

Boost funds for New Directions

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1 Purpose

The Office of the Dean of the College of Science and Technology (CST) is offering boost funds to help faculty invigorate their research program by changing field/direction or breaking new ground. This seed funding is intended for faculty members who do not currently hold external or internal funding to launch a new area of research or advance an existing, unfunded project.

The purpose of these internal grants is to support faculty who want to explore a new area of research and/or jumpstart their research activity. This competitive funding opportunity will enable faculty members to advance a project and establish credibility in a new research area that will attract external funding. Each two-year seed grant provides up to \$100,000 (total) in support for a faculty member to conduct preliminary analyses, demonstrate proof of concept, collect preliminary data, and establish the high potential impact of the proposed idea for future proposal submissions.

The College will consider proposals from faculty that:

- Explore a new area of research that may potentially be high risk but also provide high reward. We are looking for new ideas that would provide exciting new directions for faculty, not small changes in their existing research focus.
- Enable transition from a research portfolio that may have fallen out of favor with funding agencies into a new research area with brighter funding prospects.
- Restart research activity after an extended lapse due to personal, administrative, or service reasons.

Recipients will be required to use the funds to prepare and submit a formal application for an external grant within 24 months of receiving the grant.

2 Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to full-time tenure-line and research faculty members with an appointment in one of the six CST departments. Faculty can be funded by this program only once every five years. Applicants are **not** eligible if they have (significant¹) unspent external or internal funding. Faculty members holding funded Endowed Professorships are also ineligible.

3 Application

The deadline for submission is the first Friday in October every year. The application link will be available from the first week of classes in the Fall semester on the CST website.

¹significant wrt the amount requested.

3.1 Requirements

Every proposal must contain:

1. A single PDF document (filename including the PI's last name) containing:

Cover page: Project title, applicant name(s), and a research abstract (1 page).

Project narrative: Include research question(s), theoretical foundations, empirical facets of the research (if applicable), how this grant will advance the faculty member's research career, and the significance of the eventual project that the seed grant will help to develop. Be sure to distinguish between the seeded research and the eventual project for which you will apply to external funding. Excluding references and figures, the narrative may be no more than two (2) single-spaced pages with a font size of 11 points or larger.

Plan for Obtaining External Funding (Appendix): Please include: a) what government agencies or foundations you may approach, what program within that agency, and how the proposed research fits that specific program; b) what conversations or applications you have already had with these agencies, if any; c) when you expect to apply for funds; d) the expected scale of the eventual project; and e) how the activities funded by the seed grant will help to attract further external support. Also, list pending applications that are related to the project, including funds requested from sources both internal and external to Temple. The maximum length for the Appendix is one page.

Budget and Justification: A maximum of two grants of up to \$100,000 each will be awarded each year. Provide a clear budget indicating expenses by category (such as personnel, materials, equipment, etc.) and the total. Please provide a brief budget justification, addressing each category as well as the overall budget rationale.

2. A current curriculum vitae for each investigator listed.

3.2 Process

Eligible faculty are invited to apply for up to \$100,000 in boost funding to be awarded on January 1st every year. The application must include a proposal description as outlined above (including the scope of activities, a detailed budget, etc.) and a letter of support from the faculty member's department head. It is expected that the proposals will focus on new research directions. Funds may only be used to cover research-related expenses, including travel, but they may not be used for supplemental (summer) salary or teaching release.

Full applications should be submitted online by the first Friday in October every year.

4 Review process

Proposals are reviewed by the CST leadership team. The most important evaluation criteria are intellectual merit and the promise of innovation, as well as the potential for attracting further funding. Secondary criteria may include the extent to which the research is interdisciplinary, or involves collaboration. Grants will typically not be awarded to proposals that request funding for a stand-alone project, that do not describe plans for obtaining external funding, or that poorly justify their budget. Non-research support such as professional development will not be funded.

Results will be announced during the Fall semester, and funds for the new awards will be available starting January 1st every year.

5 Awarding

All expenditures must comply with the University Financial Policies and Guidelines. Awards also need to be managed with the highest level of integrity and ethics. Recipients are required to use

the funds to prepare and submit a formal application for a major external grant within 24 months of receiving the award.

Projects must meet the ethical and responsible conduct of research and comply with regulatory requirements relating to research involving human subjects, vertebrate animal subjects and recombinant DNA. The Office of Research Compliance reports to the Office of the Vice President for Research and is responsible for oversight and management of Temple University's administrative committees and ensures compliance with conflict of interest, applicable regulations, policies, standards and accreditation standards. The committees supported by this office include the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). In particular, research projects involving human subjects must maintain IRB approval. While proposals that have not yet undergone review will be considered for funding, no funds will be disbursed until the project is approved by the IRB.

Recipients of boost funds are obliged to report on the activities to which the grant is being applied to, as well as on progress toward obtaining external support for the project. The reporting schedule is December 1st in the first year following the award of the grant, and June 1st in the second year.

Boost funds are expected to be spent in two years. Unused funds will be returned to the College at the end of the second calendar year.

6 Program continuance

This incentive program will operate under a five-year trial period. In the Fall of year five, the Dean and the CST leadership team will review the impact of the program and determine whether it is to continue.

7 Questions

Please direct any questions with respect to this funding opportunity via email to Prof. Miguel Mostafá at miguel@temple.edu.