Ms. Jennifer Downey – Planning Tools to Help Craft a Competitive Grant Proposal
Dr. D. Jay Grimes – What Reviewers Really Want!
Ms. Marcia Landen – Budgets, Project Management, and All that Jazz!
Dr. Wei Wu – Scientific Writing: Precision and Audience
Dr. Julie Cwikla – Reverse Engineering: A Proposal Construction Timeline

Open to all USM faculty, staff, and graduate students. Bring questions, an RFP you’re trying to decipher, or a work in progress. Attendees will have a chance to meet and discuss their projects at each round table.
**Dr. D. Jay Grimes** was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (2002-2007) and Director of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (1997-2007) at The University of Southern Mississippi where he is now a Professor of Marine Microbiology in the Coastal Sciences department. Grimes has served on the faculties of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (1971 to 1980), University of Maryland (1980 to 1987), and University of New Hampshire (1987 to 1990); he was also director of the New Hampshire Sea Grant College Program. In 1990, Grimes was selected for federal service as a microbiologist and program manager at the U.S. Department of Energy. In 1997, Grimes was appointed director of Southern Miss’ Institute of Marine Sciences and of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Grimes is a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology and in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; he is past-chair of the American Society for Microbiology’s Communications Committee and its Committee on Environmental Microbiology and he is past-president of the U.S. Federation of Culture Collections. Grimes received his B.A. and M.A. in Biology from Drake University (1966 and 1968) and his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Colorado State University (1971).

**Ms. Jennifer Downey** is the Special Assistant to the Vice President of Research at the University of Southern Mississippi. She has 30 years’ experience working in a variety of positions requiring expertise in both pre- and post-award activities of federally-funded projects. She has written proposals that have been funded by federal, state, and private agencies and foundations including the U.S. Department of Education, Health Resources and Services Administration and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

**Ms. Marcia Landen** is Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Southern Mississippi. She previously served as Director of Grant Services and Director of Sponsored Research Services at Indiana University. She also served at Iowa State University and is a member of the Society of Research Administrators. She holds a B.A. from Bowling Green State University and a M.S. in Communications from Ithaca College.

**Dr. Wei Wu** is Associate Professor in Landscape Ecology at the Gulf Coast Research Lab at the University of Southern Mississippi. She conducted postdoctoral research at both Duke University and Syracuse University. She has authored or co-authored over 25 peer reviewed publications, served as Co-PI or PI on over a dozen externally funded grants, and served as reviewer for the National Science Foundation. Wu received her B.S. in Ecology from Wuhan University (1996), M.S. in Marine Ecology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (1999), M.S. in Computer Science from Syracuse University, and Ph.D. in Systems Ecology from the State University of New York (2005).

**Dr. Julie Cwikla** is Director of Creativity & Innovation in STEM at the University of Southern Mississippi. She’s earned over $10 million dollars in federal funds to support ongoing research in STEM education and in December 2015 was invited to present at the National Academy of Science. She is a National Science Foundation Early CAREER Award Recipient, founded out-of-school programs Project WetKids (NSF) and Pioneering Mars (NASA), and is current PI for Gulf Coast ADVANCE a multi-institutional partnership to support women scientists. She served as Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor in the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at USM from 2001-2012. She was also the founding Director of CISSTEM - The Center for Integrative Studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama from 2012-2014. Cwikla received her B.S. in Mathematics and Chemistry from Fairfield University (1995), M.S. in Applied Mathematics from New York University’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (1996), and Ph.D. in Mathematics Education with a minor in Applied Mathematics from the University of Delaware (2001).