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| **FINANCIAL SERVICES CONNECTION**Office of Grants and Contracts |

**Requesting Preaward Speedtypes at CU Denver | CU Anschutz Medical Campus**

Through the process of talking with departments about the Funding/Spending control implementation we have discovered there is a common misconception that pre-awards cannot be issued for certain types of awards such as federal flow-through contracts, state agencies, etc. We believe this misconception is based on OGC practices from years prior. OGC would like to clarify that the current practice does not exclude pre-awards based on the type of award. We will issue a speedtype for all award types (new and continuing).

It is important for departments utilizing the pre-award request process to understand that not all sponsors allow pre-spending for expenses prior to the start date of a grant award and rarely prior to the start of a contract. It will be up to the department to be in compliance with sponsor’s pre-spending policies. Many times the issuance of a pre-award will be to help get future funding setup and to plan for future spending. It may also be used when you know you will be receiving a backdated contract or award.

Our office is currently working to roll out a revised form to be more user friendly and for all stages of the award cycle as well as converting it to an online form. If you have questions about the issuance of pre-award, please contact Bryce Walsh at Bryce.Walsh@ucdenver.edu.

**Next Team Talks Session – HCM Project End Date Controls**

Please join us at the next Team Talks session on October 3, 2018. This will be the last session prior to the Funding/Spending Project Controls implementation on 10/22/18. This Team Talks session will include the following topics.

* Summary of the upcoming project spending controls
* Review of top FAQ’s
* PreAward process
* Federal Grant setup process for projects within a 5 year non-competing segment
* Existing tools to navigate project closeout
* Future tools

***REGISTER at*** [***https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamTalks\_Oct3***](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamTalks_Oct3)

**CU Denver**

**Date: Wednesday, October 3**

**Time**: 9:00-10:30am

**Location**: Business School, Room 3100

**To join via Zoom, click** <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/474376059>

**CU Anschutz**

**Date: Wednesday, October 3**

**Time**: 1:30-3:00pm

**Location**: Ed 2 North, Room 1102

**To join via Zoom, click** <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/961383635>

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**Sponsored Projects Training Overview**

This September Financial Services, in collaboration with the department spearheaded Research Administration Workforce Committee (RAWC), started implementation of two University-wide sponsored projects training programs. This includes the RAWC training program, as well as general open enrollment sponsored projects training. The RAWC program is be geared towards current campus employees who are not currently in research administration roles, but desire to gain experience before pursuing a research administration role. The open program offers those same courses on an open enrollment basis for the rest of the campus.

The curriculum currently includes the following courses:

* Introduction to Sponsored Projects
* Cost Principles for Sponsored Projects
* Pre-Award Administration for Sponsored Projects
* Post Award Administration for Sponsored Projects
* Products of Research
* Department Best Practices
* Essential Communications Skills for Research Administrators
* Regulatory Compliance Requirements for Sponsored Projects
* Clinical Trials
* Contracting for Sponsored Projects

Courses are offered at both CU Anschutz and CU Denver. Interested participants may register for the courses through SkillSoft at: <https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/career-advancement-learning/learning/skillsoft/skillsoft-help>.

A schedule for course offerings for the spring will be released later this fall. New courses will be added to the curriculum, including Subrecipient Monitoring and Overview of 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Guidance).

Questions regarding the training program may be directed to TK Keith at Thomas.Keithiii@ucdenver.edu.

**Compliance in the News**

Compliance with sponsor requirements and university policies and procedures is a responsibility for all employees. The following compliance-related issues have recently been in the news:

**Conflict of Interest.** [*Top Sloan Kettering Cancer Doctor Resigns After Failing to Disclose Industry Ties*](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/13/health/jose-baselga-cancer-memorial-sloan-kettering.html)*.* The chief medical officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center resigned following reports that he had failed to disclose millions of dollars in payments from health care companies in dozens of research articles. In recent years, medical journals and professional societies have imposedstricter rules about reporting relationships with industry after a number of prominent physicians failed to disclose payments from drug companies. To learn more about the university’s conflict of interest policies, visit the Office of Regulatory Compliance’s [Conflict of Interest](http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/ORC/COI/Pages/default.aspx) page.

**Unallowable Charges.** [*Texas A&M Research Foundation Pays $750,000 to Settle Claims Alleging Improper Charges to Federal Grants*](https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/texas-am-research-foundation-pays-750000-settle-claims-alleging-improper-charges)*.* The Texas A&M Research Foundation (TAMRF) agreed to pay the federal government $750,000 to resolve claims that the Foundation submitted improper charges to federal grants. The government found that TAMRF improperly charged various federal grants for expenses not properly allocated to them, including salaries and wages for individuals not working on the grants and for supplies and equipment unrelated to the grants. TAMRF also improperly charged various federal grants for unallowable costs such as travel expenses unrelated to the objectives of the grants or for unaffiliated parties not working on the grants.

Employees of the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus working on federal grants must adhere the University’s “[Direct Charging to Federally Sponsored Projects](http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/Research%20Administration%20Documents/Fiscal%20Policy%204-07%20Direct%20Charges%20to%20Fed%20Proj.pdf)” policy. The policy, which is aligned with federal regulations, requires all charges to a federal award be: allowable, allocable, and necessary and reasonable.

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**Travel Not in Compliance with the Fly America Act.** [*Performance Audit of Incurred Costs – Massachusetts Institute of Technology*](https://www.nsf.gov/oig/_pdf/18-1-006_MIT.pdf)*.* The National Science Foundation (NSF) conducted an audit of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and found, among other items, the university failed to comply with the Fly America Act, which requires travel on U.S. flag air carriers for travel paid for or reimbursed by federal grants and contracts. The auditors questioned, and MIT agreed to repay, $1,325 for unallowable foreign airfare expenses. MIT also agreed to review and revise its training programs related to travel and its travel expense report screening procedures to ensure compliance. To learn more about the Fly America Act, visit the Procurement Service Center’s [Fly America Act](https://www.cu.edu/psc/fly-america-act) page.

**New to the OGC Team**

**Michael Nguyen** (he goes by Thai) is relatively new to the Billing team.  Thai joined us in June as the Collections and Award Setup Specialist and is doing a great job collecting on the University’s outstanding invoices.  He graduated in May 2018 from CU Denver with a Bachelor’s degree in Finance and will soon be working on his Master’s degree.  Thai gained relevant work experience as a student worker in the Finance Office prior to graduation.  In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his dog.  Thai can be reached at x43162 or michael.t.nguyen@ucdenver.edu.  Welcome Thai!