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

Webinar

April 19, 2021
Overview

• 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.
  • Accelerate solutions to societal problems leveraging UVA’s strengths through collaborative, interdisciplinary team building

• 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.

• Initial Deadline: May 31
• Final Deadline: 12:00 PM, June 30
Conventional Project-based seed funding mechanism

- Faculty / Groups propose ideas
  - fairly narrow scope, a well-defined problem, a methodology, and an appropriate budget
  - Not sufficiently large in size and scale to make an impact beyond individual excellence (partly due to budgetary limitations of “seed funding”)
- Dean’s office provides endorsement
- Results published, grants written, some successful, students graduated
- Not always aligned with the key focus areas in the strategic plan
- Not scalable for significant impact – lack of a critical mass of ideas
What is different about this solicitation?

- Few large-scale investments
- **Thematic focus**-proposed by faculty groups-interdisciplinary
- Large-enough in scope to make a difference (critical mass, and completeness of solutions to societal challenges)
- Opportunity to assess gaps in talent and resources to build a nationally competitive team on a theme
- Faculty hiring, Large-scale infrastructure support-collaboratively developed with the deans
- This is an approach to direct resources towards strategic focus areas
- **Collaborative budgeting with the deans**
How will this work?

• Group of faculty coalesce around a theme that fits one or more key strategic areas based on their current strengths, and define 2-3 key questions for the long term that is nationally/globally relevant, and will advance the state of knowledge to address those questions
• Development an assessment of the team’s capabilities, and current state of prominence (evidence of significant work) in the component areas making up the theme
• Compare/benchmark with similar groups, if they exist, to strategically articulate our niche
• Develop a few key demonstration of principle through small-scale seed funded projects that also help coalesce the group (Scale of seed funding should be small and well-justified)
• Identify gaps in talent and infrastructure
• Include them as needs in the proposal and develop a proposal budget
• Work with the dean’s office on the budget collaboratively
• Endorsement and support letter from relevant schools
How will the be evaluated?

• First level-Dean’s office through selecting what to support
• Disciplinary expert review (Internal and/or External)
• Organization structure, appropriateness of budget, potential for future funding, significance of the problem, alignment with the strategic areas
• Leadership qualifications and experience
• Selected for in-person presentation to the leadership
• 2-5 selected and recommended to the President for funding

Due Dates:
• June 30th Deadline
• Early-August In-Person presentation
• End-of-August announcement