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June 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Offices of Sponsored Programs

FROM: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

RE: Debriefing Information for Applicants to the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram, FY 2015-16 Competition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Robison", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

As you are aware, the FY 2015-16 competition for funds available in the Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram of the BoRSF Research & Development Program attracted an exceptionally large number of proposals of very high quality. This year, we received sixty-one (61) ATLAS proposals requesting a total of \$2,449,297. Of these 61 proposals, 15 were deemed of highest priority for funding (Priority I) by the subject-area and final panels. Available money enabled the Board to fund nine of the top-ranked proposals.

ATLAS proposals were reviewed in a two-stage process, involving subject-area and final panel evaluations. Each applicant receives one set of comments related to his or her proposal. Please inform applicants on your campus that these comments reflect the composite views of panel members. In addition, limitations on available funds should be considered by applicants as they review the provided comments. In several cases, though reviewers found a proposal to be entirely meritorious, the amount of available money did not permit funding, leaving unsupported six proposals rated highest priority by the panels. Ultimate authority as to which proposals are recommended for funding and the rank order of all proposals is vested exclusively with the final panel. Should applicants wish to view the final panel's report and recommendations, please inform them that they may find it on the consultants' reports page of our web site, <https://web.laregents.org/downloads/consultant-reports/fy-2015-16/>.

A copy of the ATLAS evaluation form completed by out-of-state reviewers is attached to this memorandum for reference. Debriefing information for each project not recommended by the final panel as Priority I and a copy of this memo have been posted to and may be accessed through the appropriate individual investigator's LOGAN account. We hope that reviewer comments and assessments will prove useful to applicants as they develop future proposals. Please note that no additional information or documentation regarding the review of these proposals is available.

Thank you for your continued assistance in this and other matters relative to Board of Regents Support Fund programs. If you have questions, please contact me (carrie.robison@regents.la.gov).

Attachment:
ATLAS Evaluation Form

Merit Review Criteria for ATLAS Projects

Instructions: Evaluators are asked to consider the following criteria in assessing applications and should provide commentary useful to additional reviewers and to the Board as final funding determinations are made, as well as to the applicant. After funding decisions are finalized, all applicants will receive reviewer comments as part of the debriefing process. The Board of Regents assures anonymity for all reviewers. If necessary, reviewers may submit additional pages of commentary.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project to its current field of study or art practice and its interest for broader academic and/or lay audiences

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's argument for the conceptualization, definition, and organization of the project

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project

Recommendation for Funding: Please indicate how strongly you would recommend this project for funding by the Board of Regents. If you believe that the project should be funded, please also provide an analysis of the budget request. If cuts to the requested budget are suggested, indicate the line item(s) to be cut and provide a total recommended funding amount.