



NCURA  
66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
MEETING

REDISCOVER  
Y-OUR JOURNEY

AUGUST 4 - 7, 2024  
WASHINGTON, DC

# Leveling the Grant Proposal Playing Field: Increasing Research Capacity for Social Sciences with Free Resources

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Continuing Education Unit (CEU) transcripts will be added to your NCURA Dashboard by 9/27. CPE credits for Certified Public Accountants - make note of the code provided in the Concurrent Sessions and Workshops to add to the survey post-conference.

**INCLUSION:** Pronouns are included on NCURA participant badges – please make sure to use your colleagues pronouns when addressing them. Presenters please **use a microphone** *at all times* in the concurrent session rooms and repeat questions to support those needing amplification to hear.

# Meet the Presenters



Clair Green-  
Schwartz  
Research Director  
University of  
Cincinnati



Erica Kennedy  
Associate Vice  
President of  
Research  
University of  
Southern Mississippi

# Session Overview

- Overview of GRANTED
- Importance of Our Study
- Importance to Us
- People
- Phases of Project
- Findings From Phase 1
- Next Steps and Timeline

# Overview of GRANTED

- NSF Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (GRANTED)
- "Focuses on addressing systemic barriers within the nation's research enterprise by improving research support and service capacity."
- Winter 2023 - Conference grants
- Summer 2024 - Open call with rolling deadline

# Importance of Our Study

- Little knowledge on the barriers researchers face when attempting to secure grant funding.
  - Especially at HBCUs and PUIs
  - Especially in non-STEM fields
- Limited resources exist for these researchers to overcome such hurdles.

# Importance of Our Study

- The ultimate goal of the project = increase systemic capacity of the social science research enterprise nationally.
- Create a free online repository of resources
  - Everything now is behind a paywall
  - Regularly updated
  - Estimated creation date = fall 2025

# Importance to Us

- Social scientists conduct research too
- We know there are disparities between disciplines
- We need to talk about the funding gaps
- Write it down!

- PI Clair Green-Schwartz, U. of Cincinnati
- Co-PI, Robert Brown, U. of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Co-PI, Erica Kennedy, U. of Southern Mississippi
- Co-PI, Kathie Maynard, U. of Cincinnati

# Phases of Project

- Phase 1: In-Person Focus Groups
- Phase 2: National Survey
- Phase 3: Virtual Convening

- 2 in-person focus groups held at NCURA regional conferences
- 15 total participants
- Representation from R1s, R2s, and PUIs serving multiple disciplines
- Experience range from 1 year to 30 years

# Focus Group Questions

What do you perceive as the primary barriers to securing research funding at your institution?

- Time
- Funding availability

# Barrier: Time

- Faculty feel like they don't have time for grants
- Especially when not incentivized to submit

# Barrier: Funding Availability

- Feelings of lack of available funding for social science disciplines
- Feelings of lack of support (by funders and institutional leaders) for social science research

# Focus Group Questions

- What resources or support systems do you believe are crucial for enhancing research funding for social science projects?
- What strategies or initiatives do you suggest for increasing research funding in social science in general? At your institution?
  - Advocacy
  - Culture change

# Solution: Advocacy

- RAs should advocate for more social science grants
- RAs should be intentional about inviting and empowering social science faculty
- RAs need buy in and follow through from faculty

# Solution: Culture

- Change ideas around grant process
- Show faculty and institutional leadership that social science is not inferior to STEM
- “Different does not mean deficient.”

## Major Themes

- Barriers: Time and Funding Availability
- Solutions: Advocacy and Culture Change

\*No surprises in any of the responses

# Next Steps and Timeline

- Engage our advisory group
- Finalize survey
- Host virtual conference
- Create repository
- Disseminate

# Thank you, NSF!

- For the GRANTED funding line
- Supporting the social sciences
- Opportunity to center underrepresented voices

# Questions?

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