

Preparing Research Grant Proposals for the Institute of Education Sciences: Bringing Cognitive Science to Education Research

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The Institute of Education Sciences provides opportunities for researchers to bring their knowledge of learning and cognitive science to bear on education practice. This half-day workshop will provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about available funding opportunities through the National Center for Education Research (NCER) and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) within the Institute of Education Sciences. In particular, this workshop invites potential applicants unfamiliar with the Institute an opportunity to learn in detail about the types of research that we support.

The Center seeks research applications designed to examine ways to improve student learning through curriculum and instruction, through improving teacher quality, and through changes in the education system. Dr. Albro brings six years of experience as an IES program officer and will provide detailed insights into the grant preparation, submission, and review process. After providing an overview of the program, the presenter will discuss in detail the components of successful grant applications, and will provide opportunities for potential applicants to ask questions about the grant application process.

The Institute's research program entitled "Cognition and Student Learning" may be of particular interest to the Cognitive Science Society membership. Through this program, the Institute supports research that utilizes cognitive science to develop, implement, and evaluate approaches intended to improve teaching and learning in authentic education settings. Although cognitive science has generated new and important fundamental knowledge on how people learn over the last 30 years, most of these research principles have not been incorporated into

education practice, either at the level of instruction or through the creation of materials that support teaching and learning. The purpose of the Cognition and Student Learning research program is to establish a scientific foundation for education by building on these theoretical and empirical advances and applying them to education practice with the goal of improving student learning and academic achievement. The success of this program within NCER has led to the development of a parallel program of research with the Special Education Research Center. During the FY 2009 competition, NCSER is also competing a topic entitled "Cognition and Student Learning in Special Education."

Participants in the workshop will also learn about other possible topic areas to which applications can be submitted. The Institute supports research in the topic areas of: education research in reading and writing; mathematics and science; cognition and student learning; teacher quality; social and behavioral context for academic learning; education leadership; education policy, finance, and systems; early childhood programs and policies; high school reform; interventions for struggling adolescent and adult readers and writers; postsecondary education; and education technology. In addition, both Centers hold competitions for establishing predoctoral and postdoctoral research training grants, and for establishing National Research and Development Centers. Finally, the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) within the Institute of Education Sciences funds research targeting the educational needs and outcomes of students identified with special education needs.