



SOCIETY OF
RESEARCH
ADMINISTRATORS
INTERNATIONAL

Funding Opportunities for Emerging Research Institutions (ERIs)

Speakers:

Jose Alcaine, Director of Research Services/Affiliate Faculty Foundations of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University

Caleh Kizer, Grants Specialist at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Session Objectives



Identify recurring federal and non-federal funding opportunities that build sustainable research capacity.



Access tools and resources to stay current in a rapidly-shifting environment.

Introduce Yourself!

Are you from a:

- R1?
- R2?
- Research College and University (RCU)?

What is an ERI?

How do you define the new “Research Colleges and Universities” research designation?

The new Research Colleges and Universities designation is based on expenditures only and includes any institution that spends more than \$2.5 million on research and development (as reported through the NSF HERD survey). Institutions that are in the R1 or R2 designations are not included. There is no cap on the number of institutions that can be in this category.



What are the challenges?

Leaner staffing
models

Limited
research
infrastructure
and experience

Higher teaching
loads

Fewer internal
resources

What makes
ERI
research-
funding
different?

Focus on Infrastructure Building

More Early Career PIs

Push to partner with R1s

Institutional Eligibility Categories

Federal Funding for Building Capacity

NSF EPSCoR Jurisdictions (through FY27)



NSF Opportunities:

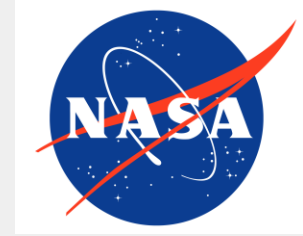
- CAREER
- LEAPS (Currently Archived)
- ERI
- MRI
- GRANTED

Federal Funding for Building Capacity

NIH Opportunities:

- R15 (AREA or REAP)
- “K” series
- “T” Series





Federal Funding for Building Capacity

Other Federal Opportunities:

- DOE Early Career Research Program
 - NASA Compass
 - DOD/DOW DURIP
 - ED Talent Search

Non-Federal Funding – Non-Profits and Industry

Examples:

- American Heart Association
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- Templeton Foundation
- Simons Foundation
- South Arts
- Microsoft
- American Chemical Society

Non-Federal Funding – State

Examples:

- TN Dept of Health
- TN Dept of Environment and Conservation
- TN Dept of Economic and Community Development

How to Stay Up-to-date on Opportunities



GRANTS.GOV AND
FEDERAL FORECAST
TOOLS



PROGRAM OFFICER
OUTREACH



LISTSERVS AND AGENCY
NEWSLETTERS



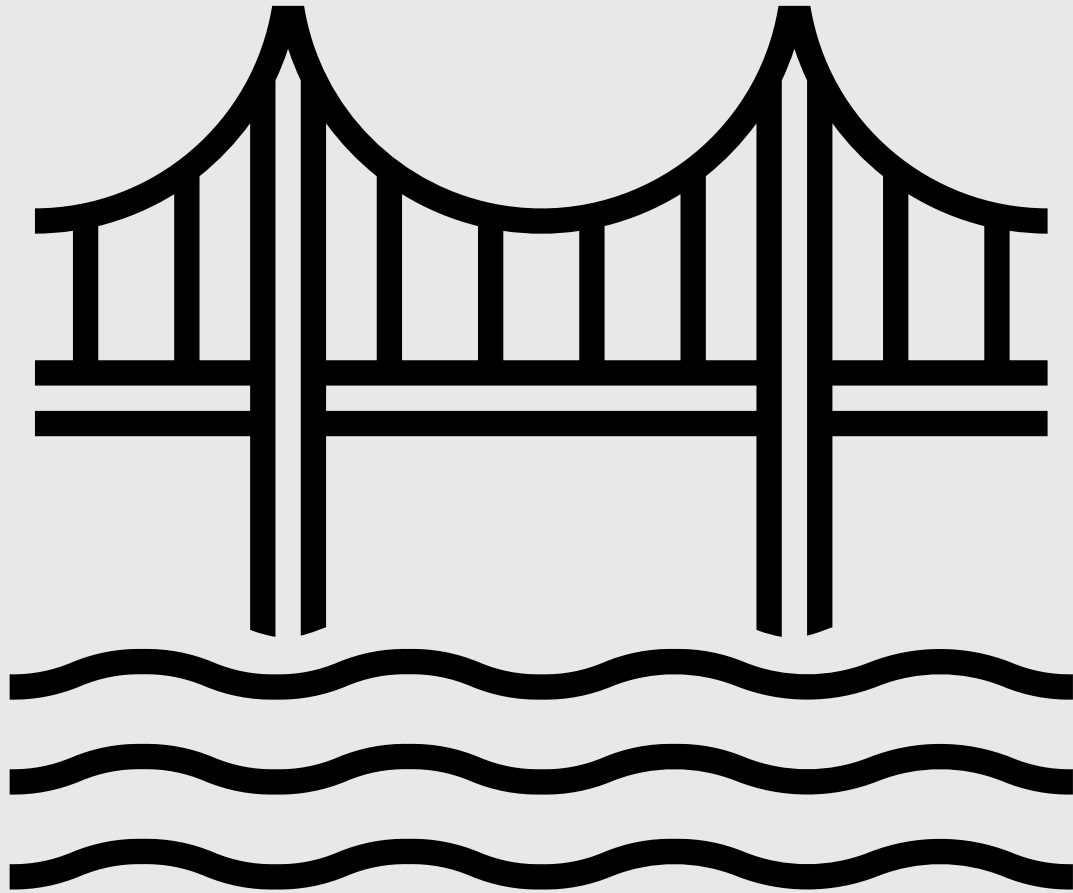
PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS (E.G.,
NCURA, SRAI)



INSTITUTIONAL
RESOURCES (CENTRAL
RESEARCH OFFICE,
DATABASES, OTHER
CONSULTANTS)

Proactive Funding Strategies

- Develop internal funding calendars
- Assign topic-specific monitoring roles within office
- Track historical cycles and submission windows
- Build relationships before the RFP drops
- Make sure you have your funding radar operating



Think Pair Share

Think about what growth stage your research program is in; what's one current challenge and one current advantage?



Final Takeaways

1. ERIs need to focus on building ecosystems, not just projects
2. Staying current and competitive requires intentionality
3. Sustainable research growth at ERIs is not accidental – it is strategic, relational, and cumulative

Thank you!

Follow up with us!

Jose Alcaine: jgalcaine@vcu.edu

Caleh Kizer: caleh-kizer@utc.edu