



RESEARCH MATTERS

News from the Associate Dean for Research

1. **CSR's Commitment**
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1. **CSR's Commitment to Advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Peer Review**

On March 1, NIH Director Francis Collins announced NIH's broad-based initiative, UNITE, to end structural racism and racial inequities in biomedical science. This is a recognition of the need for urgent, sustained effort on many fronts across the research enterprise, including in all parts of the NIH's extramural processes, to change culture. We are committed to pushing ahead with efforts to protect the peer review process from the systemic biases that exist in all areas of the scientific community.

[Read More](#)

2. **All About Grants Podcast: Diversity Plans for Conference Applications**

In this NIH All About Grants episode, Dr. Paula Goodwin with the NIH Office of Extramural Research discusses the Diversity Plan, why it is required for conference grant applications, some things to consider when putting a plan together, how reviewers will assess it, and more. [Read More](#)

3. **2021 Institutional Challenge Grant Application Guidelines**

The Institutional Challenge Grant encourages university-based research institutes, schools, and centers to build sustained research-practice partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations in order to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. [Learn more about eligibility, selection criteria, and how to prepare a strong application.](#)

4. **William T. Grant Foundation**

Five Early-Career Researchers Selected for the William T. Grant Scholars Class of 2026

Each year, the Foundation selects a handful of new William T. Grant Scholars from a highly competitive pool of applicants who are nominated by their institutions. We are thrilled to welcome the five dynamic researchers selected in 2021: Riana Anderson, Denisa Gándara, Emily K. Penner, Goleen Samari, and William Schneider. [Learn About The Newest Scholars](#)

Engaging Policymakers: A New Era of Research and Theory That Builds on the Basics

What does the science say about how researchers could more effectively engage with policymakers? In this post, Karen Bogenschneider, grantee and co-author of *Evidence-Based Policymaking: Envisioning a New Era of Theory, Research, and Practice*, offers new perspective on an old question, drawing from the principles of community dissonance theory and summarizing: "One lesson is clear: Engaging policymakers encompasses far more than crafting a catchy message." [Read More](#)

Expanding the Definition of Evidence in Studies on the Use of Research Evidence in Policy

In a new post, grantees Lorraine McDonnell and Stephen Weatherford expand on insights from their recent book, *Evidence, Politics, and Education Policy*, and discuss why the use of research evidence in policy is "best examined as one element in a strategic context, with different types of evidence used selectively at different points to pursue a political or policy objective." [Read More](#)

How We Embraced the Challenge of Institutional Change to Pave the Way for Community-Engaged Research

A major goal of our Institutional Challenge Grant program is to shift the structural, motivational, and financial barriers that inhibit research-practice partnerships between universities and public agencies and nonprofits. But what goes into a strong plan for advancing institutional change, and how can applicants best develop, convey, and achieve these plans?

In this post, 2020 Institutional Challenge Grant PI Emily Ozer (UC Berkeley) describes her team's process of formulating and refining a vision for change, earning buy-in from decision makers, and ultimately turning commitment into action. [Read More](#)