Direct Experience, Personal Strategies, and Academic Benefits of Participating in IES Competitions

Rafael Lara-Alecio, Professor, Department of Educational Psychology

Seminar Mini Series Part 1: Applying for Institute of Education Sciences Grants

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Direct Experiences

• I always have as the first goal of my grants— to serve the University land grant mission regarding teaching, research, and service
  – Teaching via mentoring the new generation of scholars
  – Research via providing avenues for expanding knowledge and skills with their dissertations and publications
  – Service via responding to the needs of Texas citizens
Direct Experiences

• IES grants provide state, national, and international status
  – Professor
  – Students
  – Program
  – Department
  – College
  – University
  – Partners
Direct Experiences

• IES provides opportunities for meeting other researchers across the country working in similar projects.

• It provides opportunities to be part of international groups and share cutting edge research.

• IES grants provide opportunities to share valid and reliable information for policy makers’ use.
Direct Experiences

• IES provides new opportunities to continue advancing scholarly work at large scales.

• IES provides opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary groups developing curriculum material and assessment instruments.
Direct Experiences

• IES provides economical benefits to the Program, Department, College, University, School District, and Businesses.

• Project ELLA had funding of $6,762,115. Of that amount, 26% indirect costs ($1,758,150) went to the Program, Department, College, and University.
Personal Strategies

• Because support from school settings is needed from day one and throughout the life of the project, be certain that the top level administrators——at the time that you get the award——are with you supporting your efforts.
Personal Strategies

• In order to compete for IES grants, you must demonstrate a strong research agenda with strong scholarly work (Tier 1 journals).

• Students, teachers, administrators, and even parents play a critical role in the success of the project. Be sure that you compensate them for their efforts as your grant allows.
Personal Strategies

• A major research grant requires an interdisciplinary team effort. Be sure that you know each of the key researchers and people serving in different positions such as Co-Pis or Coordinators who will carry out different tasks in the project.
Personal Strategies

• Be extremely serious about managing all the parts of the budget. Strong management will give you status at the federal government level and at the university and will make you feel safe for future competitions.

• Last but not least, do not forget to do all the paper work required by the federal, state and university administration such as IRB forms. Stay informed about the new rules, and notify the IRB should any change occur in your design or sample.
Academic Benefits

• Our IES grant, Project ELLA, provided unique research opportunities to many graduate students and junior faculty.
Academic Benefits

- Drs. Robert Slavin and Allen Cheung from Johns Hopkins University and the Success for All Foundation have conducted a new research synthesis on the most effective programs for English language learners related to reading under experimental research designs. Project ELLA is cited as one of the most influential studies impacting the academic life of English Language learners. This review should be published in the *Reading Research Quarterly* in the near future.
• Today the following dissertations have been written using data from this project. One dissertation was awarded the best dissertation in our Department. One dissertation was awarded a national award (NABE). One dissertation was selected as a finalist for a national award (AERA). Over seven dissertations studies are in progress, and all expected to be finished between this and the next year.
Academic Benefits

Academic Benefits

• Publications in Top Refereed Journals.
• Over 11 manuscripts have been published using ELLA Data.
• Publications have involved graduate students as well.
• Another 10 manuscripts are in progress.
Academic Benefits


- Irby, B.J., Quiros, A., Lara-Alecio, R., Rodriguez, L., & Mathes, P. (2008). What administrators should know about a research-based oral language development intervention for English language learners: A description of story retelling and higher order thinking for English language and literacy acquisition—STELLA. Retrieved from the Connexions Web site: [http://cnx.org/content/m17321/1.1/](http://cnx.org/content/m17321/1.1/)


Academic Benefits

• Refereed Presentations as National, International, Regional, State, and Local Levels

• Over 22 refereed presentation have taken place using Data from ELLA Projects. Our presentations always involve graduate students.
Academic Benefits
Sample of Presentations

Extended Benefits

Following is a figure that indicates the model of Project ELLA. This national impact study would not have been possible without Aldine ISD.
IES GRANT FUNDED


• Currently, there is an IES grant application under review which is an ELLA-Replication study.