

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION ACM FACE SYMPOSIUM

*Protecting Human Subjects in Student Inquiry Projects:  
Addressing the Educational, Ethical, and Legal Obligations of Liberal Arts Institutions*  
February 23-25, 2012 | Northfield, MN

All ACM member institutions are cordially invited to participate in a symposium on **Protecting Human Subjects in Student Inquiry Projects**, to be hosted by St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, from Thursday, February 23 through Saturday, February 25, 2012. The purpose of the symposium is to help the ACM and its member institutions meet the legal, ethical, and educational obligations in the supervision and conduct of undergraduate projects more effectively, efficiently, and consistently, both within and across institutions.

As liberal arts colleges engage growing numbers of students in active, collaborative, and “high impact” learning practices in on-campus courses, service-learning experiences, and off-campus programs, students are increasingly undertaking inquiry projects that involve surveys, interviews, focus groups, behavioral observation, and other methods of gathering information from and about human subjects. Moreover, faculty and staff from a wide variety of fields – not just the natural and social sciences – are confronting the challenges of supervising these projects. At the same time, there are significant differences in the ways individuals and institutions interpret and apply federal regulations governing human subjects protection. Consequently, the symposium will be most productive if the participants represent a broad mix of disciplines and roles related to student inquiry projects, including IRB chairs and members, course instructors, program advisors, and administrators with responsibility for curriculum, research, and/or faculty development. Funding from an ACM FaCE grant will cover all transportation (airfare, mileage, rental car and gasoline, shuttle service, etc.), lodging, and meal expenses for one symposium participant per institution, and meals during the symposium for up to two additional institutional participants. Institutions would be responsible for transportation, lodging, and any other meal expenses incurred by their additional participants.

The goals of the symposium include:

- Clarifying the definitions and procedures involved in determining whether a student project requires review by an institution’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to project initiation;
- Developing recommendations for professional development for supervisors of student projects, including options for on-line training;
- Reviewing drafts of brief educational materials for undergraduates that help explain the relevance of federal standards for human subjects protection even for projects that involve human subjects but do not require IRB review;
- Developing recommendations for ensuring the protection of human subjects in student projects that do not require IRB review.

Prior to the symposium, an inter-institutional study group will prepare a series of policy recommendations and sample educational and administrative documents that will serve as working papers for symposium sessions. The study group is working with staff in the federal Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) to ensure that its recommendations are consistent with current interpretations of applicable federal regulations and attentive to potential changes in the future. Symposium participants will review and revise the policy, procedure, and educational documents prepared by the Fall 2011 research group and convey them as resources to their home institutions and to ACM staff. In the course of our work together, we will be particularly attentive to the special challenges posed by student projects conducted in inter-institutional off-campus programs, such as those sponsored by the ACM itself.

The symposium will begin at Carleton College at 4 pm on Thursday, February 23, continue at St. Olaf College during the day on Friday and Saturday morning, and conclude with lunch on Saturday afternoon. Additional information and a more detailed agenda will be posted later this fall on the website of the Science Education Resource Center ([http://serc.carleton.edu/acm\\_face/](http://serc.carleton.edu/acm_face/)).

The Steering Committee for the symposium includes Jo Beld, Professor of Political Science and IRB Chair at St. Olaf College; Nathan Grawe, Associate Professor of Economics and Associate Dean of the College at Carleton College; and Greg Buchanan, Associate Professor of Psychology and IRB Chair at Beloit College.

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| <p><b>ACM Deans should submit the names of symposium participants to the project director, Jo Beld (<a href="mailto:beld@stolaf.edu">beld@stolaf.edu</a>, 507-786-3910) by December 15, 2011.</b></p> |
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