

FAST⁵

(Resource Guide)

March Madness

By: Jimmy Reed

How do those brackets look now? This year for a change, I actually had my final four intact during the Elite 8, and then last weekend happened and now I have zero teams in the Final 4. You can also rest comfortably knowing I will still be working at DESE, as I did not win the Warren Buffet bracket challenge where he will give you one billion dollars if you correctly guess every winner in the tournament from start to finish. If only, there were a way to change or amend my bracket while the tournament is being played.

Speaking of amending March Madness brackets, if you needed to amend your budgets in the equipment or supplies category March 25th was the deadline. Unlike my NCAA tournament brackets, you can actually amend or change your budgets throughout the year. This caused craziness on both your end and ours, which is normally reserved for late May. So why the change? I promise you we do not throw darts to determine changes in policy (although throwing darts would probably make my bracket better).

If you have attended any training in the past few years, you have heard us talk about how purchases need to be reasonable, necessary, and allowable. We do not make up these things they actually come from the Uniform Grant Guidance. Literally,

everything we reimburse you for from salaries, to 3D printers, to the PQA we have to approve and there must be a paper trail demonstrating the approval such as: Budget in original grant, budget amendment, or continuation report.

There are any number of reasons for budget amendments later in the year; Missouri's crazy weather sure plays a factor in this. However, large budget shifts each year can indicate a few things: lack of planning and budgets that are too large. Currently we are fighting to keep (21st CCLC) programs in the federal budget. If we are having to constantly shuffle at the last minute to move large sums of money we (DESE) will not be the only ones watching which leads to the question nobody wants to have asked "do they need the money if they have to find ways to spend it?" This is arguably the best reason we decided to move up the date to encourage you to start thinking sooner rather than later about your budget because again we understand things happen (like the weather) just remember: reasonable, necessary, and allowable.

Back to my brackets: truth be told if Mizzou is not good, I do not pay a lot of attention to the season. I will watch some games but honestly I will listen to the talking heads in CBS and that will largely determine my brackets like my fantasy football teams I do not do a lot of data analysis (which is why

I rarely win). So the best way to determine if your bracket or team winning is a good decision check with me. If I have the same team winning it all as you do change your pick immediately! Just like our budget amendments, you can make changes before the first game tips off but not in the middle of the tournament.

DUE DATES

July 15:
SAC Final Program Report

July 25:
Final Expenditure Report
Last request for payment

UPCOMING TRAINING

April 30 – May 3:
BOOST Conference

June 18-20:
MAACCE

July 9-11:
Science in the Rockies (Spangler's STEM Conference)

For more due dates, report forms, grant announcements, training, etc. please refer to the afterschool portal.

