Developing a Tailored Communication Training Plan for Your Research Grant Proposal

CONSIDERING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF YOUR TEAM

Communication training is often envisioned as a one-and-done workshop. Yet communication is the most important and the most complex thing people do, as we try to connect with diverse audiences, through various modes of communication and with evolving aims. Instead of a one-and-done generic workshop, consider how the Research Communications Program can develop a tailored set of professional learning experiences for your team.

This may include a combination of interactive group sessions and individual coaching. The tailored program can be designed to correspond with specific grant benchmarks or as a progression of learning outcomes for project personnel. We can brainstorm with you to decide what would work best for your team based on your goals. We can design a plan that is flexibly adaptive to how your needs may evolve over the course of the grant period.

Benefits of a tailored communication professional learning plan include:

- Strengthen the Broader Impacts section of your grant proposal.
- Receive tips relevant to your communication goals and contexts.
- Engage in cohesive hands on learning experiences with your project team.
- Become more effective at conversations with team members across disciplines.
- Support the Individual Development Plans of your postdoctoral scholars and students.
- Optimize communication for your target audiences, even if they change over time.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Aim 1: Communicate effectively with colleagues across disciplines.				
	Aim 2: Recruit diverse students to the STEM pipeline.			
Practice interviews with colleagues	Telling your story	Individual	Aim 3: Inform policymakers and influence policy.	
	with on-camera practice	feedback on figures or slides	Practice fielding challenging	Aim 4 : Attract venture capitalists.
Foundational skills for communicating with those who do not share your discipline's language and conventions	Communicating authentically by tapping into your motivations and sharing your research journey	Applying principles from cognitive science and perception to your graphics and slide presentations	questions Improving your presence in the moment and ability to land your thoughts with your audience	Practice pitch session
Core workshop	Spark story workshop	Visuals design workshop	Voice, gestures & body language workshop	

The figure shows a sample communication professional learning plan for a five-year research proposal with four distinct communication aims. (Note: the grant proposal must have a UC San Diego faculty PI.)