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ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

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Devising New Roles for Scholars Who Can Code

From *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
By Jennifer Howard
April 29, 2013

Bethany Nowwiskie likes to build things. As a graduate student at Wake Forest and then at the University of Virginia 20 years ago, she "started to tinker" with computer programming, building projects that were "intensely ludic and goofy and fun." One was an impromptu, online John Keats archive. Another was a Mad Libs-style program that generated Keats and Wordsworth poems based on phrases fed into it. The results had a Keatsian-Wordsworthian flair, but "I could never get them to rhyme," she says.

That kind of playfulness led

her to more serious computing projects, such as working on the Rossetti Archive, a pioneering digital collection of material about the 19th-century English artist and writer Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Such projects helped demonstrate the possibilities of mixing humanities and computing—now called digital humanities.

"It was pretty easy to see we were on the brink of a massive transformation of our collective archive, and I wanted to be a part of that," Ms. Nowwiskie recalls. For her, the most exciting thing about graduate school was the chance to create "concrete manifestations of the learning we were

doing," and to do that in a collaborative environment where people wanted to build tools as well as study texts. She calls this "translational" work—bridging the gaps between



Photograph by Dan Addison

scholars, technology experts, and so-called alternative-academic workers whose jobs don't follow traditional university trajectories—and it drives much of what Ms. Nowwiskie does.

[Read the full story.](#)

Improving Knowledge, Awareness, and Use of Flexible Career

From *Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*
Villablanca, Amparo C. MD; Beckett, Laurel PhD; Nettiksimmons, Jasmine PhD; Howell, Lydia P. MD

The challenges of balancing a career and family life disproportionately affect women in academic health sciences and medicine, contributing to their slower career advancement and/or their attrition from academia.

In this article, the authors first describe their experiences at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine developing and implementing an innovative accelerator intervention designed to promote faculty work-life balance by improving knowledge, awareness, and access to comprehensive flexible career policies. They then summarize the results of two faculty surveys—one conducted before the

the implementation of their intervention and the second conducted one year into their three-year intervention—designed to assess faculty's use and intention to use the flexible career policies, their awareness of available options, barriers to their use of the policies, and their career satisfaction. The authors found that the intervention significantly increased awareness of the policies and attendance at related educational activities, improved attitudes toward the policies, and decreased perceived barriers to use.

[Read the full abstract and study.](#)



Help science-minded students prepare for college and STEM careers

JUMP-START College Planning, a free how-to manual for organizing a conference for science-minded high school students, has been released by the Office of Science Education (OSE) at the National Institutes of Health.

[Order your copy.](#)



Capitol Connection Congresswoman proposes STEM Opportunities Act

April 16, 2013 | Author: Summer Allen, Graduate and Postdoc, Brown University

United States Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (a Democrat from Texas) introduced a bill called the STEM Opportunities Act of 2013 in early March. If passed, this legislation would ensure that the NSF, academic institutions, and government labs track data about women and minority scientists, identify barriers to their success in the sciences, and produce solutions for these barriers. Although the bill's text is not yet available (eventually it will be made public [here](#)), a [press release](#) from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Representative Johnson is its Ranking Member) website offers some details about what it will contain....

[Read more.](#)

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

YOUR NETWORK, YOUR RESOURCE, YOUR VOICE

Grant Allocations for Dependent Care Costs

Although the distribution of caretaking is more equitable in many households these days, the burden often still falls more heavily upon women. When it comes to advancing one's career, attending conferences is crucial for sharing ideas, networking, building collaborations, and seeking out new opportunities. This results in one of the many small factors that wind up having a large, cumulative impact on one's career progression and thus one's likelihood of remaining in or leaving the academic pipeline. To this end, as a part of clarifying and updating the rules about the use of federal grants, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has released a new report, "[Proposed OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards.](#)"

The document is currently available for public comment and there are three points that are likely to be of interest to anyone with dependent care. The three points are:

- Family-related leave is an allowable Fringe Benefit.
- Temporary dependent-care costs directly resulting from travel to conferences is an allowable cost.
- The identification of locally available dependent-care resources for conference planning is an allowable cost.

