Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement

2017-2018 Intramural Grant Opportunities

Interdisciplinary Research Awards

Announcement Date: Nov. 28, 2016
Application Due Date: February 28, 2017 (5 PM)
Link to application: https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cSxkLDL8gEjnz25

Award Period: July 1, 2017 --- June 30, 2018

The Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement in partnership with the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Health Sciences requests applications for this program.

Interdisciplinary Research Awards (IRA) are seed grants to support interdisciplinary research projects leading to competitive applications for extramural funding. The purpose of this program is to promote collaborations between faculty members with complementary expertise, build strong investigative teams, and increase competitiveness for extramural funding from diverse sources. Proposals must incorporate significant roles for at least two faculty members (tenured or tenure track) from different departments; a well-defined research plan; and a clearly articulated plan for obtaining extramural funding to sustain the research following the award period. Projects that align with ECU priorities, bring together faculty members with diverse expertise to better understand significant problems facing the region and society, and exhibit potential for translation of the research findings into discrete interventions will be given preference. Projects that link faculty from Academic Affairs and Health Sciences are also a priority. In FY2017, there were 11/25 applications funded for a total of $145,000.

The expected budget period for IRAs is July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Each person or team that receives funds is expected to submit at least one significant application for extramural funding by January 1, 2019.

The number of awards will be determined by the quality of the proposals, number of requests, and level of funding provided in the NC budget for FY2018.

Eligibility and Relationship to other Internal Grant Programs

- Eligible primary applicants are limited to tenured or tenure track faculty.
- Fixed term faculty may serve as co-applicants in IRA awards.
- Faculty members may be a primary applicant on only one application but may participate as Co-applicants on other proposals.
- Faculty members can apply to only one program (IRA or FRA) as a primary applicant.
- It is permissible to be a co-applicant on an IRA and a primary applicant on an FRA, or co-applicants on multiple IRA teams.
- Current start-up recipients may serve only as co-applicants under the IRA program.
- Primary applicants are not eligible for funding from the IRA program if they have received any intramural grant support in the last two years (including startup funds). Applicants will be asked to list any internal research awards received in the last five years on the application.
- Faculty are eligible to apply to any other intramural award programs such as the Research and Creative Awards that are not administered by REDE. However, faculty may only receive funds from one program; they will be asked to choose between them if selected for funding from both.
- Teams that have established collaborations, but have not yet received extramural funding to support research, are eligible.
- Teams with extramural funding for clinical and/or service projects may apply to add a research
component to the project that could attract additional extramural funding.

**Application process**

Applications will be collected via a Qualtrics survey. After submission, completed applications will automatically be sent to the unit Chair or Director and Associate Dean for Research in the College for approval. Only approved applications will be considered for funding. Proposals will be evaluated by internal panels of faculty some of whom will not be discipline-specific, so applicants are requested to avoid discipline-specific jargon.

**Review Criteria (see rubric below):** Collaborations will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Scientific/technical/creative merit
- Quality and strength of the investigative team, including evidence of extramural funding while at ECU
-Extent of participation and unique contribution of each faculty member to the collaboration
-Opportunities for continued collaboration of the investigators
-Opportunities to apply for external funding mechanisms to sustain the work
-Need for seed funding to establish the collaboration and/or prepare for external applications
- Appropriateness of the budget request

**Required elements:**

The application includes a description with the problem, significance, overall goal, hypothesis/objectives/specific aims (if applicable), and roles of team members. The description is limited to 8000 characters (with spaces) (approx. two pages). A separate budget and justification (2500 characters with spaces) is also required. Note: Formatting will not be captured by the software; please do not add extra spaces, bullets, bolding, italics, etc. Greek and other characters should be spelled out. Finally, an NIH/NSF CV or biosketch (PDF) will be attached to the survey. If you do not have an NIH/NSF biosketch, please follow this format (5 pages max.):

Name:
Rank & Department:
Room & Phone #:
A. Institutions/Degrees received:
B. Professional work experience:
C. Number of peer-reviewed publications to date:
D. As primary author______; Total publications_______
E. Awards and achievements (list as needed, awards and honors, editorial boards, etc):
G. Current and past internal research awards (e.g., Faculty Senate awards, School awards)
H. Current and pending external support:
I. Relevant Publications (max. 10):

All information is to be submitted via a Qualtrics survey on or before February 27, 2017 (midnight). Pre-proposals will be sent by the system to your Chair and Associate Dean for Research for approval and then screened and ranked in consultation with the Associate Deans for Research using the rubric provided in Appendix 1.

