

Giant Steps Research Development Grants

The Provost and the Office of Research and Engagement announce the release of funding for the Giant Steps Research Development Grants. The goal of this program is to provide seed funding for projects that will enhance UNCG's external visibility, encourage research as well as increase the opportunity to leverage preliminary results obtained with this funding to obtain *significant* future federal and/or private funding.

Winning proposals are expected to define an integrated research effort distinguished by intellectual excellence and driven by a clear vision of fundamental advances, new discoveries, or technological developments having state, national, and global and societal impact aligned with the areas defined in the strategic plan (e.g., health and wellness, vibrant communities, or global connections).

A requirement of the award is the submission of at least one research proposal to an external funding source by the end of the award period. We anticipate funding up to 6 proposals of up to \$25,000 each. **Applications are due November 6, 2017** with projects to begin January 8, 2018 and work completed no later than June 30, 2019.

Eligibility

Funding is available to support research initiatives for up to 12 months and is open to full-time tenured or untenured, tenure-track faculty, clinical faculty, research faculty, academic professional faculty or EHRA Center/Institute research staff. While interdisciplinary teams are encouraged, it is not required. In addition, there is no restriction on the number of proposals that will be accepted for review that involve a faculty member or researcher.

Funding

The maximum allowable budget for any one successful proposal is \$25,000 with actual amounts based on the submitted itemized budgets. Funds may be used in any customary way to support research, including for salary/stipend support of key personnel (e.g., faculty summer salary capped at one month). These funds are not intended to support conferences, external collaborators, or course buy outs. Awarded funds will be available January 8, 2018 and must be expended by December 31, 2018.

Application Instructions

Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document that includes:

- 1) Application cover page with the proposal title, names and affiliations of all UNCG faculty and/or research personnel belonging to the team
- 2) Brief description of the proposal's goals and approaches, including project title and summary along with the identification of the relevant strategic plan themes written in lay terms and *not to exceed 1 page*

- 3) Name, affiliation and email of the UNCG PI or coPIs along with a brief bio (preferably no more than one paragraph) for the PI or coPIs and each team member describing their relevant experience and accomplishments in this research area and track record of extramural funding
- 4) Proposed scope of work (*not to exceed 5 pages, with a standard, minimum 11-point font and one inch margins*). Proposal descriptions should include reference to background information on which the proposal is based, the importance of its contribution to its field of study, its objectives, the methods or activities required to carry out the work, and a rough timeline, the significance of its anticipated results and how it will increase the team's potential for external funding
- 5) Itemized budget and budget justification (*approximately 1 page*)
- 6) Identification of future external funding opportunities the team intends to pursue (be specific, not to exceed 2 pages).

Submit applications as a single pdf via email to the Office of Research and Engagement at rshopr@uncg.edu. All proposals must be **received by 5pm, November 6, 2017**. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

Review

Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of UNCG faculty and administrators assembled by the Office of Research and Engagement. Results of the review will be provided to the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement who will make awards in consultation with the Provost. Review criteria include:

- Clear articulation of the alignment between the proposed research or scholarship and the strategic plan and how it advances UNCG's capacity to provide intellectual leadership for one of our guiding themes.
- Thorough description of the proposed effort, a rough timeline and deliverables, and how the proposed effort advances a research topic.
- The strength of the PI or co PIs including past record of successful extramural funding.
- Clear description of the roles of each member of the proposal team and how the proposed team will work together to take on the proposed research topic.
- The specificity with which the team has identified and researched the extramural funding opportunities for the work and outlined a credible plan for pursuing those opportunities to satisfy the minimum requirement of at least one proposal submitted to an extramural funding source within one year after the end of the program award period.

Responsibilities of Grantees

Recipients are obligated to seek external funding in the form of at least one application to an external funding agency within one year after end of funding for the grant. In addition, awardees are encouraged to publish the results of their research in professional journals, monographs, or books. Grantees will also provide brief quarterly updates (1 page or less) on the progress of the work and progress towards proposal development and sponsor engagement. These reports will be submitted to proposal development staff in the Office of Sponsored Programs who will also

discuss research progress at appropriate times through the period of funding. *A final report is due no later than June 30, 2019.* The final report should include:

1. Information on federal or state agency or private foundation grants applied for as a result of the award;
2. Lists of reports, publications, or titles of papers presented at professional meetings; and
3. Copies of publications (or drafts of publications) resulting from the award

The Office of Research and Engagement including the Office of Sponsored Programs is available to assist grantees with reporting requirements and proposal submissions to external agencies.

All grant expenditures will be governed by the same regulations that control other University budgets.

All grant awardees must be in full compliance with all applicable policies and regulations governing the use of human subjects in research, use of animals in research, biosafety, and responsible conduct of research.