Office of Foundation Relations

Maureen Scherrer
Assistant Director
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What, Who, Where is OFR?

Northwestern University’s central office supporting faculty and staff across all schools and units who seek funding from private, professional foundations.
Who We Are

Sarah Fodor, PhD
Executive Director
Institutional Priorities, NU-Qatar, The Graduate School, Feinberg*

Susan Dauber, PhD
Director
Communication, IPR, Kellogg, Law, SESP, SPS, Weinberg-Social Sciences

Heidi Jurgens, PhD
Senior Associate Director
Communication-CSD, McCormick-Biomedical & ChBE, Weinberg-Life and Physical Sciences

Chloe Taft Kang, PhD
Senior Associate Director
Bienen, Block, McCormick, Libraries, Weinberg-Humanities and History

Maureen Scherrer
Assistant Director
Student life and scholarships, prospect research, reporting and analytics

Thomas Martin
Program Assistant
Gift/grant processing, stewardship support

*Much of Feinberg’s private foundation and public charity activity is managed by Michelle Melin-Rogovin, Senior Associate Director of Foundation Relations, Feinberg School of Medicine.
What Private Foundations Fund

- **Research/programs** that align with their **mission** and current areas of interest

- Many have programs for **early-career investigators** (windows of eligibility)

- Applying for funding:
  - Open Requests for Proposals (RFPs)
  - Invited/Limited RFPs
  - “Not accepting unsolicited proposals” (but may accept inquiries)
FY18 Private Foundation Funding: $54.7M

Source: Alumni Relations and Development CATracks Database
# OFR Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy and Planning</th>
<th>Proposals and Foundation Communication</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• One-on-one meetings with faculty</td>
<td>• Proposal consulting (strategy/writing/editing) to develop compelling proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PI- or project-specific prospect research</td>
<td>• LOIs, emails to foundations</td>
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<td>• Share relevant opportunities with individual faculty as they occur</td>
<td>• Plan and staff foundation visits</td>
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<td>• Biweekly RFP newsletter</td>
<td>• Grant management advice</td>
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<td>• Funding opportunities on website</td>
<td>• Track all private foundation activity across the University</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentations at departmental meetings/other convenings</td>
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Northwestern
When should I contact OFR?

When your PI (or you)…

1. needs help writing or revising a proposal
2. is curious about private foundation funding/planning to apply
3. wants to know about possible foundation opportunities
4. will be visiting a foundation
5. needs institutional documents, like our 501(c)(3) letter or board list
What are restricted foundations and what do I need to know about them?

Restricted due to…
• the nature of the University’s relationship with the foundation,
• because the foundation may limit the number of applications that can be made from Northwestern, or
• particular interests of the funder.

See the list of restricted foundations
My PI is interested in approaching a family foundation for funding. Can you help?

- OFR works solely with private, professionally staffed foundations.
- Some family foundations, in name, do have formal RFP processes and we do manage those.
- We can connect you with the appropriate Alumni Relations and Development team if appropriate.
What role does OFR play in limited submissions?

• Process managed by the Office for Research Development

• Once the Northwestern nominee is selected, OFR works closely with the PI to prepare a compelling proposal and ensure submission.
Resources

- **OFR Website** – RFPs
- **Sign up** for Email/Listserv for upcoming funding opportunities
- **Foundation Directory Online (FDO)**
- **Institutional Documents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/01/2019</td>
<td>Sensor Technologies to Monitor Energy or Environmental Systems</td>
<td>Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Up to $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/2019</td>
<td>Net-Zero and Negative Emissions Technologies</td>
<td>Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Up to $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/2019</td>
<td>Promoting Positive Cognitive and/or Achievement Outcomes for Children - April</td>
<td>Brady Education Foundation</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/2019</td>
<td>Research Grants in Human Services - April</td>
<td>Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/02/2019</td>
<td>Private Higher Education Grants</td>
<td>Arthur Vining Davis Foundations</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>$25,000 to $300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/03/2019</td>
<td>Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives</td>
<td>Council for Library and Information Resources</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>$50,000 to $500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/10/2019</td>
<td>Increasing Demand for Vaccination Services</td>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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</table>
Thank You

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www.northwestern.edu/foundationrelations
@NUFoundRel