

# Computer Science Seminar

## Introduction to SBIR Grants

Dr. Juan Figueroa

Abenake Connect, LLC



The Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR), referred to simply as the SBIR program is a highly competitive program that encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. By including qualified small businesses in the nation's R&D arena, high-tech innovation is stimulated and the United States gains entrepreneurial spirit as it meets its specific research and development needs. The presentation/conversation will emphasize how to write a proposal that would be evaluated on its merits, therefore, enhancing its chances of funding and avoiding beginners' mistakes.

Bio: Dr. Figueroa retired from the National Science Foundation in January 2014 where he served since 2002 as a Program Director in the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) after spending over twenty years in R&D management positions in the electronics and communications industries. At NSF he reviewed over three thousand innovative technology proposals and managed over 600 awards ranging from \$100K to over \$1M. His last position before joining NSF was Product Development Consultant for Material Sensing and Instrumentation, Inc. (MSI), an NSF SBIR awarded company. He is now Principal at Abenaki Connect, LLC, a company assisting institutions in the transfer of innovative technologies and solutions to the market currently working with the University of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust responsible for transforming research into economic success and the Organization of American States. He is also Senior Technology Adviser to the DC ArchAngels, a national investor group based in Washington, DC and to SensorComm Technologies, an environmental technology company in New Mexico USA, and most recently has joined the Tambourine Innovation Ventures in international entrepreneurial and educational activities.

Prior to MSI Dr. Figueroa was Director of Strategic Development and Project Management for the Home Communications Division of Ericsson, a multinational-telecommunications, and consumer electronics company. His first appointment after graduate school was with Bell Laboratories as a Member of the Technical Staff in Murray Hill, New Jersey and Allentown, Pennsylvania working in the development of the microprocessor, CMOS, and networking technologies. After 13 years with Bell Laboratories, Dr. Figueroa led the operations of a high-speed networking equipment design startup company. Dr. Figueroa has been involved in, at the time, emerging technologies such as Wi-Fi, cable modems, ADSL, Ethernet and Natural Language Processing.

Dr. Figueroa received his Ph.D. in Physics from the State University of New York at Binghamton. A native of Puerto Rico, Dr. Figueroa received his B.S in Physics from the University of Puerto Rico.

**Date: February 26, 2018**

**Time: 10:00 am - 10:50 am**

**209 Computer Science Building**

MISSOURI  
S&T