SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Fall 2016 DISSERTATION GRANT AWARDS

Request For Applications, Due <u>Tuesday, October 25, 2016</u> 5PM Eastern Time

(A Spring Request will be distributed in January 2017, with a March deadline)

1. Purpose of Dissertation Grant Awards

   The purpose of the Society of School Psychology Dissertation Grant Awards is to promote excellence in research training in school psychology, thereby enhancing the capability of students to pursue a productive research career that advances the science of school psychology. Although not all quality proposals submitted can be funded, each student will receive feedback intended to contribute to the student's enthusiasm for and competence in research.

2. Eligibility

   Doctoral students who are matriculated in school psychology programs in the United States or Canada are eligible. In addition, doctoral students who are in a combined program are eligible, contingent on evidence from an advisor that the student's emphasis is clearly in school psychology and not other aspects of the combined program. Evidence of a student's emphasis in school psychology is likely to include an advisor's statement that the student is enrolled in the school psychology "track," inclusion on the dissertation committee of faculty whose primary appointment is in school psychology, the student's membership in school psychology professional organizations, and the student's or advisor's record of publications in school psychology journals.

3. Mentorship Requirements

   Close mentorship and advisement on the dissertation is expected. A plan or consideration for advising, mentorship, and oversight by a mentor is required (see section 6f).

4. Topics

   Dissertation grants will be awarded to students conducting well-designed empirical research that contributes to advancing the scientific base of school psychology. Thus, non-quantitative reviews of the literature are not eligible for funding. Studies that are of high quality, employing rigorous research methods, will be considered. Topics to be considered are those that pertain to the academic and/or social development and well-being of children and families. Studies will likely consider children's learning, development, and education in a variety of settings. This includes research concerning systems in support of children's learning and development (e.g., homes/families; classrooms/schools; health and mental health systems).

5. Size of Award

   Typically, up to four high quality proposals per year, with a cap of $5,000 per award, will be funded. It is anticipated that there will be a spring and a fall funding cycle. This RFA is for the **Fall 2016** funding cycle. Applicants whose initial submission is not funded may resubmit for a subsequent funding cycle only once. The awarded funds cannot be used for travel outside the

scope of the research plan or payments to the applicant. The awards cannot be used for indirect cost reimbursement.

6. Application Format

The application should be double spaced, congruent with APA Style, and with 1" margins and font no less than 11 point. **Proposals that exceed the stated page limits will <u>not</u> be reviewed**. For consistency in applications, each of the following sections must be included:

a) Abstract/Summary (no more than 1 page)

Provide a title and summarize the substantive focus and research design of the dissertation and its contribution to the field of school psychology.

b) Research Strategy (no more than 12 pages). Must include the following sections:

1) <u>Rationale/Justification/Importance of Research/Conceptualization/Contribution/ Innovation</u>

Provide a brief review of relevant previous literature. Provide justification for the importance of the proposed research and its potential to contribute new knowledge about the area under study. Describe the specific aims of the proposed study, and state related hypotheses.

2) <u>Participants</u>

Describe the number of participants and relevant demographics (e.g., ages, gender, grades, and location). (In a later section, describe IRB approval, risks and protections, and methods of recruitment.)

3) <u>Measures, Methods, and Research Procedures</u>

Briefly describe each of the measures and their reliability and validity for the purposes of the research. Also describe scoring procedures when appropriate. If some of the measures are author-created (e.g., rating scales), discuss how their reliability will be tested, when appropriate.

4) <u>Planned Data Analyses</u>

Describe the plan for analyzing the data to answer each of the research questions. Give enough detail of statistical analyses (e.g., correlations, regression, analyses of variance, growth models and multi-level approaches) so that readers will understand the scores to be analyzed and the expected results to support the hypotheses.

c) References (no more than 2 pages)

d) Human Subjects Plan (no more than 2 pages)

Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the work outlined in the Research Strategy section and the potential risks and benefits to participants. Describe planned procedures for protecting against or minimizing potential risks, including risks to privacy of individuals or confidentiality of data. Describe plans for the recruitment of subjects (where

appropriate) and the process for obtaining informed consent. Note that **evidence of IRB approval from the appropriate institution is required prior to receipt of funding.**

e) Budget and Brief Justification (no more than 1 page)

Provide a narrative budget justification for the proposed project. The budgeted amount may not exceed $5000. The budgeted period may not begin prior to **January 15, 2017** and should not exceed 18 months. The narrative budget justification should describe how costs are derived or anticipated for each budget item. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

f) Mentorship Plan (one page exclusive of mentor biosketch).