**Oral Presentation**

Some teams may be invited to present their projects to a panel of peers from within ECU. Invitations for oral presentations will be conveyed to the applicants in March and presentations scheduled for April 2017.

The peer-review panels will be tasked with providing an independent critique and ranking of the prioritized projects. Reviewers will be provided access to the proposals, but will not be informed of the rankings or comments from the initial screening. Final results of the competition will be announced in late April 2017. Funding for awards will be contingent upon availability of funds in the FY2018 NC State Budget.

**Budget stipulations:**
• Budgets should be carefully constructed to cover only the costs of the project.
• Academic year faculty salary - Not permitted.
• Summer salary (9 mo faculty) - Will require compelling justification and is **not normally awarded for primary applicants**. Salary will only be awarded for the **first summer session 2018** at the level of **up to 16.67% of academic year salary or $12,000, whichever is less, plus benefits** (approximately $2400). The personnel section of the OSP budget worksheet may be used to compute allowable benefits.
• Financial support for external collaborators - Not permitted
• Travel to meetings for dissemination of results - Not permitted.
• General purpose computers and software – Not permitted.
• Support for graduate and undergraduate students – Departments and programs are encouraged to support the project by utilizing existing stipends/assistantships/fellowships. If support is requested, the level should be consistent with department standards for student compensation.

**Important Note:** REDE reserves the right to modify budgets in consultation with applicants. All purchases budgeted must be received, invoiced and **PAID by June 15, 2018 (final payment for Summer I salary will be on June 30, 2018)**. State regulations do not permit the use of FY 2017-18 funds to cover costs incurred in FY 2018-19. Funds not disbursed will be returned to the state per state regulations. While funds will not carry over, **supplies/equipment/services purchased in FY 2017-18 may be used to support (front load) collaborative activities in FY 2018-19**.

**Post award responsibilities:**

Award recipients must:

• Provide a summary of research results and budget expenditures on or before September 1, 2018
• Submit a significant application for extramural funding by January 1, 2019
• Inform REDE of all proposals and awards resulting from funding under this program.

Please direct questions to Dr. Mary Farwell, Assistant VC in REDE (farwellm@ecu.edu, 328-9476).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>4-5</th>
<th>2-3</th>
<th>0-1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Disciplines (involved in project, synergy and diversity)</td>
<td>3 or more, synergistic and diverse</td>
<td>2, synergistic and diverse</td>
<td>2, no synergy and/or very similar in nature</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Integration (of investigators and disciplines in the project)</td>
<td>All critical to success</td>
<td>Some involved but may not be critical to success</td>
<td>Importance and involvement of the disciplines is unclear</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>PI (funding and publication record)</td>
<td>3 or more extramural awards with at least 2 while at ECU and strong publication record</td>
<td>1-2 awards at least 1 while at ECU and moderately strong publication record</td>
<td>0 funded awards; weak publication record</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Co-I (The highest individual score for all Co-I’s listed on the proposal)</td>
<td>3 or more extramural awards with at least 2 while at ECU and strong publication record</td>
<td>1-2 awards at least 1 while at ECU and moderately strong publication record</td>
<td>0 funded awards; weak publication record</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Strength of Project</td>
<td>Addresses a significant problem in a compelling way, translation to practice or intervention is clear</td>
<td>Sound but not distinctive or translation to practice/intervention not evident</td>
<td>Weak, not distinctive</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Potential ROI</td>
<td>Multiple specific opportunities for follow-up funding from diverse sponsors are cited</td>
<td>Specific funding opportunity identified</td>
<td>No opportunity for future funding cited</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Broader Impacts</td>
<td>Clearly addresses an institutional strategic priority or societal/regional problem with high potential to affect change</td>
<td>Potential to address an institutional strategic priority or societal problem</td>
<td>No relationship to institutional mandates or significant problem in society</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>(West and east campus involvement; mid-career researcher in new area, excellent writing)</td>
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