

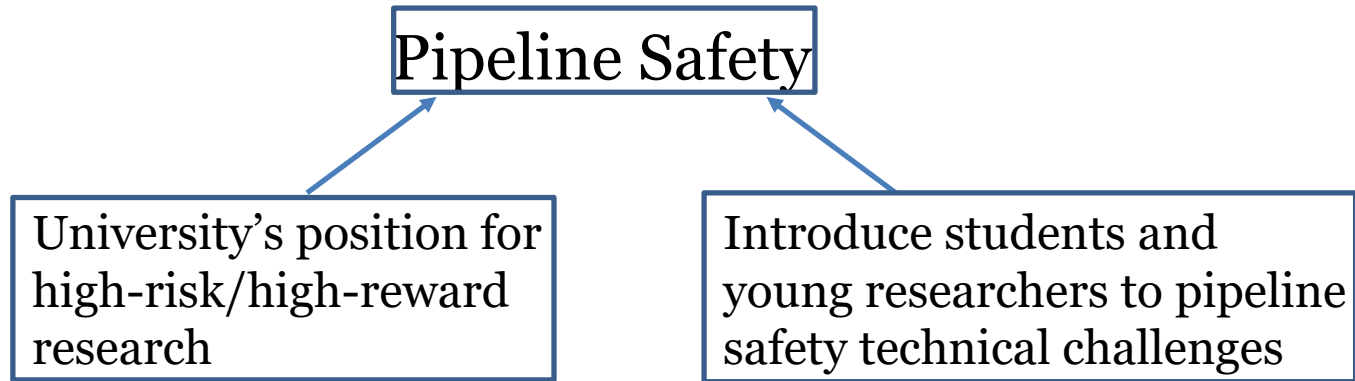
# Submitting Superior CAAP Applications



## Competitive Academic Agreement Program 23 April 2019



# Motivation for CAAP



*The Elevator Pitch:* “PHMSA’s Competitive Academic Agreement Program is a competitive award to universities to spur high-risk research and involve students in the challenges of pipeline safety research.”



# Elements of a Superior Application

**Applicability** – “Is this proposal answering the question we asked?”

**Scientific merit** – “Is this proposal scientifically sound and getting the necessary inputs?”

**Management Plan, Work Tasks, and Schedule** – “Does this project have SMART objectives? The facilities to work? **The right student involvement?**”

**Presentation quality** – “Does this researcher know ‘alot of good results’ doesn’t mean anything?”

\*Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound. SMART



# Elements of a Superior Application

- How does CAAP communicate the elements?

Criteria	Applicability		
	Exemplary	Adequate	Needs Improvement
Applicability of solution	Proposal addresses the entire topic area needs	Proposal addresses most of the topic area needs	Proposal addresses some of the topic area needs
	Scientific Merit		
Originality of proposed solution	The proposal suggests original solutions to the topic area, evidence is provided with excellent sources and discussion	The proposal suggests a solution which could prove original for the topic area, provided with adequate sources and discussion	The proposal suggests a solution which may prove original for the topic area, questionable sources and discussion
Technical Readiness	The proposed topic solution is readily implemented for end users or commercialization	The proposed topic solution would only be mildly difficult to adopt or commercialize	The proposed topic solution would be moderately-severely difficult for end users to adopt or commercialize
SME oversight	The proposal has identified SME for the project which will be available at the beginning of the period of performance. SME has knowledge directly pertinent to the topic area.	The proposal has identified partnerships which will be available no sooner than 3 months from the beginning of the period of performance. SME has knowledge which may be directly pertinent to the topic area	The proposal has identified candidates for SME input, OR they will not be available no sooner than 6 months from the beginning of the period of performance SME has knowledge which could be directly pertinent to the topic area
Research partnering	The proposal has identified partnerships which will be available at the beginning of the period of performance Identified partner is deeply involved in topic area.	The proposal has identified partnerships which will be available no sooner than 3 months from the beginning of the period of performance Identified partner is moderately involved in topic area.	The proposal has identified partnerships which will be available no sooner than 6 months from the beginning of the period of performance. Identified partner somewhat involved in the topic area.



# Elements of a Superior Application

## Management Plan, Work Tasks, Schedule

Criteria	Exemplary	Adequate	Needs Improvement
Research goals and objectives	The research goals and objectives are clearly defined, and are entirely supported by the WS/T/M*	The research goals and objectives are well defined, and are well supported by the WS/T/M	The research goals and objectives are decently defined, some support by the WS/T/M
*Work scope, tasks, and milestones (WS/T/M)	The WS/T/M are clearly defined, project risk is accounted for and mitigative measures taken	The WS/T/M are well defined, some project risk is accounted for and some mitigative measures taken	The WS/T/M are decently defined, little project risk is accounted for and few mitigative measures taken
Research facilities	The facilities available to the proposer will be equipped to support the work at the beginning of the period of performance	The proposer has access to some of the facilities to support the work during the period of performance/ The facilities will be available no sooner than three months from the beginning of the period of performance	The proposer has access to a few of the facilities to support the work during the period of performance/ The facilities will be available no sooner than six months from the beginning of the period of performance
Student involvement	Student involvement per task is excellently defined Student development plan is excellently described. In addition, the student(s) has/have been identified and is available at the beginning of the period of performance	Student involvement per task is well defined. Student development plan is well described. In addition, potential students have been identified	Student involvement per task is not well defined. Student development plan is poorly described. Potential students have not been identified.
<b>Presentation Quality</b>			
Proposal presentation	Proposal is logically organized, grammar (0 errors), no missing information. Proposal easily understood to technical persons.	Proposal has reasonable organization, grammar (1-2 errors), little missing information. Proposal somewhat easily understood to technical persons.	Proposal has some disorganization, grammar (3-4 errors), some missing information. Proposal is only understood with deep background in the topic area.



# Elements of a Superior Application

- No surprises when proposals are evaluated
- The rubric in the Notice of Funding Opportunity is used directly to evaluate proposals
- Projects with a tech transfer/commercialization plan get a bonus



# Awards

- \$250-300K per award
- 20% cost share
- 24-36 month period of performance
- 6-8 awards anticipated



# Programmatic Recipient Obligations

- Quarterly Reports
- Annual Reports
- Final (proprietary etc) & Public Final Reports
- Public Debrief





# Performance to Date

Annual Announcement	Number of Awards	PHMSA Contribution	Cost share	Students*	Interns and Career Employed
CAAP-1-13	8	\$814K	\$353K	59	7
CAAP-2-14	7	\$719K	\$391K	28	4
CAAP-3-15	11	\$2,976K	\$888K	61	13
CAAP-4-16	3	\$909K	\$368K	20	0
CAAP-5-18	13	\$3,855K	\$1,028K	18	0
<b>Grand Totals:</b>	42	\$9,274K	\$3,031K	186	24

\*High school to PhD level



# Contact information

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Contact Joshua to get periodic updates on CAAP announcement, debriefs, and other opportunities

