

DR. PAMELA LUSTER URGES PRESIDENTS TO “JUMP IN” TO ATE PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



Dr. Pamela Luster, president emerita of [San Diego Mesa College](#), utilizes her relationships and connections among community colleges and their leaders in her role as the chair of CCPI-STEM’s Southwest Pacific Regional Network.

“Having been president and working across our campus to garner grants and all that entails helps me to understand the depth and breadth of the planning, implementation and assessment of successful programs,” she wrote in an email.

Luster is currently the president and chief executive officer of Luster Higher Ed Group, which brings “equitable, just, and inclusive practices to higher education leaders and institutions.” She also teaches in [San Diego State University’s](#) community college leadership doctoral program as an adjunct professor.

“Jump In!” is her advice to presidents whose institutions have not previously had [Advanced Technological Education](#) (ATE) grants from the [National Science Foundation](#).

She suggests beginning by meeting with the curricular leaders in every discipline covered by the ATE program: “Use already established processes, like program review and institutional effectiveness data, to guide the discussions around how to create effective grant submissions. Additionally, industry advisory boards are key in providing knowledge and capital support in terms of guiding new curriculum and practices.”

Most colleges already have business and industry advisory boards that can be tapped for advice on workforce needs that an ATE project could address. She also recommends gathering feedback from alumni.

She acknowledges that time is the biggest challenge to community colleges seeking ATE grants.

“It takes a good deal of time, energy and commitment across campuses to successfully match the institution’s vision for outcomes, matching that with NSF-ATE guidelines and then working to create a long-term plan for viable and vibrant work that the colleges can support when the grant term is over,” she wrote.

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