NSF Innovation Tank- NOBCChE 2022

- Overall Description: Have you ever been so excited about an idea, only to realize there would be a huge hurdle in finding funding to get your idea off the ground? Well, you don’t want to miss out on the chance of a lifetime to present your idea, gain useful feedback, AND learn about funding opportunities that can turn your dreams into a reality! Join us for this two-part series that you don’t want to miss!!

- Part 1- Innovation Tank Competition:
  
  o Description: Do you love STEM and also have an entrepreneurial mindset? Do you have a wonderful idea that you think would benefit society? Are you unsure how to merge your STEM degree with your entrepreneurial idea(s), and are genuinely curious where to even begin? Well, we have a solution to your problems!!! Pitch your idea in NOBCChE’s NSF Sponsored Innovation Tank Competition! During this competition several top executives and NSF program managers will give you valuable feedback as you present your ground breaking ideas! Some proposals will win prizes, but most importantly you will learn how your ideas can be funded through NSF sponsored grants! Proposal ideas are being accepted in all areas with a particular focus on the areas of biochemistry, nanomaterials, organic chemistry, technology, and sustainability. Ideas must be submitted ahead of time. The top proposals from each category will be given an opportunity, “Shark Tank” style, to present their information in a by invitation-only session.
    o Session Time/Date: Tuesday 9/27, 2-4 pm (2 – 2:30 pm)
    o Format: Competition

- Part 2- NSF Information Session:
  
  o Description: Join the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to learn about grant funding opportunities available for researchers, budding entrepreneurs, startups and innovators in the newly established Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships. You’ll learn how to tap into grant funding for startups, develop NSF-funded discoveries into a prototype or proof-of-concept and gain insights into entrepreneurship and market needs through experiential education. This session will also include a Q&A portion. For more information, visit https://beta.nsf.gov/tip/about-tip.
    o Session Time/Date: Tuesday 9/27, (2 – 4 pm)
    o Format: NSF Presentation (2:30 – 3 pm), and Q&A (3 – 4 pm)

What should the proposal look like?

- The following is an example of how to write an effective proposal for the NOBCCHE NSF Innovation Tank project. This proposal should be a maximum of 2-pages, single spaced, 11 point font (Times New Roman or Arial), and written using ACS format.

   ● **Introduction:** (1 paragraph)
      o Sentence to motivate the purpose of your project
      o Give a brief summary of the problem that is 1-2 sentences
      o Give a brief summary of the solution to that problem, also 1-2 sentences
Lay out the format for the rest of the proposal. This includes sections or different areas where you emphasize contrasting aspects included in your proposal.

- **Motivation** (1-2 paragraphs)
  - How did this problem come to be? What is the history behind the development of this problem?
  - For what reasons is this a problem that deserves attention? How is it significant or interesting?
  - Why does the problem occur, when does it happen, and where can it be located?
  - Are there any solutions to the problem that currently exist? What are the current limitations?
  - If there are similar solutions to yours, why will yours be more successful?
  - How does your method improve upon current solutions?
  - What do you want to achieve with this project? Do not include specific details, but give a general statement about what this project will accomplish.

- **Tasks to be undertaken:** (1-2 paragraphs, possibly a bit more)
  - Give a description of the project development, include resources needed including materials and funding, timeline (What is the estimated timeline for micro- and macro-scale production?)
  - Use diagrams or charts to demonstrate your point, as needed.

- **Issues and challenges:** for implementation (1-2 paragraphs)
  - What are some problems and challenges that you perceive will occur in the process?
  - In what ways will you address problems and challenges for idea implementation?

- **Deliverables:** (1 paragraph)
  - What conclusive evidence will the project produce?
  - Do your deliverables have different phases or components?
  - What features do the project’s products have?

**Timeline:**

- Idea Collection: Now through **August 19**
- Idea initial review by NSF Program Managers: **August 20 - September 9** (close of business)
  - Goal: To choose the top three in each topic category
  - Top 3 Notification - Week of September 12th (prep time for presentation = 2 weeks)
- Top Presentations- Shark Tank Style: 9/27 2-4 pm
- Snack & Coffee Break- 4-4:30 pm
- NSF Information session 9/27, 4:30- 6:30 pm