THE FACULTY AND STAFF PERSONNEL EFFORT REPORTING TOOL (PERT)
WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

The Personnel Effort Reporting Tool (PERT) is the University's federal effort and committed cost share reporting system. Compliance with OMB A-21 Cost Principles for Educational Institutions (see The Research Grants and Contracts Faculty Guide, September 2006 and The Research Acronym Document: A Comprehensive Glossary, January 2007, COEDU, Office of the Associate Dean for Research) requires educational institutions to maintain an accurate system for reporting the percentage of time that employees devote to federally funded projects.

IN ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDING, THE UNIVERSITY AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AGREE TO COMPLY WITH OMB A 21

**Effort:** is defined as the work or proportion of time employees spent on any activity – this is expressed as a percentage of total time. A total effort of 100% must be reported.

**Committed Cost Share:** is defined as any project cost that is NOT borne by the sponsor or funding agency but is committed by USF for the performance of an externally funded project.

It is critical that ALL faculty and staff who are involved in the certification of effort understand that severe civil and criminal penalties and cost disallowances can result from inaccurate, incomplete, or untimely reporting. Since 2003, there have been over 25 institutions that have paid fines or settled with the federal government for failure to comply with PERT certification requirements. A sampling of the Effort Reporting problem is provided with a report issued by the University of California, Berkeley:

- Northwestern University paid $5.5 million to settle issues related to problems with Effort Reporting, on a contracts and grants base of $325 million;
- University of South Florida returned $4.1 million to the federal government to settle a number of charging issues, including Effort Reporting;
- University of California paid a total of $2.1 million to settle an NIH salary cap limitation disallowance for the period July 1, 1995.
through June 30, 2002;
• Cornell University was fined $4.3 million for charging all or too much salary to a NIH grant given to the University’s Children’s Clinical Research Center even though employees, reportedly, did not do work on the grant;
• Johns Hopkins University agreed to pay back $2.6 million to settle charges of over-billing related to Effort Reporting in February 2004;
• Harvard University paid back $3.3 million in June 2004 to resolve accusations related to Effort Reporting and other accounting and management issues.

Given these facts, it is vital that all faculty and staff meet PERT certification requirements each academic semester. Consult with the Office of the Associate Dean for Research (ADR) web site for additional information about P E R T requirements or contact Grace Wang in the ADR office.

- Bruce Jones

**FACULTY GRANT AWARDS**

This is to extend CONGRATULATIONS to the faculty and staff below who have successfully secured the following research and training grants since May 1, 2007.

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

Patricia McHatton and Erica McCray (Special Education) have been awarded a 4-year, $797,958 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education to fund Project P.R.E.C.I.S.E. (Preparing Regular Educators for Certification in Special Education). The program will focus on the critical shortage of special educators and the need for highly qualified teachers certified in both secondary content and special education and educators from underrepresented groups.

**STATE LEVEL**

Roy Winkelman (FCIT, Secondary Education) received a contract from Gasden County School District in the amount of $350,000. The project will create and tag digital assets, produce professional development podcasts and add content area reading in the area of mathematics and science instruction. FCIT will also conduct a pilot research on the use of laptop computers and MP3 audio players in mathematics education.

Roy Winkelman (FCIT, Secondary Education) received an interagency agreement from Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to provide personnel support for FDOE computer program applications; assist public
school districts, community colleges and agencies of the FDOE. The agreement amount is estimated $100,000 each year.

Roy Winkelman (FCIT, Secondary Education) has engaged a project with Tampa Theatre to support "Let's make movies" summer youth enrichment program with the digital video workshops and research reports.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS


RESEARCH EVENTS

Mini-Grant Program

Please contact Grace Wang to request mini-grant extensions.

Research Announcements

MANIPHONE DICKERSON JOINS THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

This is to officially announce the appointment of Maniphone Dickerson (Moni) to the staff of the Office of the Associate Dean for Research. Ms. Dickerson is a native of Laos and she earned her MBA degree from Southern Connecticut State University. She comes to us from the department of Psychology where she served in the area of grants management. Prior to joining the USF community, Ms. Dickerson worked extensively in the area of financial management at other institutions of higher education.
The work by Ms. Dickerson will focus on processing and monitoring post awards in the College. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Dickerson. Her number and e-mail is 974-7993; Dickerso@tempest.coedu.usf.edu or please feel free to drop by!

**ADR CONTACTS**

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