

Try, Try, Try, and Try Again: Navigating STEM Education Grants with NSF

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Roadmap

- ❖ My Experience
- ❖ Pivoting & Program Officers
- ❖ Cycles of Improvement
- ❖ Serving on Review Panels



My Experience

❖ NSF CAREER Grant

- 2019: Declined 🙄
- 2020: Declined 🙄
- 2021: Declined 🙄

❖ NSF ECR: Core

- 2022: Awarded 🐝

Title of Project	Status	Status Date	Received Date
Interventions to Improve Student Mathematics	Awarded	05/10/2023	10/03/2022
Sociosocial Interventions for Secondary Student	Declined	06/14/2022	07/16/2021
Sociosocial Interventions for Secondary Student	Declined	12/03/2020	07/29/2020
Sociosocial Interventions for Secondary Student	Declined	09/18/2020	07/16/2019

Pivoting and Program Officers

❖ Pivoting: Understanding the Program Funding Landscape

- CAREER vs. ECR: Core
- DRL vs. DUE



❖ Program Officers: Good, Bad, and Ugly

- Good: *Guidance on what and where to focus on* 😊
- Bad: *Sometimes their direction did not pan out* 🤔
- Ugly: *Sometimes extremely unresponsive and misleading...* 😬

Cycles of Improvement



❖ NSF CAREER Grant

– 2019: Declined

- Pre-feedback: Lucy Deckard (Grant Writer)
- Post-feedback: Terri Pigott (Georgia State University) & PO

– 2020: Declined

- Post-feedback: PO

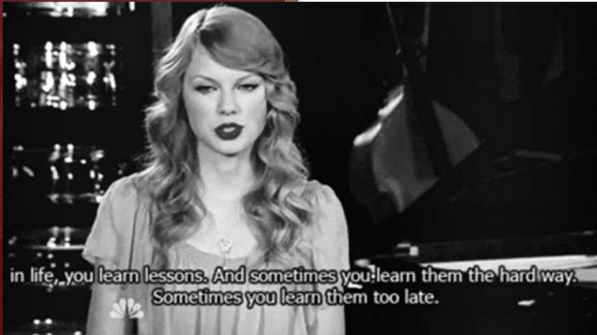
– 2021: Declined

- Post-feedback: Larry Price, PO, & Hanover

❖ NSF ECR: Core

– 2022: Awarded

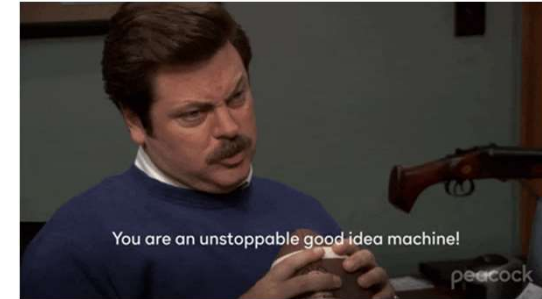
- Pre-feedback: Taylor Acee (PI, Texas State) & Hanover
- Questions: PO



Lessons Learned from Review Panels

- ❖ Panels of roughly 5-7 reviewers; each panel reviews 7-10 proposals with 4 reviewers per proposal
- ❖ Main criteria:
 - *Intellectual Merit
 - *Broader Impacts
 - Clear and Detailed Research Plan
 - Theoretical Framing
- ❖ Reviewer Rating: Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent
- ❖ Panel Rating: Not Competitive, Competitive, Very Competitive

Strategies



- ❖ Explore the huge diversity of opportunities and seek guidance from POs
- ❖ Implement feedback judiciously considering project scope
- ❖ Hone your Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
- ❖ Don't give up!

Questions?

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