Tyson Faculty Seed Grant for Interdisciplinary Research

Summary
The Tyson Faculty Seed Grant is designed to fund projects that stimulate interdisciplinary field research at Tyson Research Center (TRC). The grant serves as a platform for collaborating faculty to increase their competitiveness for external grants by facilitating the generation of preliminary data, demonstrating the existence of collaborations, and testing proof of concept. Key criteria for awarded proposals include the following:

- Faculty must be located in different departments (or schools).
- Proposals should demonstrate the potential for sustained collaborations and for obtaining external support for continued research at TRC.
- Proposals should pose research questions that are at the forefront of cross-disciplinary research, and that require the involvement of all disciplines included on the proposal (i.e. questions cannot stand alone within individual disciplines).

Who may submit proposals
Proposals may be submitted by tenure-track faculty from any Washington University school or department. Co-PIs need not be tenure-track, but should have a WUSTL appointment (full-time academic or adjunct).

Use of funds
Funds may be used for any activity directly related to the conduct of the research proposed with the following exceptions: faculty summer salaries, staff salaries, course buyouts, seminar speakers, consultants, conferences or travel. Funds will be awarded by April 15.

Number of awards and amounts
Funding is available for up to two awards per year for three consecutive years. Individual award budgets may be up to $20,000. Investigators may use funds for up to two years. Faculty will not be awarded as PI more than once but can be co-PI on multiple awards.

Deadline
Proposals should be submitted via email to the Tyson director (kim.medley@wustl.edu) by March 1 of each year.

Proposal Review Process
The Tyson director will convene a review committee composed of faculty from multiple departments and programs and who are not themselves grant applicants. Faculty will be informed of awards by April 1 of each year.
Proposal Preparation Instructions

All proposals should be single-spaced and using Arial size 11 point or larger. All margins should be at least 1 inch.

Cover Page – The cover page should include the following:

1. Proposal title
2. PI information:
   a. Name
   b. Title
   c. Department and school
   d. Email address
3. Co-PI(s) information:
   a. Name
   b. Title
   c. Department and school
   d. Email address
4. Total award request
5. Targeted future funding opportunities, including sponsoring agency name and current solicitation numbers (if available).

Project Summary – No more than 1 page. At least one figure is recommended.

Project Description – No more than 5 pages. The project description should include:

1. Introduction/background
2. Research plan and technical approach, including:
   a. Specific aims and methodology
   b. Anticipated results
   c. Specific needs for preliminary data for future external solicitations
   d. Proposed site(s) to be studied at TRC (Note: These may not interfere with current research plots. Please contact Tyson director for current research locations.)
3. Infrastructure needs from Tyson (e.g. vehicles, space in lab, research garden, or high tunnel)
4. Plans for providing opportunities for Tyson undergraduate fellows and high school fellows (participants in SIFT and TERF programs).

Budget and Budget Justification – No more than 1 page.

References – No more than 1 page.

External Funding Target(s) – No more than 2 pages. This section should:

- Indicate why the collaboration creates a more powerful, synergetic project than could be achieved alone;
- Identify how the proposed research makes a more competitive proposal for a particular future funding opportunity;
- Identify the specific federal funding agency and opportunity that will be targeted for subsequent funding.
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Proposal Evaluation Form

Please fill in the blue textboxes.

Blocks of Criteria

1. Scientific Excellence
   - Clarity and pertinence of the objectives.
   - Credibility of the proposed approach.
   - Interdisciplinary nature of the research.
   - Extent that proposed work has innovation potential that is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches.)

Comments (required):

2. Impact and Synergy
   - Extent that proposed future work will have impact on the field and relevant research topics.
   - Whether the proposal has the potential to achieve and sustain ongoing collaboration.
   - Soundness of the future funding target and plan to utilize the results of this seed funding to win larger awards.

Comments (required):
3. Quality and Viability of Project and Collaboration
   - Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of limited tasks and resources.
   - Complementarity of the participants within the collaboration.
   - Sufficient area remaining in the research implementation for a future funding opportunity.

Comments (required):

Scoring
Scores must be in the range 0-5. Half marks may be given. Evaluators will be asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. When an evaluator identifies significant shortcomings, he or she must reflect this by awarding a lower score for the criterion concerned.

Interpretation of the Scores
1. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
2. Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
3. Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
4. Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
5. Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
6. Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
Proposal Criteria Score on a scale of 0 to 5 (required):

1. Scientific Excellence
   Score =

2. Impact and Synergy
   Score =

3. Quality and Viability of Project and Collaboration
   Score =

Total Score:_______/15