

Office of the Vice President for Research

Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
*Interim Vice President for Research and
Executive Associate Vice President for Research*

December 15, 2008

Dear NSF Principal Investigators:

The America COMPETES Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2007, stipulates that NSF require all grant applications that request funding for postdoctoral researchers to include a description of planned activities for mentoring those postdoctoral researchers. Texas A&M University is highly committed to strong mentoring of postdoctoral fellows. As you develop your post-doc mentoring plan, I encourage you to take advantage of existing infrastructure available at the university.

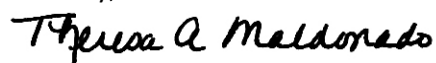
For example, the Division of Research and Graduate Study's Office of Proposal Development offers one-on-one consultations with prospective PIs to help them develop a postdoctoral fellow mentoring plan that best fits the proposed project and situation. To schedule an appointment, contact any of the OPD personnel listed [here](#). The Office of Proposal Development also provides on this webpage an example postdoc mentoring plan along with links to information, articles and reports on recommended strategies for mentoring postdoctoral researchers.

The Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of Proposal Development jointly offer a seminar each fall for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and new faculty on how to compete for research funding. In addition, the Office of Proposal Development offers a range of seminars and workshops open to postdoctoral researchers as well as to other researchers on various topics related to finding research funding opportunities and writing competitive research proposals. A list of these workshops can be found at [this link](#).

The university is also a partner in the NSF-funded [Center for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning](#) (CIRTL), which has as one of its goals to prepare post-docs for careers as faculty. Postdoctoral fellows who plan to become faculty can develop their teaching skills by participating in activities sponsored by CIRTL and by Texas A&M's Center for Teaching Excellence, such as the Graduate Teaching Academy, which provides workshops and seminars on teaching, teaching mentoring programs and help with developing a teaching portfolio.

I also encourage you to explore programs and activities available to post-docs through your College and Department such as seminar series, journal clubs and professional development workshops. We hope that these resources will prove helpful as you develop a postdoctoral mentoring plan for your NSF proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Theresa A. Maldonado'.

Dr. Theresa Maldonado

312 Jack K. Williams Administration Building
1112 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1112

Tel. 979.845.8585 Fax 979.845.1855
maldonado@tamu.edu
<http://rgs.tamu.edu>