TEXAS NEXUS RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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Texas Nexus Research

CONNECT – COLLABORATE – CONTRIBUTE

Build and Broaden: Bridging Critical Research Collaborations for Faculty Success in Texas MSIs

National Science Foundation Award #2036909

This workshop will be recorded.

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Protocols

Recordings:

- Available upon request via email

Confidentiality:

- Application, Homework, and Workshops: Using the norms of social science research which include de-identifying data

Speaker and Dialogue Guidelines:

- Mute on Entry
- Chat Box for Questions and Comments; Save questions for end of today's presentation

This workshop will be recorded.

Today's Agenda

1. Team introductions
2. NSF Build and Broaden: An Introduction (Dr. Fitzgerald)
3. Common Roadblocks for Mid-Career Faculty Research and Collaborations (Dr. Epley Sanders)
4. Our Team's Grant and Experiences with Collaboration (Dr. Ramirez)
5. Upcoming workshops and homework (Dr. Araiza)
6. Summary of Homework #1 (Dr. Araiza)
7. Q&A – Time permitting (Facilitators and Participants)

This workshop is being recorded.

The *Texas Nexus Research Team*:

- **Dr. Isabel Araiza**, Associate Professor of Sociology
- **Dr. Jennifer Epley Sanders**, Associate Professor of Political Science
- **Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald**, Associate Vice President for Research & Professor of English
- **Dr. Michael Ramirez**, Associate Professor of Sociology
- **Anahi Ortega**, Student Assistant

NSF Build and Broaden

An Introduction

Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald

The Original "Dear Colleague Letter"

DCL 20-048 Build and Broaden: Enabling New Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Collaborations with Minority-Serving Institutions introduced "a new opportunity called Build & Broaden (B^2) and invites the submission of conference proposals in FY 2020. Proposals should be designed to foster partnerships and build research collaborations among institutions that include at least one Minority-Serving Institution (MSI)…to inform future steps for B^2 in FY 2021."

Goals of Original B^2 Request for Proposals

- "build capacity at MSIs for SBE-related research and provide researchers with new ways to diversify and energize their research teams."

- generate more competitive proposals to SBE coming from MSIs,

- help NSF invest in MSIs and achieve its goals in inclusion.

Our B^2: "Bridging Critical Research Collaborations for Faculty Success in Texas MSIs"

- Funds three mini-conferences for MSI faculty in Texas, with a focus on participation by faculty of color, women faculty, and mid-career faculty.
- Create successful mechanisms to address the lack of socialization and familiarity with NSF funding programs and grant proposals and thus build capacity in the SBE sciences
- Provide on-site mentorship and collaboration opportunities for faculty
- Collect survey data on the career pathways of participating faculty in the SBE sciences at these institutions, with an eye to better understanding how to support research capacity, especially for collaborations

(but pandemic)

"Learning by Seconding" (Kolympiris et al. 2019)

- About one-third of NSF's scientific workforce consists of rotating program officers, who spend anywhere from 1-4 years on loan from their home institution.

  "a) help generate ideas by directing colleagues to areas with significant funding opportunities (i.e., focusing),

  b) assist with framing proposals in ways they are appealing to reviewers and

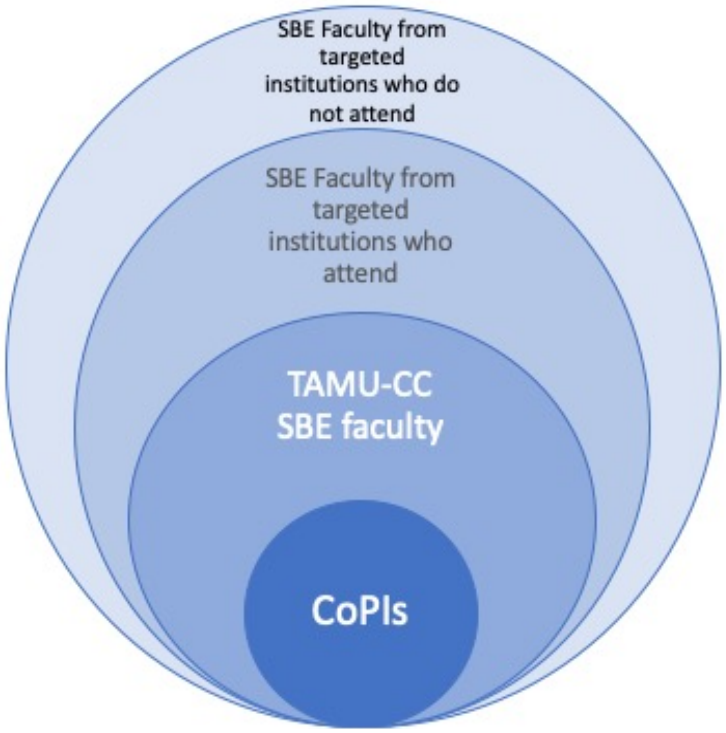
  c) provide processual knowledge by clarifying the instructions and the process of submitting a proposal (i.e., formatting)."

- **Bottom line:** Departments with returning rotators secure significantly more research funding.

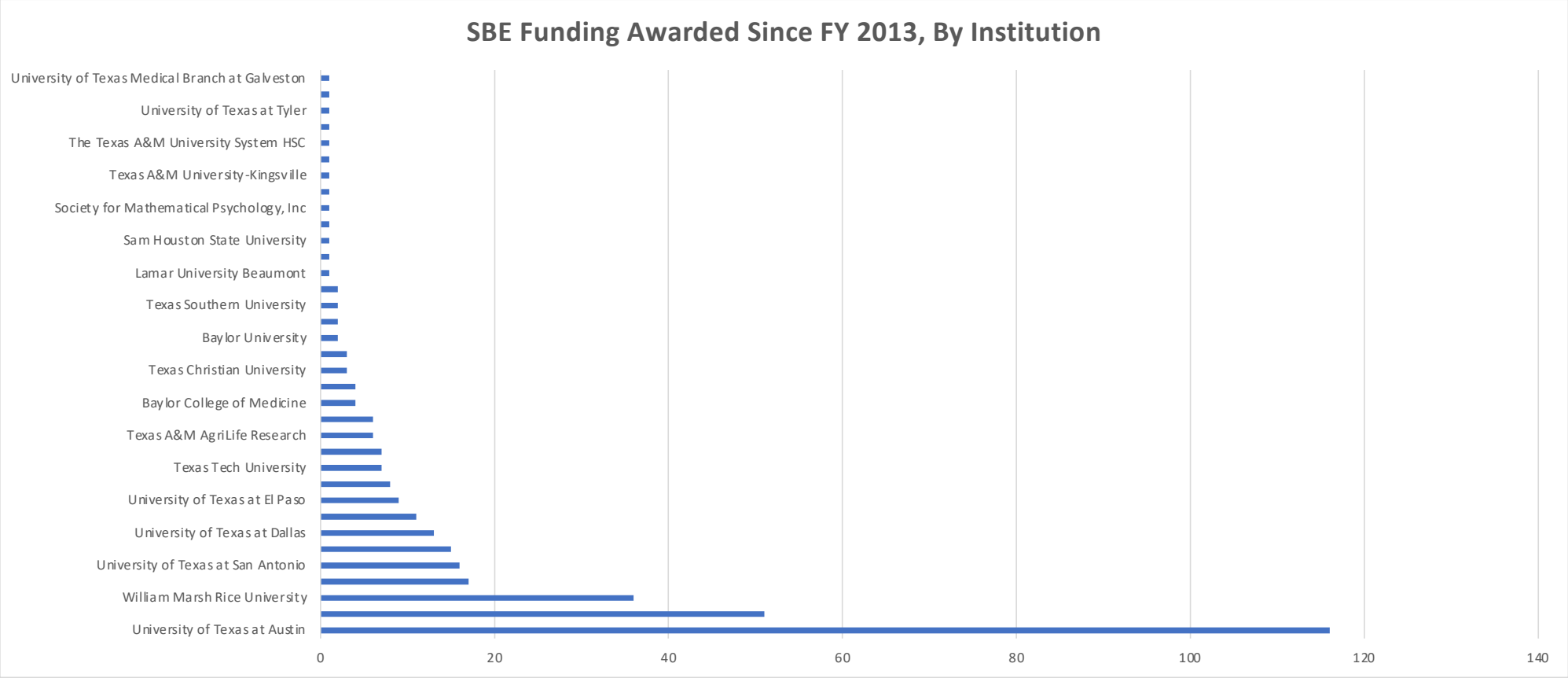
Why Texas?

- Texas has more Hispanic-serving institutions than every state except California.
- Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi is one of a set of universities in south Texas with a history of being denied access to higher education opportunities.
- TAMU-CC has a former NSF program officer – can we get the rotator effect of "learning by seconding?"

Figure 1.

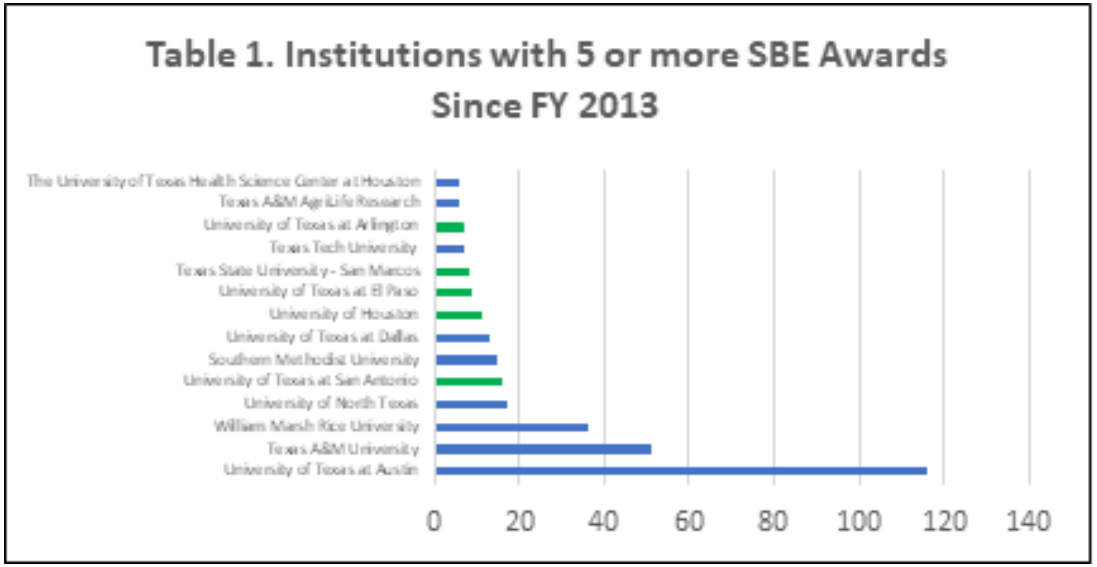


Also: Why Texas MSIs?



Less than Robust Funding for Texas MSIs from SBE

- Data from Consortium of Social Sciences Associations (COSSA) show that only three Texas institutions appear in the top fifty universities ranked by total federal Social and Behavioral Science R&D: UT Austin (17th), Texas State University (41st), and University of Houston (50th).
- Texas, a state with high-research activity, but lower levels of funding and activity in the social sciences.
- Only 5 received five or more awards (see Table 1, HSIs indicated by green bars).



Intellectual Merit of our Project

- Investigate the effectiveness of such an approach in replicating the known benefits of seconding associated with NSF rotators.

- Shed preliminary light on how MSI faculty, especially faculty of color and women, navigate their experience and career trajectories in MSIs.

- Increased attention to SBE research and funding in Texas.

Broader Impacts of our Project

- The pressing priorities of Texas mimic many at the national level.
- Expanded pool of faculty at MSIs who understand NSF proposals and expand their SBE networks could increase research capacity and partnerships in the SBE sciences.
- Remedy the significant disparities in funding between predominantly white institutions (PWI) and MSIs (cf. NASEM 2019).
- Increase participation of underrepresented groups as PIs at NSF.
- Disseminate findings to better understand effective strategies to enhance research capacity and collaborations at MSIs.

B2 2.0: The New Solicitation

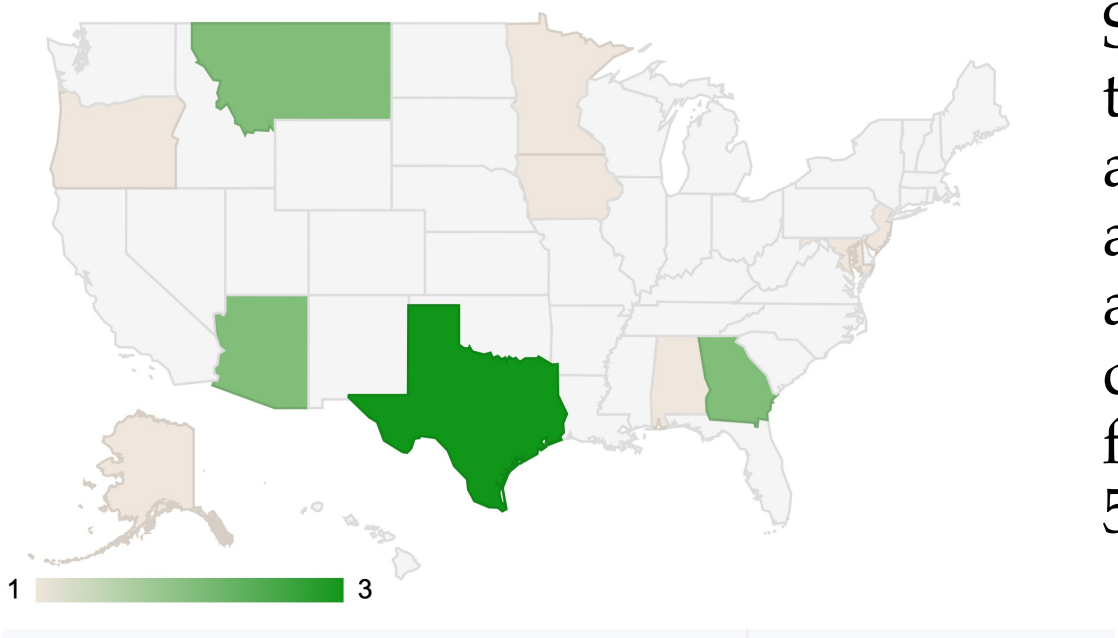


Image:
https://www.nsf.gov/awards/award_visualization.jsp?org=NSF&pims_id=505864&ProgEleCode=146Y&from=fund

SBE reviewed the proposals that were submitted, made awards (see map at left), and then analyzed both and used those results to draw up a new solicitation for proposals (March 5th deadline).

B2 2.0 Solicitation 21-542

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21542/nsf21542.htm

- "SBE offers Build and Broaden 2.0 in order to increase proposal submissions, advance research collaborations and networks involving MSI scholars, and support research activities in the SBE sciences at MSIs…**designed specifically for impact at MSIs**."

- Solicitation specifies:
  - A full-time scientist, educator, or researcher at an accredited MSI
  - A full-time scientist, educator, or researcher at any eligible non-MSI institution or organization *who includes an MSI scholar(s) as senior personnel, a co-PI, and/or subawardee PI* on the proposal.

Review Criteria

- Specific to the B2 2.0 solicitation:
  - The intellectual quality of the proposed research and associated activities in research areas supported by SBE
  - Potential of the proposed project to increase the quantity, quality, and capacity of research at the participating MSI(s)
  - Impacts of the project upon the professional development of faculty and students at the participating MSI(s)
  - If a partnership is proposed and the proposal is being submitted by more than a single PI at an MSI, the nature of the partnership among the participating institutions and investigators

Common Roadblocks

You/We are not alone

Dr. Jennifer Epley Sanders

Common Roadblocks for Mid-Career Faculty Research and Collaboration

Multiple Levels:

- Individual
- Department, Program, or College
- University
- State
- National

Multiple Types:

- Personal
- Social and Political
- Institutional (e.g., organizational and silos)
- Systemic

Various Timelines, Scales and Impacts:

- Short-term
- Long-term
- Exogeneous shocks
- Cumulative effects

Annotated Bibliographies and Resource Links

Texas Nexus Research

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HOME | ABOUT | NEWS | APPLICATION | FAQ | RESOURCES | CONTACT US

Resources

Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions

- Annotated Bibliography

Minority-Serving Institutions

- Annotated Bibliography
- 2019 List of Minority Serving Institutions by the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions (January 2020)
- "An Unstoppable Tidal Wave of Progress: Minority Serving Institutions in Texas" by the Center for Minority Serving Institutions at the University of Pennsylvania (February 2017)

Mid-Career Faculty: Purpose(s), Pathways, and Politics

Career Considerations at the Individual Level –

- "Life in a Post-Tenure World: Next Steps on Your Academic Journey" by Emily Allen Williams (February 14, 2018)
- "Managing Your Service and Administrative Workload at Mid-Career" by Terra McKinnish, Laura Argys, Adriana Kugler, and Donna K. Ginther (2017)
- "Posttenure Planning" by Kerry Ann Rockquemore (November 1, 2017)

Questions?
Concerns?
Suggestions?

Email our team:
texasnexusresearch@gmail.com

Common Roadblocks Continued…

Themes from your Homework #1 comments:

- **Limited grant experience**
- **Time constraints**
  - Work obligations beyond research
  - Mentoring others
  - P&T metrics
- **Institutional barriers**
  - Silos
  - Lack of infrastructure
- **Inequities related to underrepresentation**
- **Pandemic**

Our Team's Grant and Experiences with Collaboration

Learning Together

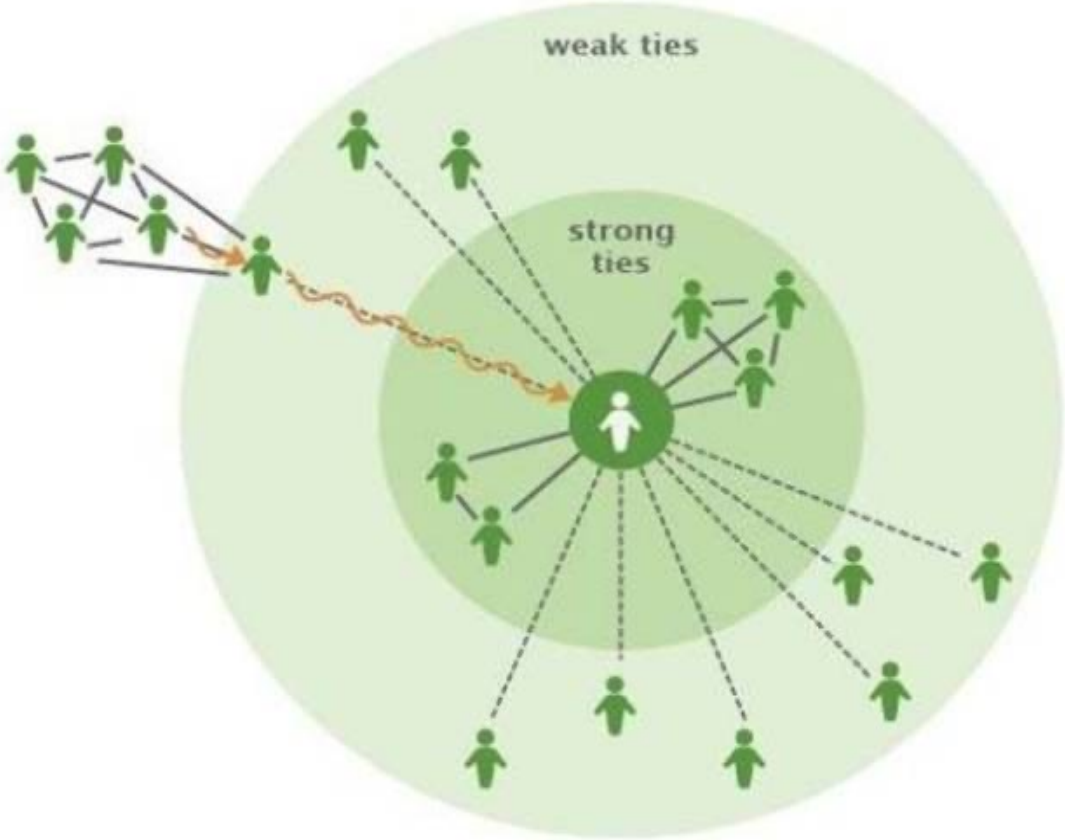
Dr. Michael Ramirez

Our Grant and Collaboration Experiences

First Steps:

- Individual (or serendipitous) factors
- Structural and organization factors
- Building networks: the "strength of weak ties" as critical

Weak Ties & Strong Ties



Our Grant and Collaboration Experiences

First Steps:

- Individual (or serendipitous) factors
- Structural and organization factors
- Building networks: the "strength of weak ties" as critical

Our Grant:

- An NSF grant? For someone like me?
- Goodness of "fit"

Our Grant and Collaboration Experiences

Collaboration Thus Far:

- The strength of *close* ties

Opportunities:

- Diversity in discipline, expertise, and experience
- An experienced member to demystify the process

Roadblocks:

- Diversity in discipline, expertise, and experience
- Navigating the new world of external grants

Upcoming Workshops and Homework Plus Homework #1 Summary

Plans and Participants

Dr. Isabel Araiza

SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

Theme: "Being a Resilient Researcher at Mid-Career"

"Navigating Roadblocks":
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 4:00pm-5:15pm (CST)

"Expanding Your Toolkit":
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 from 4:00pm-5:15pm (CST)

"Strategies for Career Success and Promotion":
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 4:00pm-5:15pm (CST)

"Is Full Professor for Me? Is Full Professor Possible":
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 4:00pm-5:15pm (CST)

Our Schedule for the Workshops

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				Homework for Workshop Wednesdays emailed to cohort
				Submit homework via Gmail or Google Docs depending on format
		Workshop Wednesdays		

Send homework submissions to texasnexusresearch@gmail.com **or Google Docs**.

Next Workshop's Homework

(due Friday, March 5, 2021)

1. **Update your CV**
2. **Identify the point of contact(s)**
   - Your campus Research Office (ROs)
   - Who's in charge of grant submissions?
   - Who's in charge of grant budget development?
3. **Find out internal deadlines**
   - RO deadlines are separate from grant deadlines
4. **Create a Fastlane ID**, if you don't already have one.
   - Refer to handout
   - Requires your campus administrator's approval

Complete Google Form Here

Requires logging in

(Copy of full link in slide notes, too)

2021 Cohort: Homework #1 Summary

Among those who responded:

- **Grant Writing Experience**
  - Working on others' projects
  - Applied, not funded
  - In final stages of review
  - Awarded
- **Collaboration**
  - Exploitive
  - Negative
  - Limited
  - Productive
  - Rewarding

Q & A

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