Student Engagement, Retention and Success Grants

6th Biennial Diversity Conference
September 2016
SERS Grants – PURPOSE (1)
To support new and existing institutional programs that serve:

- Underrepresented Minorities
- Non-traditional Students
- Economically Disadvantaged Individuals
- Individuals with disabilities
- Other Specifically Targeted Groups
SERS Grants – PURPOSE (2)

2. Significantly increase and/or impact educational or diversity initiatives focused on student success.
SERS Grants – PURPOSE (3)

. Produce outcomes that correspond to the goals of the:

- Drive to 55
- TN Promise
- Achievement GAP Closure Initiatives
- Complete College TN Act 2010
- 2015-2025 Strategic Plan
SERS Grants – FOCUS
Achievement of measurable improvements in the engagement, retention, and success of identified categories of students.

• Pilot Programs (new programs) $15,000 maximum

• Program Enhancement (existing programs) $25,000 maximum

• High Impact Practice*
High Impact Practices*

- Service Learning
- Study Abroad
- Work-based Learning
- Undergraduate Research
- Learning Communities
- Badging/Certifications
Grant Timeline

September
Request for Applications Released

December - January
TBR Legal Review Submission deadline (if needed)*

February
Application Submissions Due to TBR Central Office

March – April
Grant awards are made

July 1,
Grant Program Period Begins

June 30
Grant Period Ends (single year grants)

August 31
Final Reports Due

*This deadline may vary based on the complexity of the application.

TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS
Legal Review*

- Race or gender specific
- Race or gender considered when determining eligibility for participation
Minimum Requirements

• Answer all questions in the proposal narrative questionnaire.
• Follow directions
• Provide all required signatures (at institution level and with any collaborators)
• Meet the application deadline.
What do we look for?

Proposals should clearly state the following:

• What are you trying to do? Problem
• How are you trying to do it? Outcome
• How will you know you have succeeded? Use of Data (current and projected)
• What will you do if you get off course? Monitoring and Assessment
What do we look for?

Ineligible Components

• Purchase of equipment
• Speaker fees
• Funding new employees
• Scholarship and tuition costs
DO!

1) Be as narrowly focused as possible on a specific problem related to student success
2) Identify which students will be targeted and how targeting this group aligns with overarching diversity/student success goals;
3) Give current data regarding this group of students;
4) Describe how the program/intervention will have a positive impact on this group;
5) project (with data) what the expected outcome will be;
Don’t

1) Propose programs that target all students in a particular program or major
2) Generalize the details of the program
3) Rely solely on anecdotal information;
4) Fluff the proposal to spend up to the limit
5) Be afraid to try something new and different;
QUESTIONS???