Basic and Applied Pollination Research Cluster

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
May 2018
About Lewis-Burke

• Founded in 1992; located in Washington, DC
• In 2018, twenty-eight policy experts with range of expertise/backgrounds allow multi-layered issue teams with deep expertise in federal agencies and scientific/higher education areas
• Support federal relations activities to develop and implement federal strategies to pursue, shape, and create new sources of funding to increase and diversify research portfolio
• Able to engage on multiple levels:
  - Individual faculty (including early career faculty)
  - Teams of faculty
  - Associate Deans for Research
  - Deans and Center Directors
  - University leadership and campus-wide priorities/activities
Federal Landscape

• Obama executive order established Pollinator Taskforce lead by USDA an EPA – this was personal interest/priority for Barack Obama – led by OSTP
  • *Between 2008-2014 USDA invested $42M in bee health*

• Implementation of the Research Action Plan continues by the agencies
• Trump Administration has not prioritized science-focused initiatives: concerns that this executive order is vulnerable to cancelation as part of federal streamlining
• BUT AG Sec. Perdue and Karen Pence declared June 19-25 National Pollinator Week and installed honey bee hive on grounds of VP residence
• Congress: US House Pollinator Protection Caucus co-led by Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and Jeff Denham (R-CA)
  • Legislation: *Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Pollinator Protection Act* would direct DOT to encourage pollinator habitats, nothing on research
• Pollinator Partnership: non-profit that advances advocacy efforts
• **FY 2018 Omnibus provided increases** for NSF, USDA, DOE, USAID etc. **FLURRY of activity as agencies have only 6 months to obligate funding** – BIG opportunity in supplemental $
Federal Funding Opportunities: NSF

• **National Science Foundation**: current focus on *10 Big Ideas for Future Investment with at least $30 million proposed for each in FY 2019*

• **FY 2018 provided $295M increase overall for a total of $7.76B**
  – *Rules of Life (RoL): Predicting the Phenotype*
    • Dec 2017 DCL on Forecasting and Emergence in Living Systems
  – *Navigating the New Arctic:*
    • current DCL from GEO, CISE, ENG, BIO, SBE, OISE: broad topics include observational sites, platforms of sensor-cyber, smart infrastructure; STEM ED; natural ecosystems and built environment
    – FY 18 funding deadline May 1
  – *Growing Convergence Research:*
    • Current DCL for FY 18: 1000 word prospectus – very broad reqs, due May, up to $1M for 3 years
    – Looking ahead in FY 19: $30 million for Convergence Accelerator in Harnessing the Data Revolution
Federal Funding Opportunities: NSF...

– BIO: no formal deadlines for core programs beginning with FY 19 funding
– Core program support at BIO (DEB); MPS (mathematical biology); SBE (Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences); GEO (Arctic Social Sciences/Natural Sciences)
– Cross-foundation mechanisms: REU; RCN; RAISE; RAPID; EaGER; IRES;
– Signature programs:
  • NSF & NIFA: funded $3M EAGER animal microbiome and phenomics research in 2017
  • Dimensions of Biodiversity: FY 18 involved partnerships with China, Brazil, and South Africa
  • Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID): NIGMS and NIFA: average/$13.5M total
  • NSF INFEWS (final competition now) but food, energy, water nexus theme continues as a priority
– NSF STCs: next solicitation anticipated FY 2018 (August/Sept) with awards made in FY 2020, will likely feature 10 Big Ideas
– NSF ERCs: NAS report in 2017 provided new recommendations: currently DCL for ERC Planning Grants to help build convergent teams:
Federal Funding Opportunities: USDA

- **US Department of Agriculture:**
  - Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI): FY 18 $48.1M available
  - AFRI: $400M in FY 18 omnibus:
  - Program changes for FY 18: **Sustainable Agricultural Systems** replaces challenge grants: “convergence S&T to solve food/AG production system challenges” focus on 25-year goals
    - $80M avail for 8 $10M Coop AG Project (CAP) grants: LOI due June 27
  - Foundational and Applied: “plant breeding; emerging zoonotic diseases; improved pest detection/management; role of microbiome”: *awaiting RFA*
  - Education and Workforce: “strategic pipeline based approach”: *awaiting RFA*
  - Bee Informed Partnership: extension-led consortium of researchers and specialists to disseminate management practices
  - ARS: Pollinating Insects Research Unit (led by Utah State)
USAID, DoD, EPA Opportunities

• USAID: sustainable agriculture and food security
  – FY 18 omnibus directed that Feed the Future develop new partnerships with US institutions and developing countries for institutional capacity building including $15M that should be competed and awarded within 1 year
  – Global Development Lab (GDL) FY 18 solicitations: Long-term assistance and Services for Research (LASER)

• Defense: DARPA
  – Biological Technologies Office (BTO): Insect Allies Program launched in 2017: increase food security by recruiting insects to deliver viruses modified with protective genes to plants
    • AG as national security issue: BTO Program Officer Blake Bextine is entomologist
    • Annual BTO BAA: interested topics, but outside current priorities
      – Non-human biology across and between populations of insects; ensure biosafety and security; new technologies of spread of infectious disease

• Environmental Protection Agency: strained budgets prevented EPA national programs from releasing competitive grant opportunities, but Strategic Research Action Plans (STRAP) that guide investments will need to be updated in 2019
Questions?

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