project titled "RAPID: Media Exposure, Objective Knowledge, Risk Perceptions, and Risk Management Preferences of Americans Regarding the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak." Since that time in mid-March, there have been more than 70 additional "RAPID" "COVID" awards issued. See: https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.

PI(s) must contact the NSF Program Officer(s) whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topic before submitting a RAPID proposal. This will facilitate determining whether the proposed work is appropriate for RAPID funding. The Project Description is expected to be brief -- no more than five pages. It must include clear statements as to why the proposed research is of an urgent nature and why RAPID is the most appropriate type of proposal for supporting the proposed work. Funding of up to $200,000 will be provided over a project period of up to two years.

For assistance (e.g., FastLane registration and use, or identifying an appropriate NSF program officer), contact Tom Murphy at murphyt@oldwestbury.edu or by phone at 516-876-3215.

The SPIN Funding Opportunities Database and COVID-19

SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network) is the funding opportunities database available to Old Westbury researchers from the ORSP homepage. (See red arrow on page one of this newsletter). InfoEd Global, the company that publishes SPIN, recently advised us that it has focused on identifying new COVID-19-related opportunities and added new keywords in its Keyword Thesaurus, *Coronavirus/COVID-19* and *COVID-19 Non-Research Resources.* "We have added quick reports that can be accessed under the Search menu (*COVID-19/Coronavirus Funding Opportunities* and *COVID-19/Coronavirus All Resources).* At the time of this writing, we are tracking over 250 COVID-19-related items in SPIN."
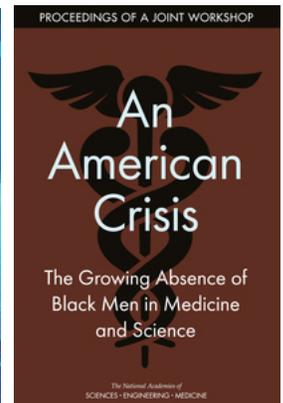

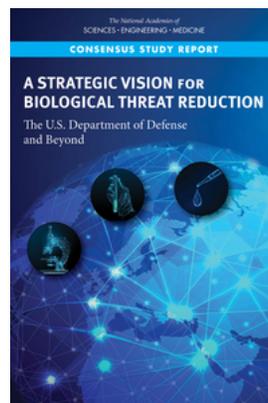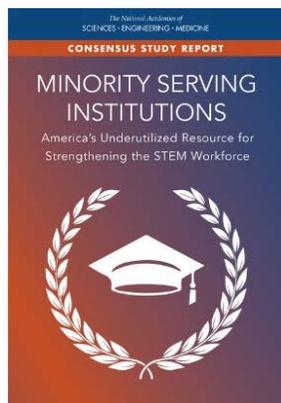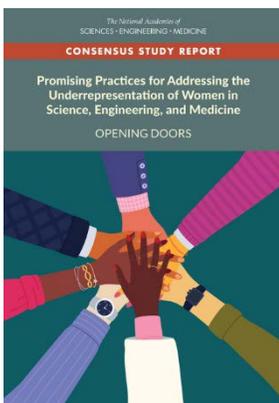## *A Suggestion for All Federal Grant Seekers*

If we can depart from COVID-19 discussions for a moment, we would like to remind you that other grant programs go on. Will Federal grant program budgets be reduced in the next fiscal year? Quite likely. But, does that mean we should sit idle and not submit proposals? A lot of people tend to think that way, which is why during past economic hard times the number of grant applications received by federal agencies has dropped quite significantly – which is to say, *don't toss in the towel.* This country has accomplished so much through the efforts of scholars in academe and that fact is understood in discussions of our nation's economic engine. Here, then, is a suggestion to all prospective Federal grant-seekers at Old Westbury.

The National Academies of SCIENCES ENGINEERING MEDICINE

A resource that I regularly point to - particularly important to faculty seeking grant support from federal government sources – is the publications website for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications.

When seeking grant support, applicants are well-advised to communicate to proposal reviewers their familiarity with current thinking and awareness of the most recently published data. Applicants for federal funding are instructed to advise (primarily for the benefits of Congress – the government's fiscal appropriators) *why is the proposed work important – beneficial to the American public?* NASEM publications provide the current thinking of scholars who are judged to be our nation's true experts. Many NASEM publications provide the latest data - evidence that grant-seekers should cite - in support of the hypotheses and work plan offered in their grant proposal. Grant proposals can only be enhanced when the author shares with proposal reviewers that "According to data cited in a 2020 report from the National Academies…" or "as offered in a 2019 Report to Congress, the National Academies suggests…"

NASEM reports can range in length from a single page to many hundreds of pages. Approximately 200 reports are generated annually providing information on a range of research and education topics – including topics in the social and behavioral sciences -- and are available for purchase or as a free download from the previously cited website. Among recent reports of possible interest: