Proposal Writing and Evaluation: Perspectives from a Seasoned Program Manager

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Across the federal government, more and more people are writing research proposals, and success rates are shrinking. What should you know before you write a proposal to maximize your chances of success? How can you structure your proposal to increase the probability that reviewers will respond favorably? What is the role of a program manager (PM) in this process, and how should you relate to your own PM when you win an award? If you want to know more about how agency program managers view proposals and their evaluation, this is the talk for you.

Dr. Nowell has served as a program manager/director for three federal agencies. She will share her insights about how to decide whether to submit to a call, common mistakes in proposal writing, and how to position a proposal to get the best reviews. There will be plenty of time for questions, too.

ABOUT:
After eight years managing an Advanced Scientific Computing Research research portfolio emphasizing scientific data management, analysis, and visualization, Dr. Nowell now oversees a portfolio that covers operating and runtime systems, systems modeling and simulation, and programming models and environments. She recently sponsored a Workshop on Extreme Heterogeneity, aimed at understanding the research needed for supercomputing systems that will be operational in the 2025-2040 time frame. Previously, she served as a program director in the National Science Foundation’s Office of Cyberinfrastructure and as a program manager for the Department of Defense, managing projects related to information analysis and visualization. Nowell earned her M.S. and Ph.D. in computer science from Virginia Tech. She also holds a B.A. and M.A. in theatre from the University of Alabama and an M.F.A. from the University of New Orleans.

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