

GRANT PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING STRATEGIC RESEARCH THRUSTS

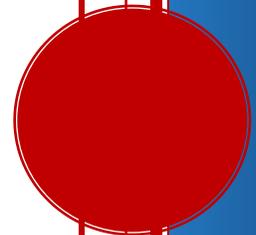
Goal

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 clear vision of strategic research thrust
- Underlying research problems and an integrated approach to address them
- Interdisciplinary team led by a committed leader (associate professor and above with primary appointment in COE)
- External funding opportunities with a plan for sustaining the research effort beyond this grant.

The College of Engineering anticipates funding up to four proposals. Each team will 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, for a maximum of \$150,000. A clear 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 the 3-5 years' time period.

2016



Grant Program Support for Developing Strategic Research Thrusts

Process and Timeline

Proposals are due: First round - October 16, 2015; Second round - March 4, 2016

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 clearly describe the proposed 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 participating senior investigators led by a committed PI, by full name, organizational and departmental affiliation and major role.
- 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.

In addition, the proposals should contain a short budget (one page) and budget justification (one page) and a 2-page NSF-style CV for up to three senior investigators listed above.

The proposals need to be electronically submitted as one PDF document in an email to Raj Aggarwal, Director, Engineering Research Institute, by 5 PM on or before (October 16, 2015 and March 4, 2016).

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 clear 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 investigators led by a recognized and committed senior leader (associate professor and above).
- Soundness of the program to launch and sustain a center of excellence.