



NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

December 8, 2009

DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES
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RE: NSF Implementation of the America Competes Act Requirements

To: NIU Research Community

As you may know, effective January 4, 2010, a new requirement will be in place for all applications for external funding submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF). When submitting an application, NIU and the PI will need to certify that all undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-docs supported by the grant will successfully complete an institutional program of education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). RCR education encompasses the following core areas:

- Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
- Mentor/trainee relationships
- Publication practices and responsible authorship
- Peer review
- Collaborative science
- Human subjects (if applicable)
- Research involving animals (if applicable)
- Research misconduct
- Conflict of interest and commitment
- Fiscal/administrative responsibility
- Environmental health and safety (if applicable)

As part of this requirement, the institution is responsible for verifying that all appropriate individuals receive RCR training. This training requirement can be satisfied through completion of the appropriate on-line RCR program hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) (of which NIU is an affiliate), educational modules available through NIU's Faculty Development & Instructional Design Center, and discipline specific mentoring by the PI and lead investigators during the course of the grant.

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC), in conjunction with the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), will oversee this requirement. The ORC is developing additional information to assist PIs in satisfying this new NSF requirement. Further, NIU's Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee will be working to identify current practices already in place for this type of training.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sandy Arntz in the Office of Research Compliance if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

James Erman
Interim Vice President for Research