

Lessons Learned at Lessons for Success

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Background

- MA in Speech Language Pathology from UT - Austin
- PhD in Speech and Hearing Sciences from BU
- Assistant Professor at Penn State

In the beginning...

preLFS

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- Year 2 of PhD
 - F31
 - Not even scored!
 - Not enough publications
 - Depression
 - Motivation
 - 1 year later
 - New Century Scholars
 - Failed
 - Is it me?
 - Is it my idea?
 - Depression
 - Demotivation
 - Grant writing course
 - Critical evaluation of rejected F31
 - Clarity and focus
 - Strengthen resume
 - Strengthen team
 - New motivation
 - Year 4
 - F31
 - Success!
 - THIS IS HARD!
 - Is this REALLY my future?
 - Lessons for Success!

Lessons for Success

LfS

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- YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
 - Peers with similar background and goals
 - Mentors with relevant experience and desire to help

Lessons for Success

LfS

- Grants are hard
 - Clear, concise, grounded, interesting
 - Original, but not outlandish
 - Cutting edge, but established
 - Match the PI and the project to the mechanism (R, K, F, P...)
 - Tailor structure and content to agency
 - NIH
 - NSF
 - Foundations

Lessons for Success

LfS

- Grants are not impossible
 - Practice makes perfect
 - Method to the madness
 - Contacts
 - Program officer
 - Department head
 - Grant coordinator
 - Mentor
 - Colleagues
 - Perspective at each level of career stage

The aftermath...

postLFS

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- Hired at Penn State – August 2014
 - F31 was a gold star on CV
 - Publications
 - Submitted:
 - New Century Scholars (May 2014)
 - Success!
 - Serious jump-start
 - Grant Program for Projects on Multicultural Activities (May 2014)
 - Failure
 - Internal grant from Social Science Research Institute (April 2015)
 - Awaiting response...
 - Internal grant (co-PI) from Clinical and Translational Science Institute (April 2015)
 - Awaiting response...

The aftermath...

postLFS

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- In progress/planning:
 - Grant Program for Projects on Multicultural Activities (May 2015)
 - Advancing Academic-Research Careers (AARC) Award (May 2015)
 - R03 (October 2015)
 - K
 - R21
 - Goal: 1 submission per cycle

Strategies

- **Communication**
 - **Tell people what you're working on / *thinking of working on***
 - Potential collaborators
 - Potential funding mechanisms
 - Reign in/expand ideas
 - **Talk to your current and former mentors**
 - Experience
 - Organize and plan
 - **Form support groups**
 - Lunch bunch
 - Writing group
 - **Talk to your department head**
 - Align grant plan with tenure plan
 - Get excited about work
 - Meetings with other departments
 - **Meet with grant coordinator early**
 - Funding mechanisms
 - **Talk to potential collaborators early**
 - Involved with grant submission
 - **Talk to program coordinator**
 - Send specific aims and verify funding mechanism

Strategies

- **Learn**
 - **Attend workshops**
 - Conferences
 - University
 - Lessons for Success!
 - **Scour websites**
 - NIH
 - NSF
 - ASHA
 - **Embrace rejection**
 - Why?
 - Piet Heim
- **Organize, prioritize**
 - Grant tracker
 - Conference tracker
 - Eisenhower box
- **Write**
 - **Revise**
 - Rewrite
 - Revise
 - Rewrite...

Strategies

- **Be a good citizen**
 - **Be prompt**
 - Meetings
 - Emails
 - **Be reliable**
 - **Be involved**
 - Lunches
 - Lectures, symposia, colloquia
 - Volunteer
 - Service is required
 - Service is reciprocal
 - Service is an “inside scoop”
- **Be KIND**
 - Relieves stress
 - Builds relationships
 - Promotes collegiality
 - Does NOT make you a pushover

BE BRILLIANT!
