

Several CAHS faculty, including Denis Brunt, Leslie Allison, Xiaoming Zeng and myself attended a presentation today by Allen Smart, Senior Program Officer for the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust (KBR). He represents the eastern region of the state for KBR. This email is to pass along to you recent changes in the KBR application procedure and policies:

1. In the past, there was an internal competition from which three ECU proposals were selected for submission to KBR. Proposals will no longer be reviewed that way, and there will be no internal ECU committee. Rather, those investigators interested in submitting a KBR proposal should first complete a one-page **“Project Concept Form”**. These forms are available from Sharon Hamilton, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at ECU ([hamiltons@ecu.edu](mailto:hamiltons@ecu.edu)). The form was developed by Alan and Sharon to facilitate the pre-application process. The completed forms are to be submitted to Sharon Hamilton (with a copy to my office!), and she will then submit them to Alan Smart at KBR. He will review each form and then contact you directly to provide frank feedback and discuss the project. This kind of “advance consultation with KBR staff” is a vital part of their application process. Any proposal submitted to the organization without such advance consultation has very little chance of funding. This process should occur weeks to months before the grant deadline – not days.
2. Although the pre-application procedure has changed, the KBR Foundation will still fund no more than 3 or 4 proposals coming primarily from ECU. However, collaborative projects submitted through community organizations that involve contributions from ECU faculty are not counted against the 3 or 4 grant limit. Any non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization can be the primary applicant. Well-crafted partnerships of this type could open new funding opportunities for us.
3. KBR is keen on efforts that take place outside of Pitt County and Greenville, since our county has more resources than some of its neighbors. They would like us to focus on Northeastern NC—places such as Hyde County. Alan used an example of a partnership between ECU and Elizabeth City State University to illustrate this point. Partnerships with rural community colleges were also mentioned. Other underserved counties in the southeastern and south-central region are possibilities as well.
4. Alan made mention of Ray Rogers, our regional representative on the 12-member board that decides which grants get funded. Mr. Rogers is a 1964 alum of ECU – one of the first African American graduates. He has a particular passion for the types of northeastern NC initiatives described above.
5. The three current priority focus areas for KBR funding are: (i) access to primary care; (2) diabetes care and management, and (3) mental health services. Profs. Toriello and Sliigar of our Dept. of Rehabilitation Studies were successful this year in getting KBR funding for work that falls in the third category. A typical KBR grant is approx \$100K or less per year for three years, although other types of budgets can be crafted.
6. KBR does not fund projects that are research oriented, that involve data collection, studies of patient and control groups, etc. Rather, they strongly prefer projects where “ECU representatives are driving community services”. They are looking for serious, not just token, engagement with local people and community groups and strong regional partnerships. “Community immersion is what the KBR funds.”
7. There is a new KBR grant mechanism that is not advertised and not part of the formal application process. This mechanism provides \$10K planning grants for content and issue development. Think of it like a pilot grant to catalyze a concept to a point where it is ready for a full application. These planning grants are not subject to the usual deadlines and review procedures and are awarded on a rolling basis. Presumably, Alan will recommend certain projects for planning grants after the initial Project Concept Forms are considered and discussed.
8. The deadlines for submitting full applications to KBR are: March 1, 2008 and September 1, 2008. Advance consultation should occur weeks before those deadlines.
9. Alan admitted that the KBR website is “not good” and will be upgraded sometime in the spring. For now, Alan’s PowerPoint file from today’s presentation provides the information you should need. I will try to get the file and post it on our CAHS website.

As with any grant, please talk with me at the earliest stages of considering such a proposal. In the case of KBR, we should talk before you submit a “Project Concept Form” so my office is aware of your plans and so you can get the maximum benefit from our assistance.

Dave Cistola  
Associate Dean for Research, CAHS  
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