

Date: October 10, 2008
From: Eva J. Pell
To: College Deans
Re: Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) Program

As you may be aware, as part of the AMERICA Competes Act, which was signed into law in 2007, the National Science Foundation will begin to require that graduate students who are included as research personnel on NSF awards receive training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). Specifically, the Act says:

SEC. 7009. RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH.

The Director shall require that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to **provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research** to undergraduate students, **graduate students**, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project.

In response to this legislation, we are pleased to announce the Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) program designed to provide responsible conduct of research (RCR) education for Penn State master's and doctoral students. The SARI program will be implemented beginning with the incoming class of 2009 - 2010. We recognize that the Act also addresses undergraduate students and postdocs, and we strongly encourage postdocs and undergraduate students as appropriate to participate in the SARI program as well. I am requesting your support and assistance in advancing this initiative throughout your college.

Based on guidance provided by the Council of Graduate Schools, in a report entitled "Graduate Education for the Responsible Conduct of Research," the SARI program is designed to include both interdisciplinary and program-specific RCR content. It utilizes a multilevel approach, incorporating both on-line and discussion-based training, and will be informative and engaging for all students, regardless of type of degree, program, or discipline. Please see the attached SARI Program Announcement for details about this program.

In order to tailor RCR education to individual student and program needs, the SARI program will be implemented by the colleges. We are asking that each college develop a plan for how graduate students in their programs will meet the SARI requirements, including participation in an existing online training program provided through the Office for Research Protections (ORP), and 5 hours of discussion-oriented RCR education. The attached SARI

Program Announcement and Program Planning form provide details to guide the planning process. In addition, the education staff at the ORP (865-1775) will be happy to assist you as you develop your program. College program plans should be submitted to the ORP no later than May 15, 2009. We are very excited about this new initiative and hope that you will lend it your full support. Thank you for your partnership in this important endeavor.

cc: Associate Deans for Graduate Education
Associate Deans for Research