INITIATION OF COLLABORATION

Synopsis of Program:
In response to the WSU Strategic Plan, the WSU Office of Research (OR) is soliciting proposals that will provide funding for interdisciplinary seminar series, retreats, and/or symposia. Through this initiative, scholars from more than one discipline will interact in ways that enable an understanding of the unique contributions provided by those from other disciplines, thus fostering future collaborative research projects. This program is designed to encourage the initiation of new faculty research collaborations that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries while advancing the strategic goals of the colleges and departments.

The program represents a shared financial commitment. The OR will provide up to $5,000 to enable these collaborations. It is expected that, in accordance with each unit’s strategic plans, the associated college(s) and department(s) will invest similar amounts to ensure the success of the proposed program.

Award Information:
- Type of Award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Commitment, pending availability of funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of Research (OR)</td>
<td>Up to $5,000 per proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleges/Academic Departments</td>
<td>Amounts, in accordance with college and departmental strategic plans, which equal or exceed the investments made by the OR. Such investments must be fully described in the proposal, with appropriate letters of commitment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding timeline</td>
<td>Funds to be expended during the performance period outlined in your proposal must be transferred prior to June 20, 2007.</td>
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- Estimated Number of Awards: Up to twelve (12).

Deadline Dates:
- Written proposal submission: December 8, 2006 by 10:00 AM. Pre-proposals, prepared according to the guidelines below, will be submitted to the Office of Grant and Research Development.
- Announcement of Winners: January 31, 2007. To allow speakers to be invited and programs to be completed, awardees will be announced on or before this date.
**Purpose and Evaluation Criteria:**

Initiation of Collaboration (IOC) awards are designed to enable groups of faculty from diverse backgrounds to explore the common ground linking the disciplines leading to significant new collaborative research and graduate educational opportunities. In so doing, this initiative will also enable colleges and departments to advance their strategic goals. It is envisioned that some of the best ways to accomplish these goals are via joint seminar series, joint colloquia, joint symposia, etc. Thus, it is anticipated that the proposed programs will:

1. Foster new collaborations between diverse groups of faculty.

2. Promise significant increase in competitive, externally funded research programs which provide significant F&A returns to the institution and impact the education of undergraduate and graduate students.

3. Promise significant impact on the implementation of the university, college(s) and department(s) strategic plan(s).

4. Enable the university to better capitalize on emerging state and national research initiatives.

Additional considerations that might serve to enhance a proposal include creative approaches to interdisciplinary opportunities; new collaborations that position the university to become a leader in a field/arena; collaborations that emphasize areas in which the university has comparative advantage; collaborations that foster cooperation and collaboration between and across multiple units, colleges, campuses, and outside partners (government laboratories, industry, etc.). Strong preference will be given to interdisciplinary proposals that join schools, colleges, and administrative units.

While it is not required that each proposal satisfy each criterion or consideration, the more aligned the proposal is with institutional and unit priorities or compelling opportunities, the greater the chances of a favorable review. This initiative represents significant institutional investment, so each proposal should demonstrate the potential for long-term impact.

In evaluating the proposals, consideration will be given to:

- The likelihood of long-term, active faculty participation.
- The likelihood of stimulation of significant new external resources to enhance WSU research and scholarship.
- The extent to which the associated academic units support the endeavor, as evidenced by financial and other considerations.
- The potential for short- and long-term growth of the number of PhD students supported with extramural funds.
- The potential for national recognition.
• The extent to which such collaborations are an integral part of the university’s strategic plan. To what extent does the effort fit into the strategic plan of the participating units, enhancing our reputation?

• The extent to which the program would build interaction between the faculty on the campuses of the WSU system.

A successful example of the interactions stimulated, in part, by this program can be viewed at http://libarts.wsu.edu/GRACE.

**Format:**

Proposals must contain the following elements. Those proposals which do not conform to the following guidelines will be rejected without review.

1. A REX Lite form is the cover sheet that must be completed. REX Lite forms are accessed at http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/forms.asp.

2. Description of the activity that is to be funded by this project, according to the guidelines given below. This description is limited to four pages (12 point font with 1 inch margins).

3. Supporting letter from each participating chair articulating how the initiative will further unit strategic goals and the investment to be made by the chair/program to ensure the success of the collaboration.

Within the constraints described above, each proposal should address the following:

**Intellectual Focus:**

Describe the focus for the interdisciplinary collaboration. Emphasize the cutting-edge aspects and how they are interwoven and integrated to form the thematic basis for the envisioned collaboration. While it is recognized that such collaborations will be at the very early stages, this description should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to assess the scholarly merit and relevance to the collaboration; the extent to which the program could attract additional resources; the extent to which the program will enhance undergraduate and graduate educational programs; and to determine how the theme of the collaboration fits into the strategic plans of the units participating in the project.

**Plan for Building the Collaboration:**

As noted above, joint seminar series, joint colloquia, or joint symposia are some of the many mechanisms that could be employed to accomplish the goals of this program. In this section of the proposal, describe the mechanism that will be employed to build this collaboration. This description should include a description of the number of internal speakers, the number of external speakers, examples of the external speakers who would be invited to participate, the disciplinary background of these external experts, and why they would help the faculty build the envisioned collaboration. If the symposium is to be held off campus, describe the location where it would be held, and provide justification for holding it at this location.
**Significance to the University:**
Outline why the collaboration will enhance the participating academic program(s). In particular, the proposal should reflect strategic thinking that anticipates over-the-horizon opportunities. The impact on the community at large and its attendant implications for the university needs to be included.

**Commitments:**
One measure of the importance of this project to the participating academic units is the extent to which those units are willing to commit their own funds. Such funds must be used in the same way that OR funds are used. That is, all expenses for the symposium are to be shared between OR funds and departmental funds. It is anticipated that departmental and college funds committed to the success of the program will equal or exceed those funds requested from the OR.

**Interactions with Other Institutions:**
New collaborations may involve professionals at other institutions. Describe how the program would encourage collaborations between WSU and strategic partners, including a description of the strengths of those institutions and the necessity to partner with them. Describe the extent to which such institutions will also participate in the anticipated costs of building the collaboration.

**Endorsements:**
List all the participating units, and include signatures of the supporting departmental chairs.

- A vitae of up to five key faculty which is no more than two pages in length. Each vitae should include current and pending support, a list of up to 10 of the most relevant peer refereed publications, and the total number of peer refereed scholarly activities. Other information deemed important by the faculty member should also be included.

- Letters of support and/or commitment from responsible chairs/directors and deans. These letters must describe the way in which this proposed work fits in the unit’s published strategic plan and commitment of resources to ensure the success of the initiative.

**Review:**
IOC proposals are to be reviewed by a panel of faculty drawn from the various colleges. Final selection of the awards will be made by the Vice Provost for Research.

**Report:**
Within 30 days of completing your project or program, please email a brief report to the Office of Research, with copies to your department chair and Dan Nordquist, the Director
of OGRD. In this report, please document your project and include how this initiative enabled the colleges and departments to advance their strategic goals. The report must contain sufficient detail to be of value to the target audience which wishes to ensure that programs like this are having a positive impact on faculty scholarship, institutional reputation, and research reputation, including funding. As deem appropriate, please also share information gained with other faculty members having similar interests who may benefit from this activity.

**More information:**

For more information, contact Vice Provost for Research, James N. (Jim) Petersen at 335-9141 or jnp@wsu.edu or Dan Nordquist, Director, Office of Grant and Research Development, nordquist@wsu.edu or 335-7717