While the OMB states that [these policies have been the case for some time](#), they are contingent upon an institution-wide acceptance of this policy and not implementable on a lab by lab basis. However, clarification of these points does increase the opportunity to encourage universities to adopt better family friendly policies for all their employees.

AWIS is currently drafting a letter to submit our comments about why we support these measures. However, as part of the way to raise awareness about the importance of making dependent care and family-related leave an accessible option for families in order for individuals to advance their careers, we are encouraging anyone who is interested to [provide your own comments here](#) on how institution-wide policies regarding the use of grant money for family-related leave and temporary dependent-care costs for travel to conferences would help you, your colleagues, or your lab members or how they are already working at your institution. If you need suggestions on what to enter or more information on the details, please visit our [Dependent-Care OMB Guidance Toolkit](#).



Picture from <http://www.pomona.edu/news/2012/06/21-conrad-macarthur-program.aspx>

What Does Science Tell Us About Broadening the Participation of Women of Color in STEM/SBS Fields?

Watch the video: [Building Capacity for Institutional Transformation in the Twenty-First Century: Women of Color in STEM and SBS Fields - UC ADVANCE](#)

Cecilia Conrad, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the College & Stedman-Sumner Professor of Economics, Pomona College, discusses the effects of race and gender in STEM/SBS fields.

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Dear Colleagues,

In response to the FY2014 budget released earlier this month by the NSF, we at AWIS wanted to share a breakdown of the trends in funding for ADVANCE as well as for programs committed to broadening participation as a portion of the budget. The data is presented in [charts](#):

The amount currently slated for ADVANCE is roughly at the levels seen when the program first started in 2002. If you consider the rate of inflation over that time period, the numbers are rather grim. You should also note, a portion of the money in 2014 will be committed to a new program as a part of the Work-Life Balance initiative announced by NSF in 2011. At these levels, and considering the amount that must be paid out to existing grants, we expect the approval of new grants for programs at institutions to be very low.

Also worth noting--the percent of the total NSF budget spent on broadening participation programs has been on a slight decline over the past several years. As a percent of the broadening participation budget, ADVANCE has seen a steady drop.

As the only society working at the nexus of gender and STEM with a full-time public policy focus, AWIS closely monitors and analyzes trends which impact you and your institutional programs. We feel strongly that members of the community should be aware of these funding drifts. Please feel free to share the data citing AWIS.

Best regards,
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National Science Foundation

Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)

The National Science Foundation's Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) announces an opportunity to fund foundational research in areas that are broad, essential and enduring. ECR seeks proposals that will help synthesize, build and/or expand research foundations in the following core areas:

- STEM learning;
- STEM learning environments;
- Workforce development; and
- Broadening participation in STEM.

The intention of ECR is to identify a broad range of vital investments for STEM education and learning research. ECR encourages collaboration among researchers in related disciplines including the social and behavioral sciences and across the four core areas. Two types of ECR proposals are invited in the NSF program announcement ([NSF 13-555](#)):

- **Core Research Proposals** that propose to study a foundational research question/issue designed to inform the transformation of STEM learning and education.
 - Maximum length 5 years
 - Up to \$1.5 million total
- **Capacity Building Proposals** intended to support groundwork necessary for advancing research within the four core areas.
 - Maximum length 3 years
 - Up to \$300,000 total

You are invited to attend a webinar on the ECR program announcement. NSF staff will provide an overview of the ECR opportunity and answer questions. The target date for ECR proposals is **July 12, 2013**. Two repeat webinars will be held (both with the same content, there is no need to participate in both):

