



## MALRC On The Move

### Welcome

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It is good to have everyone back for the Spring 2007 Semester. This newsletter highlights the first MALRC plenary meeting, featuring Jim Calvin, Vice President for Research, Office of the Vice President for Research. Jim provided the Fellows with very good advice concerning the writing of highly competitive grant applications for external funding. The funding will fuel quality research conducted by Fellows relative to the betterment of life chances of Latinos in the state and in the nation.

Sincerely,

Edward Murguía, Ph.D.  
MALRC Founding Director

### First Plenary Gathering of MALRC Fellows Hears James A. Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research, Speak on Grantsmanship

James A. Calvin, Executive Associate Vice President for Research, Office of the Vice President for Research, shared ideas with the first plenary gathering of all four cohorts of Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Center (MALRC) Fellows, 62 in number, on the writing of successful grant applications for external funding. The meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the Blocker Building and was well attended. Because even the most successful researchers at Texas A&M and elsewhere do not receive funding for every grant application for external funding they submit, Jim outlined strategies Fellows could take to improve their grant applications so as to resubmit them with a greater chance of obtaining funding. He emphasized the need for resilience when a researcher's application was not funded.

According to Jim, the researcher should not be thinking, "What shall I do if this grant application is not funded". He/she should be thinking, What shall I do if this grant application is not funded yet. Intelligent persistence results in a great number of grant applications being funded in the long run. Jim acknowledged that life is full of negative insults, but those who are more successful tend to be less bothered by negative. He advised that researchers should glean as much information as possible from grant application reviewers' comments.



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**Information continued**

Other key ideas presented included the following:

- Obtain advice from colleagues concerning the writing of competitive grant applications
- Contact the program officer of your funding agency to ask for information and clarification on any aspect of the RFA (Request for Applications) that is not clear to you
- You are not the first ever to be turned down for funding. Learn to bounce back from negative reviews, refine your work, and resubmit your application
- Take the review process with a grain of salt. Sometimes you do get a reviewer who misinterprets what you propose to do, and so you need not to take the review process with the utmost of seriousness.
- Volunteer to be on a review panel to learn more about the review process and what



James Calvin and the MALRC Fellows at the First Plenary Gathering

**We would like to thank James Calvin, the Office of Proposal Development, and all of the MALRC Fellows for attending the Plenary Gathering. We hope that the information discussed in this meeting is of help to you and your research.**