



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

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## Webinar

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### April 19, 2021

## Overview

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- 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

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- 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?

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- 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?

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- 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 30<sup>th</sup> Deadline
- Early-August In-Person presentation
- End-of-August announcement