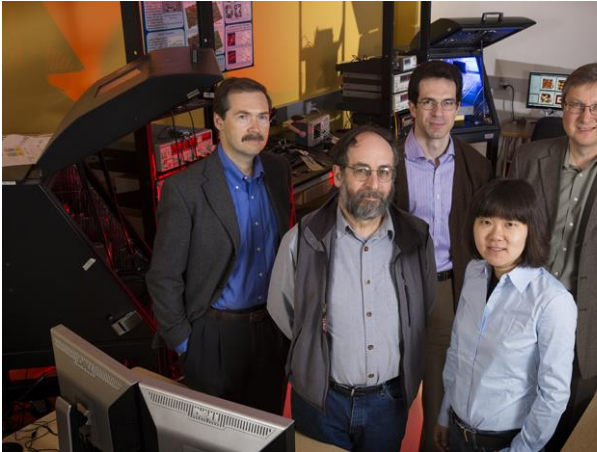
- Register for the ECR webinar on **May 13, 2013**, 3pm EDT by [clicking here](#).
- Register for the ECR webinar on **May 14, 2013**, 3pm EDT by [clicking here](#).

You may also participate in just the conference call on either date by calling 1-888-560-8595, the passcode is: CORE.

If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodations to participate in and/or access the webinar, please send requests for accommodations by May 6, 2013 to ECR@nsf.gov. We anticipate posting a recording of one of the webinars as well as a transcript after approximately May 20th on the [ECR program page](#).

From Today@UNL

UNL physicists to lead \$7 million research collaboration



UNL physicists (from left) Alexei Gruverman; Peter Dowben, CNFD associate director; Kirill Belashchenko; Xia Hong, and Evgeny Tsymbal, CNFD director. Not pictured, Christian Binek. (Craig Chandler / University Communications)

UNL will lead a new \$7.125 million research collaboration involving six universities and an industry consortium to develop a new generation of electronic devices.

Semiconductor Research Corp. and the National Institute of Standards and Technology awarded a UNL physics team a five-year contract to lead a new Center for NanoFerroic Devices as part of the Nanoelectronics Research Initiative.

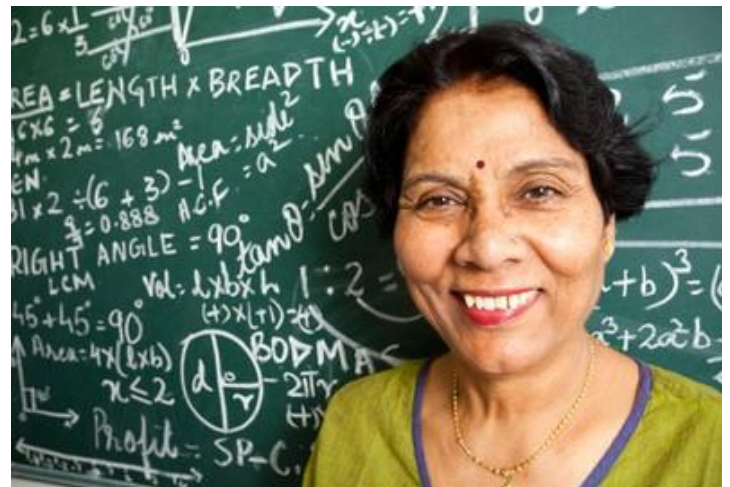
“Our faculty’s leadership of this collaborative research endeavor sponsored by a leading research consortium and the federal government is the latest recognition of UNL’s strength in nanotechnology and materials science,” said Chancellor Harvey Perlman.

[Read the full story.](#)



Accelerating Change for Women of Color in STEM: Policy, Action, and Collaboration

About the Convening



Accelerating Change for Women of Color in STEM: Policy, Action, and Collaboration

May 10, 2013

Women of color have made steady inroads into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines over the last several decades, yet continue to be underrepresented among those receiving degrees and holding university positions in these fields. To address this underrepresentation, the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) is working with an advisory committee of experts to hold a convening exploring promising program and policy changes for increasing the representation of women of color in STEM faculty positions.

[Read the full article.](#)