1) Provide the name and institutional and program affiliations of all committee members. Indicate one primary mentor who will act as advisor throughout the project. If the student is enrolled in a combined program, provide evidence of eligibility as described in Section 2.
2) Describe the time line for the work described in the research strategy section and for completing the writing of the dissertation.
3) Include a statement signed by mentor certifying the feasibility of the research strategy, the mentor's availability to act as advisor throughout the course of the project, and whether the student's advisory committee has approved the dissertation proposal. If the advisory committee has not approved the proposal at the time of submission of this proposal, the statement should include the anticipated date of the proposal defense, which must be on or prior to **December 15, 2016**. **Funds will not be awarded until the proposal has been approved by the student's doctoral committee**.
4) Mentor biosketch (see NIH biosketch requirements) and list of recent graduates he/she has mentored (5 pages maximum, including list of graduates).

g) Applicant's Biosketch (not to exceed 2 pages)

Include contact information (phone number and email address), post-high school education, including dates of attendance and receipt of degrees, employment summary, graduate level scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships, professional memberships, other relevant awards or recognitions, and publications and presentations.

h) Additional Support

If implementation of the research requires collaboration or support from other parties, such as a school district's approval of the research or access to a database, letters of support may be included in an appendix.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Each of the following criteria will be evaluated on a 7-point scale (unless stated otherwise).

a) Significance of Research

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in school psychology? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or applied practice be improved?

b) Innovation

Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to this field of research? Does the research challenge and seek to shift current research or practice in school psychology?

c) Approach

Are the methods and analyses clear and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Approach will be rated separately for each of the following areas:

1) Participants

Will the sample size provide sufficient power to produce potential significant effects? Are the recruitment procedures feasible and appropriate?

2) Measures, Methods, and Research Procedures

Do the measures have adequate reliability and validity for the purposes of the research? Are the measures appropriate to answer the research questions? If the measures are author-created, is there a plan to test their reliability for the purposes of the research? Are the research procedures clearly stated and appropriate to the research questions?

3) Planned Data Analyses and Expected Results

Are the data analyses well thought out and appropriate to answer the research questions? Are the expected results clearly described and plausible? Have other possible confounding factors been considered, when appropriate?

d) Mentorship Plan

Will the mentoring provided contribute to the probability of success? (scored 1-3)

e) Applicant's qualifications to conduct the research and to disseminate research findings in scientific journals. (scored 1-3)

Does the applicant demonstrate, by prior research involvement, membership in professional associations, and other means both interest in and ability to pursue a productive research career that advances the science of school psychology?

f) Necessity and Reasonableness of Budget.

Does the applicant provide adequate justification for budgeted items in terms of necessity and reasonableness of costs?

8. Submission Instructions and Notification of Awards.

Applications are due by **Tuesday, October 25, 2016**. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by **December 16, 2016.** The length of award typically will be one year. The start date should not be prior to **January 15, 2017.** However, costs incurred within six months prior to the start date may be included in the submitted budget, in which case the budget period

may be up to 18 months. A no-cost extension may be requested; however, the request for a no-cost extension should be made within 60 days of the end of the funding period.

The complete application should be converted to a <u>single pdf</u> file with the sections organized in the order listed under Section 6, Application Format, and emailed to tkubiszyn@uh.edu on or before **5:00 pm eastern Time on Tuesday, October 25, 2016**. The **<u>single pdf file</u>** (**multiple pdf files will be returned**) should be labeled with the applicant's last name, followed by the mentor's last name and the date (e.g., Doe_Beckman_10-25-2016.pdf).

9. Reporting Requirements.

    Within six months after the funding period (or within 6 months after the end of the no-cost extension period), award recipients are required to send the Final Report to the Society for the Study of School Psychology describing a) how the funds were spent, b) any significant deviations from the research strategy described in the application, c) a list of presentations and publications emanating from the dissertation research, and d) the date of defense and final approval of the dissertation by the student's committee. If the dissertation has not been defended and approved by the student's committee within 6 months after the funding period, the report should indicate the anticipated date of the defense and final approval, in which case the student is expected to notify SSSP when the dissertation has been defended successfully. The Final Report should be converted to a single pdf file and emailed to the appropriate SSSP Executive Board member (to be named in the approval letter).