Prominence-to-Preeminence (P2PE) STEM Targeted Initiatives Fund ($15M)

One of the key initiatives in the 2030 Plan is **Pathways to Research Preeminence**.   The overarching goal of this initiative is not preeminence for its own sake, but to contribute knowledge that will address major societal challenges and opportunities.

In order to move this key initiative forward, we are investing $15M in the Prominence-to-Preeminence (P2PE) STEM Targeted Initiatives Fund and inviting proposals. In the coming months and years, we will be pursuing different ways of advancing our research ambitions; this is one of many steps we expect to take to support our research and scholarship in these priority areas.

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The goal of this fund is to provide necessary resources to advance research initiative(s) that will move us from prominence to preeminence in the five research focus areas identified in the strategic plan: Democracy, Environmental Resilience and Sustainability, Precision Medicine, the Brain and Neuroscience, and Digital Technology and Society. Proposals are expected to be STEM-centric (science, technology, engineering, mathematical sciences), but if non-STEM disciplines are needed to effectively advance the research, they should be included.

This funding opportunity will prioritize proposals that demonstrate a strong potential to identify and significantly advance an interdisciplinary research theme in a key area (whether through the addition of new researchers, infrastructure investment, seed funding, or other mechanisms); demonstrate technical and managerial readiness for implementation; and include a well-developed plan for implementation.

Proposals should:

1. Describe an interdisciplinary theme based on transformative research in science/technology/engineering/mathematical sciences that **moves the needle significantly in one of the key strategic research areas** outlined in the strategic plan.   If other disciplines (humanities, social sciences, arts) are necessary to success of the project, they should be included.
2. Frame the key research questions that will demonstrate the possibility of making significant progress in a 5-year timeframe; describe one or two significant milestones during this period that may be viewed as early wins; and plan for continuation of the project after the initial five-year period.
3. Describe the current ongoing work that establishes prominence in the proposal's research topics. It should include an assessment of the talent, infrastructure, and resources currently available and identify gaps in the same.
4. Make a compelling case for the resources necessary to accomplish the goals in the 5-year time frame. Resources required may include:
   - **Financial resources to hire faculty and support start-up packages in gap areas**. Local (departmental and/or school) cost-sharing will be expected.
   - **Critical research infrastructure**. Research Infrastructure (RI) may include any combination of facilities, equipment, instrumentation, computational hardware or software, large curated datasets, and scientific technical support.

- **Direct funding of research.** This should be limited to seed funding to launch research and should not replace extramural funding.
5. Include an administrative plan and organizational structure that ensures effective management of the project resources.
6. Secure academic leadership commitment (support letter from relevant dean(s)) to facilitate and further the plans and goals of the project.
7. Present a strategy for sustaining the research theme that includes pursuing significant extramural funding to continue the research beyond the initial five-year period. The proposal cannot in any way supplant extramural funding for the project(s). It is only intended to help build a strong team, necessary infrastructure, and generate data to become highly competitive for federal funds.

Total funds available: $15M

Number of awards anticipated: 2-5

Anticipated duration of support: 3-5 years

Maximum Award: $10M

Initial deadline: ~~May 17~~ **May 31, 2021**
- **Share draft proposal with appropriate dean(s) for their review and endorsement**
- **Submit a Letter of Intent through** https://virginia.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1839637
    - The Letter of Intent is non-binding and will be used for the purposes of gauging the level of interest and finalizing the proposal review process. LOIs should be approximately one page and include
        - A brief (1-2 paragraph) abstract or description of the proposal
        - Anticipated duration
        - Estimated total funding to be requested
        - A list of participating schools, departments, centers, and institutes

Final deadline (to submit proposal with letter of academic leadership support): ~~May 31~~ **June 30, 2021 by Noon**

Proposal Contents: (15 pages maximum for topics 1-5)

1. Vision, Goals, and Thematic Basis: Discuss the vision, goals, and societal impact of the research theme/topic that you propose and how your proposal will move it from prominence to preeminence. The proposal should explicitly state how the proposed theme is responsive to the strategic research priorities articulated in the 2030 Plan.

2. Major Research Efforts: Describe the major interdisciplinary research efforts that you intend to accomplish during a 5-year period, their transformative aspects, and how they are interwoven and integrated to form the research theme. For each research effort described, specify the faculty members and other UVA principals involved, and provide sufficient detail to enable assessment of the scientific merit at the project level and relevance to the overall research theme.

3. Project Management and Organizational Commitment: Describe plans and procedures for the organization and management of the project.

4. Performance Assessment / Project Evaluation: Proposals should include internal mechanisms to assist in project evaluation. Describe the annual evaluation plan that will be used by the project team to evaluate success in meeting project goals.

5. Sustainability: Describes plans for sustaining the initiative after this funding is exhausted and provide a pro forma financial plan.

6. Budget: (3-pages) Include a detailed budget that outlines personnel costs (faculty, research personnel, administrative support, graduate and undergraduate students), infrastructure costs, and start-up costs for personnel proposed to be hired, with budget justification.

7. Mapping to Overall Strategic Goals of the 2030 Plan: (1-page) The research theme and its affiliated projects you propose are expected to move us from prominent to preeminent in one of the five key areas of research. In addition, please identify <u>relevant</u> strategic goal elements (listed below) that are advanced by your proposal.

1. Recruit and retain excellent and diverse faculty
2. Recruit and support exceptionally talented, diverse, service-oriented students
3. Ensure that our systems enable our students, faculty, and staff
4. Enable faculty and staff to work across traditional boundaries
5. Become an international leader in distinct and critical areas of research
6. Shed new light on enduring and profound questions
7. Lead economic development through academic discovery and entrepreneurship

8. **Letter(s) of Support from the relevant dean(s),** including a commitment to facilitate the project, as well as a description of cost-sharing or other resources that will be devoted to the project. Only proposals that are endorsed and supported by the relevant dean(s) will be considered.