



GRANT ABSTRACT

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The Smith College Science Collaborators or (SC)² program will use two interlocking and empirically-informed interventions to catalyze institutional change that achieves inclusion of diverse women in science. Faculty will establish multiple entry points for students to engage in science by weaving interdisciplinary course-based research experiences across core curricula and will create learning communities headed by student assistants who model and support research success. (SC)² will fortify students' scientific identity and leadership while supporting their collaborations with faculty, creating replicable and sustainable strategies to increase the diversity of women in science.



FROM THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER DIRECTORS' OFFICE

November/December 2015

Access for All: Fostering Inclusive Excellence



At the very first Sigma Xi presentation of this fall semester, I posed a question to launch planning for our next Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant proposal: what can we do as a community to build institutional capacity that benefits access to the sciences for all our students?

Throughout the fall, so many of you responded to this important question by sharing feedback, reviewing ideas and drafts in Science Planning Committee meetings, attending monthly Teaching Circles made possible by the generous support of the Sherrerd Center, and finding space for conversations in department and program meetings. We reflected and challenged and questioned and built upon one another thoughts, over and again, as we reflected on the most promising practices in our community for advancing inclusive excellence.

Like good science, the proposal's ideas benefited from iteration, peer review, and public discussion. On December 1st, we submitted our final version and it outlines our vision for inclusive excellence, informed by our earlier HHMI grant work as well as the sciences strategic plan, *Vision for the Future, 2015*. In the end, we agreed that fostering science skills and competencies while building community and identity was essential to our students' success (see sidebar for the pre-proposal's abstract).

I was profoundly grateful for the generosity, dedication, and sharp thinking of our community during this process. Regardless of HHMI's eventual decision about the proposal (over 600 institutions submitted an intent to apply; this May, we will hear whether our pre-proposal is one of the 100 invited to the final round), I am buoyed by the good work that we are already doing (and are willing to take on) on behalf of all of our students.

As the largest women's college in the nation, with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence, we are well positioned to undertake the work of this grant. I hope that HHMI agrees. As we wait, I look forward to continuing my collaborations with you as we thoughtfully engage with the vibrant ideas that have emerged from our grant planning.

--Patty DiBartolo
Faculty Director of the Sciences

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Capital Planning & Equipment Assets



A hallmark of a science education at Smith is students' hands-on use of sophisticated state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation. Last spring, the Science Center Directors, in consultation with the Equipment and Science Planning Committees, authored a detailed memo sent to administration that outlined the budgetary pressures related to our assets, noting the need for a strategic reinvestment strategy for their long-term renewal and replacement.

Working closely with the Provost's Office as well as the Office of Finance and Administration, we have launched a capital planning process that will allow us to engage in prospective and thoughtful planning for equipment renewal and replacement. This fall, we were pleased to receive a significant sum from the College (over \$220K) to help with the backlog of our most urgent identified equipment needs. Simultaneously, we launched a long-range capital planning process that will guide strategic investment efforts from the College. This plan relies on a careful inventory of our assets and thoughtful development of a multi-year spending plan (projects already underway, led by Margaret Lamb) and will be made possible through transparent oversight by a revamped Equipment Committee.

This spring, we will pilot new budget procedures that help make transparent current and future equipment requests so that Equipment Committee can engage in responsible fiscal planning. Science Planning and Equipment Committee will both work with the Science Center Directors as well as the Provost's and Finance and Administration offices to address our critical science equipment needs. We will keep the Div III community apprised of this planning.

Fellowships Update

In November we selected four students as Smith College nominees for the Goldwater Scholarship. Marina Cheng, '17, CS and Biomathematical Sciences Concentration. Amalia Sweet, '17, BCH. Megan Wancura, '17, CHM. Sara Callahan, Ada Comstock Scholar, junior status, EGR. We have also confirmed Lily Carlisle-Reske, '17, ES&P, Sustainable Food Concentration, as Smith's nominee for the Udall Scholarship. We were delighted to consider Sara, a new transfer student, in our internal competition. (Note for future reference: The only change in process for first semester transfers is that nomination is conditional on strong fall semester Smith grades.) Students will prepare their external applications for submission in late January (Goldwater) and early March (Udall). Thank you to those who have participated in the nomination process - Rob Dorit, Bosiljka Glumac, Betsy Jamieson, David Smith, Gwen Spencer - and faculty members who have supported applicants with letters of recommendation.

FACULTY-STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Sarah Moore's EGR 100 students awarded a [\\$100,000 Gate Foundation](#) grant • ES&P and CEEDS' [permeable pavement project](#) • And come visit the Fall 2015 Research Symposium poster sessions for intermediate and upper-level science courses, McConnell Foyer (December 7th - 15th)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December 15 th 2015	Last day of classes
December 18 th 2015	Clark Science Center Holiday Party, 3:30-5 pm, Seasons Room, Ford Hall
December 23 rd 2015	College closes (reopens January 4 th 2016)
February 15 th 2016	SURF applications due (chemistry SURF pre-application due February 2 nd ; faculty SURF recommendations due February 26 th)

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