Recognizing Gifts vs. Grants

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Maria Mike-Mayer, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations
Why it’s important to know the difference between a gift and a grant

• Determines who should be involved in the process: from application to receiving funds

• Provides the proper channels for financial records

• Provides the donor with official acknowledgement (e.g. a receipt)

• Allows for follow-up and stewardship of the donor from the Institute by the proper offices
Who does what?

• Research Administration & Finance (RAF):
  • provides service and administration for the proposal and award activities of approved sponsored grants, contracts and other agreements on behalf of the Institute.

• Institute Advancement: Corporate and Foundation Relations (CFR):
  • works with the Rensselaer community to match funding priorities with Rensselaer's strategic needs
Typically a gift is …

- A voluntary and irrevocable transfer of money, services or property (e.g. equipment, personnel time and skill, etc.) from a donor
- without any expectation of, or receipt of, direct economic benefit or provision of goods
- or services from Rensselaer other than recognition (e.g., a named professorship or scholarship, listing as a donor)

Gifts vs. Grants

Typically a gift is …
Typically a grant is …

- a legally binding written agreement between the Institute and the sponsor.
- The sponsor may require delivery of specific items, such as technical reports, data, software, and hardware, and may want to review publications for patentable and proprietary information.
- It may require financial reports, return of unspent funds, and external audit.
### Gift and Grant Examples

- **Corporate gifts:**
  - General Electric Energy $80,000
    MDL
  - Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. $30,000
    Alliance Solid State Illum. System
  - Sealed Air Corporation $75,000
    Nanoscience Fellowship
  - Skidmore, Owings & Merrill $175,000
    Architecture
Gift and Grant Examples

- Corporate grants:
  - BP America Production Company $350,000
    Acoustic Communication Power Technology (ACPT)
  - Hewlett Packard Co. $70,000
    Mining and Querying Massive and complex Graph Data
  - Saturn Industries, Inc. $117,590
    Energy Efficient Manufacturing of Gas Direct Injection Seats
# Gift vs. Grant Checklist

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

**Gift/Grant Checklist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source:</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Funding is provided by an individual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Funding is provided by US Government, at the federal, state or local level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Funding is not provided by an individual or US Government, consider questions</td>
<td>Answer questions below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Requirements:</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Is the funding to accomplish a specific Statement of Work?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Is there a detailed line item budget for the work to be performed?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Does the funding agreement require detailed financial reporting beyond a summary of expenditures?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Does the funding agreement require the return of any unexpended funds at the end of a designated period?</td>
<td>If the answer is YES to any of these questions the funding is a GRANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Does the funding agreement include terms and conditions for the disposition of tangible property?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Does the funding agreement include terms and conditions for the disposition of intangible property?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the Funding Source is option 3 and the answers to 7-9 are no, please have the funding agreement reviewed by the Finance Office for determination of whether the funding is a gift or a grant.
Indicate IA Involvement on the Project Identification Form (PIF)
Contacts

- **Grants: Research Administration and Finance**
  - Richard Scammell, Acting Assistant Vice President for Research Administration, 518-276-6177, scammr@rpi.edu
  - Located on the 3rd and 4th floors of West Hall

- **Gifts: Corporate and Foundation Relations**
  - Maria Mike-Mayer, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, 518-276-2116, mikemmm@rpi.edu
  - Located on the 3rd floor of the Chasan Building
Questions?