

Professional Development Day  
Minnesota State University Mankato

# Writing Winning Proposals for the National Science Foundation



Presented by Patrick Tebbe

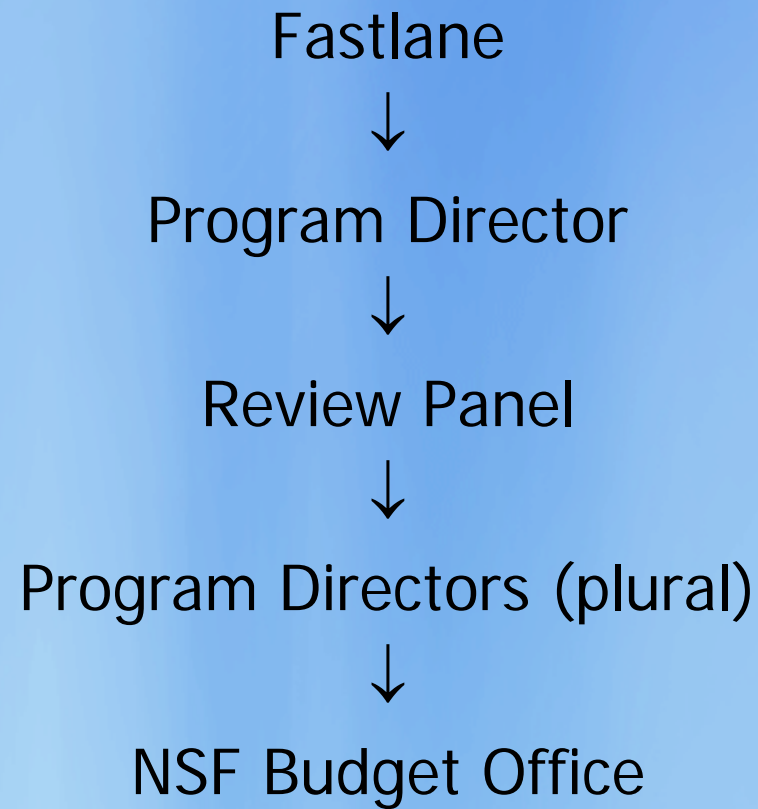
# Outline of Presentation

- I. Overview of the session, handouts, and audience experience
- II. Highpoints of the MSU proposal submission process
- III. Basics of a NSF funding decision
- IV. “New” NSF Review Criteria
- V. Background on the Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) Solicitation
- VI. Elements of a CCLI proposal
- VII. Look at some actual reviews

# Submitting a Proposal at MSU

- Contact the Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP) office early
- Make sure you have a Fastlane ID
- Finish the budget first
- Check how long signatures will take

# An NSF Funding Decision



# Who are the Program Directors?

“NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the agency’s overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation’s technical strength, security, and welfare. Discharging this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.”

# What are Review Panels?

“The majority of proposals submitted to DUE are considered by panels of peer reviewers. The purpose of the review is to provide NSF with a written critique and an individual rating from each reviewer as well as a summary analysis by the panel. In DUE, each panelist writes his or her own review for all proposals assigned to the panel. Reviewers are asked to provide a detailed evaluation of both the merits and the shortcomings of each proposal and to provide a rating. The panel then convenes as a group to discuss the proposals.”

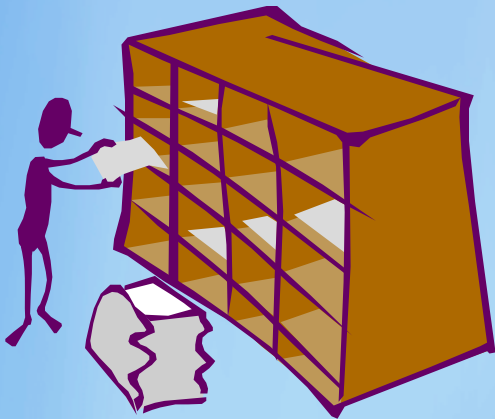
## ccli?

“For the May 2005 deadlines, the Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program received 861 proposals requesting about \$120 million. Of these, 844 proposals were determined to be eligible for review. It is anticipated that approximately \$12 million will be available to support CCLI Phase 1 projects in FY2006. These funds will permit support of approximately 70 awards.”

# Who actually decides?

Review Panels “sort” proposals into Fundable and Non-Fundable

Program Directors decide which Fundable proposals best satisfy the stated NSF and Division objectives.



# Who actually decides?

A proposal which reviews as Excellent is not guaranteed funding.

A Program Director who loves your idea cannot fund it if it reviews poorly.

An Excellent proposal that the Program Director loves will not be funded if NSF runs out of money.