SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
SHAPIRO MID-CAREER RESEARCH AWARD (MCRA)

Due October 1, 2023, 5PM Eastern Time

Purpose of Shapiro Mid-Career Research Awards
The purpose of the Society for the Study of School Psychology Shapiro Mid-Career Grant Awards is to promote excellence in research for mid-career researchers studying school psychology. The primary purpose is to facilitate obtaining federal or national foundation research funding for a successful mid-career professional. Although not all quality proposals submitted can be funded, each applicant will receive constructive feedback to guide future submissions.

Eligibility:
- Persons eligible to become Shapiro Mid-Career Scholars under this initiative are defined as individuals between two- and ten-years post-tenure and currently at the rank of Associate Professor or equivalent. Eligible individuals not in an academic position, would be those who are at an equivalent number of years post-degree, usually between 10-17 years post-doctoral degree.
- To be eligible, a prospective Shapiro Mid-Career Scholar will have an existing or emerging program of school psychology research that, with additional mentorship provided by a senior research mentor, holds promise to meet the funding expectations and requirements of federal agencies or national foundations. Researchers must ensure that their proposals are consistent with professional codes of ethics (i.e., APA, NASP, American Academy of Pediatrics [AAP]}.
- Shapiro Mid-Career Scholars will have had success in obtaining local or state external funding for prior or ongoing research projects.
- Applications for the award must include a budget detailing expenses needed to support proposal preparation.
- Any members of the research team (i.e., PI, consultants, mentor) who has a real or potential conflict of interest (COI) must submit a COI management plan. The COI management plan is not subject to the RfP page limits.

Mentorship Requirements
A senior researcher with expertise in the applicant's area of study will work with the applicant to prepare and submit for research funding. This will involve mentorship activities including brainstorming research questions and design considerations, reading drafts of proposals, preparation of presentations and/or manuscripts, and may include meetings at the mentor's or awardee's institution, and a sponsored national event (APA, NASP or CDSPP).

Award Funding

Funding from the SSSP for the MCRA may be used for reimbursement of travel expenses and direct expenses. Reimbursable travel expenses may include travel expenses for the mentor or the MCRA scholar for a face-face meeting to support grant preparation, or for both to meet during a sponsored, national event once each year at APA, CDSPP or NASP. Direct expenses may include expenses incurred in the preparation of the proposal for national funding. Examples of direct expenses may include, but are not limited to, stipends for research assistants to conduct pilot studies to be referenced in the application; research incentives to participants for pilot projects, stipends for editorial assistants to edit project proposals, or other reasonable costs specified by the applicant as relevant to crafting their proposal. Consistent with SSSP policy, capital expenses (e.g., purchase of computers, software, or other hardware) and indirect costs/overhead are not reimbursable (see the SSSP website). A maximum award of up to $4,000 for the first year and up to $4,000 for a second year (if a second year is approved) is possible.

Potential for a second year of SSSP funding.

To apply for second year funding, by the end of the first year the Shapiro Mid-Career Scholar should submit documentation to the Director of Research that confirms that the awardee has submitted a grant proposal with the support of the mentor to a federal agency or national foundation that exceeds $50,000 per year in (1) direct costs and (2) with external funding to be determined by a peer review process. A copy of the submitted grant and proof of submission *must* be sent to the Director of Research at least 30 days prior to the end of the funding period for a second funding year to be considered. If the proposal meets the two criteria listed above, then the Director of Research, after consulting with the Board, may authorize a second year of funding for the scholar and mentor.

Evaluation Criteria

Every application will have to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicant is between two- and ten-years post-tenure and currently at the rank of Associate Professor or equivalent. (For those not in an academic position, the individual would need to be the equivalent number of years post-degree, usually between 10-17 years post-doctoral degree.)
- Has not been successful in seeking external funding for projects budgeted at $100,000 or greater per year
- Shown evidence of progress toward the federal grant application process
- Has an existing and defined program of research that supports the proposal

All eligible applications will be scored on the following:

- Area of research is well defined and reflected by applicant's research activity.

- The area of research is likely to be viewed favorably by federal funders (e.g., NIH, IES, NSF).
- There is an available mentor who has committed to mentoring the applicant.
- Proposed expenses are consistent with the SSSP guidelines

Submission Instructions and Notification of Awards

Applications are due by **October 1, 2023**. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by **December 1, 2023.** The length of award will be one year with an additional year available pending approval by Director of Research (see above). The start date will be **January 1, 2024.** The complete application should be converted to a single pdf file with the sections organized in the order listed in the attached application and emailed to cskinne1@utk.edu by **5:00 pm Eastern Time October 1, 2023**. The file should be labeled with the applicant's name, followed by the mentor's name and the date (e.g., Doe_Beckman_8-1-2021.pdf).

Reporting Requirements

To maintain award eligibility recipients are required to send an Annual Report (by January 31 each year) to the Director of Research and Practice describing activities and progress during the year. The Director of Research will provide awardees with a template for the report. Successful applicants will be expected to acknowledge funding by the SSSP in any publications or presentations of the results of the research supported by the grant. Successful applicants are encouraged to consider publication in the Journal of School Psychology.

Chair of Shapiro Mid-Career Awards Selection Committee is Dr. Chris Skinner, email: cskinne1@utk.edu