

## Proposal Strengthening Tips

By  
*Miner and Associates*

### Reviewers to Applicants: Cut Down on the Bragging

Recently, the grant consultants at Miner and Associates were asked to review a proposal in which "the PI bragged so loudly that it deafened the federal agency reviewers." In its January 19, 2010 *Grantseeker Tips* newsletter, Miner lists three of the offending sentences followed by revisions they say would have strengthened the proposal:

⦿ **Original**

We have been extremely successful in adapting instructional materials to communicate engineering and information technology issues to undergraduate students.

**Revision**

We have ten years of experience in adapting instructional materials to communicate engineering and information technology issues to science undergraduate students.

⦿ **Original**

The PI and his research team have had remarkable success developing teaching materials dealing with information technology.

**Revision**

The PI and his research team of four science educators have developed eight multimedia information technology teaching materials in the last five years that have been adopted in 50 universities.

⦿ **Original**

Furthermore, the PI has a strong affiliation with an online educational resource laboratory.

**Revision**

Additionally, the PI has an established track record of collaboration with an online educational research collaboration; we signed our Memorandum of Understanding in 1998 and it has lead to twelve joint projects in the area of undergraduate instructional materials.

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GRC encourages members to submit their perspectives on successful proposal writing for inclusion in a future edition of *GrantWeek*. Contact Meg Cantwell at [cantwellm@aascu.org](mailto:cantwellm@aascu.org).

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