Accelerating Collaboration in Research Initiative: Support for Developing Strategic Research Thrusts

The goal of this grant program is to grow collaborations and partnerships in high impact areas to address emerging needs. Invariably, this requires the skills and expertise of an interdisciplinary team including outside organizations. The proposals for this funding are expected to provide:

- A vision of the future research center the team wants to create.
- A roadmap of the collaboration-building or other strategic activities needed to move toward establishment of the research center.
- Underlying research problems and an integrated approach to address them
- An interdisciplinary team led by a committed leader (associate professor and above with primary appointment in COE)

Each team can be granted up to $75,000 for an initial one-year period, with a possibility of renewal for a second year based on progress and availability of funds. The expectation of this initiative is to mature strategic research thrusts into new centers of excellence with sustained external funding of $1 million per year over a 5-year time period.

Faculty who are interested in developing a proposal for this program should first discuss the idea with Dr. Arun Somani, arun@iastate.edu. Proposals should be sent to Dr. Julienne Krennrich, jmkrenn@iastate.edu, when ready.

Proposal Preparation Instructions

Proposals should be no more than 5 (single-sided) pages in length. Use one-inch margins on all sides and font size 11 or greater. The proposals must contain the following sections:

- **Rationale and vision** for the proposed effort. This section needs to describe the proposed research thrust and highlight the innovative and transformational nature of the effort.
- **Concise description of the long-term research goals** and intellectual focus and outline of the planned research activities. The need for an interactive, interdisciplinary approach involving several investigators, and the means of achieving this, should be clearly established.
- **A list of activities** that support the roadmap and their associated costs broken into 6-month time periods. More detail is expected for the first 6 months, than the second six months.
• A list of core investigators led by a committed PI, by full name, organizational and departmental affiliation and major role. Please include a 2-page NSF-style CV for each core investigator that emphasizes, if applicable, prior collaborative work with this team.

• List of sponsors (federal agencies, foundations, companies) that are likely to be interested in funding research in the proposed area, with supporting evidence such as the name of the program, program manager, funding initiative, and budget line where available. The idea is to provide convincing evidence that funding exists that is viable to pursue.

**Review Criteria**

The review criteria used to evaluate the proposals will include:

• Ability to articulate the creation of a well-integrated, interdisciplinary research program driven by a vision that could lead to fundamental advances, new discoveries and/or technological developments that could have national impact.

• Strength of the plan to secure significant new extramural funding and form a strong and lasting team.

• Qualifications and the collaborative track record of the team led by a recognized and committed senior leader (associate professor and above).

• Soundness of the program to launch and sustain an excellent research program and/or center of excellence.