

The Research Express

Volume 2, Issue 8, November 2013

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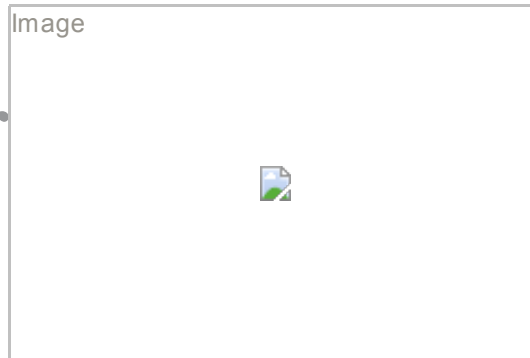
"The Research Express" (2013). *Research Express*. 9.
http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/research_express/9

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What Happens if a University Server Outage Prevents a Proposal Submission?

For the federal government, treating all proposers equitably and fairly is paramount. A common proposal due date ensures that all proposers are treated fairly. Granting some proposers an extension gives them an unfair advantage over other proposers who might have been able to improve their proposal had they been given more time. Proposers are advised, in most program announcements/solicitations, that it is their responsibility to begin the proposal submission process early enough to account for potential technical problems with computer systems and/or the internet (for electronic submission) or to allow for delivery of the proposal to the designated address (for hardcopy submission).

According to the National Science Foundation deadlines are "dates after which proposals will be returned without review by NSF" and will be waived only in extenuating circumstances (e.g., natural disaster). The Department of Defense states that proposals submitted after the application due date/time "will be late and will not be evaluated unless the Grants.gov website was not operational on the due date and was unable to receive proposal submissions." Other federal agencies have similar policies and the message is clear: **submit early**. Power outages, computer failures and internet outages are deemed foreseeable problems that can be avoided by early submission.

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eRA Commons' November 7 Software Release

The following are highlights of eRA's upcoming November software release for eRA Commons. This is just a sampling of the features being rolled out for this release and will be available Thursday, November 7, 2013; detailed information can be found in the [Release Notes](#).

- **RPPR Open Pilot to All Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Institutions**

The [Research Performance Progress Report](#) in eRA Commons will accommodate submission of non-SNAP awards, including multi-project (complex) and training awards, as part of a pilot open to members of the FDP. For more information on this, see NIH Guide Notice [NOT-OD-13-113](#).

Training for non-SNAP RPPR, originally scheduled in October, has been moved to **Thursday, November 14, 2013, 1:30-3:00 pm EDT**. For registration information on this training go to: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/262932326>

- **BioMedical Workforce (BMW) Initiative Tied to RPPR**

Data from the new [Personal Profile](#) is used as part of the NIH initiative to track the diversity of the biomedical research workforce so that informed decisions can be made about training of the optimal number of people for the appropriate types of positions that will advance science and promote health. As part of the validation process for RPPR submissions, eRA Commons will provide warnings when information on the Personal Profile is missing from key personnel identified in the report.

- **eRA Commons No Longer Accepts Full Social Security Numbers**

As part of the ongoing effort to protect your information, the Personal Profile or any other data fields in eRA Commons no longer accept a full Social Security Number (SSN) beyond four digits.

- **NIH Review Roster URL Has Changed**

The public roster webpage "NIH Scientific Review Group (SRG) Roster Index" that hosts the rosters for NIH review meetings has moved to a new, more secure technology that has been developed by eRA and has a new URL. The old URL, <http://era.nih.gov/roster>, has changed as of October 24, to <http://public.era.nih.gov/pubroster>. Please update your bookmarks accordingly.