Strategic University Challenge for Competitive Excellence and Expertise in Discovery and Scholarship  
[CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS]  
2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS  

SUMMARY  

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS is a competitive internal funding initiative, positioning interdisciplinary faculty teams to successfully compete for significant external funding greater than $1.5 million over three years that will enhance the stature and distinction of the University in all key areas of research, scholarship, and creative activities at Clemson University.  

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS provides seed grants that support leading-edge research and scholarship that capitalize on the existing intellectual capital at Clemson University. Preference is given to projects that are multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional and that advance the ClemsonForward strategic innovation clusters: advanced materials; cyberinfrastructure and big data science; energy, transportation and advanced manufacturing; human resilience; health innovation; and the sustainable environment.  

The sole outcome of funded CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS grants is the successful submission of significant external research proposal(s); as such, the proposal should clearly identify this as the primary outcome. It is well understood that a strong technological and organizational foundation must exist for competitive multi-disciplinary, and perhaps multi-institutional proposals. Funding is intended to serve as a catalyst to move these projects beyond the point of criticality for highly competitive submissions. By the nature of the targeted funding, proposals must include multiple faculty from at least three different departments and two colleges. Proposals with participation from across the University, including innovation campuses and research and education centers, are highly encouraged. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission.  

ELIGIBILITY  

Tenured or tenure-track faculty and research faculty at Clemson University are eligible to submit proposals. Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects but may be included in the research teams.  

A PI who is leading a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is ineligible to compete for additional CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS funding until the proposal from the current award is successfully submitted to the external funding agency.  

Past recipients of R-Initiative funding who did not comply with the terms of funding are ineligible.  

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS  

Solicitation-Specific Guidelines  

The University will provide funding of up to $35,000 per team that plans to submit large (greater than $1.5 million over three years) external grant application(s) during the period July 1, 2021 –
The cost-share requirement will be removed for the 2021 cycle, but it is still allowable and highly encouraged. Matches may come from individual faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or a combination of the sources.

Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual project accounts and will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/college to transfer the cash match (if applicable) to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available once matching funds are transferred after July 1, 2021 and must be spent by June 30, 2022. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds and to the Division of Research.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Course release (PI only)
- Equipment/facility access for data collection for the proposal
- Travel to engage program managers, meet with collaborators for proposal planning, or to conduct field work
- Organizing workshops or similar activities for the proposal team
- Limited and well-justified specialty analyses or testing by external parties for the proposal
- Materials/supplies for data collection for the proposal
- Specialty software not available at the University
- Transcription expenses
- Proposal development staff/consultant/firm
- Graduate student and postdoc stipends (only for well-justified, specific, project-related activities that clearly define how the student or postdoc will fit into the multidisciplinary team, what the student or postdoc will be expected to achieve, how this work is absolutely necessary for the success of the eventual external submission, and why this work cannot be obtained without the student or postdoc funding from other mechanisms). Graduate students can be paid hourly or by an assistantship. However, GAD must be included in the budget if paid as an assistantship and the total budget cannot exceed $35,000. GAD waivers will not be provided.

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Faculty salary, except PI course release
- Funding requests for first-year graduate students
- Travel to conferences or symposia
- International travel
- Office furniture or equipment
- Computers or printers
- Laboratory renovations or upgrades
- Tuition remission
- Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs

DELIVERABLES

The primary outcome of a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is the successful submission of a major research proposal_greater than $1.5 million over three years. This proposal may be
submitted to federal agencies, foundations, corporate consortia, or any other external sponsor. Proposals must be submitted within one year from the expiration of the CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award. A copy of the submitted proposal should be sent to the Division of Research (rifunds@clemson.edu) with the subject line LAST NAME_2021 CU SUCCEEDS_Deliverable.

Should R-Initiative funding result in publication(s), PIs must acknowledge the impact of R-Initiative funding. For example, “This project was funded in part by Clemson University's R-Initiative Program.”

Awardees of R-Initiative funding are expected to present at the Research Symposium.

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and proposal instructions will be returned without review.

Format all documents using 12-point Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size.

Submit the proposal as a single PDF file (LAST NAME_2021 CU SUCCEEDS_Proposal.pdf) with the following ordered sections:

A. Cover Sheet [1 page]
   The official R-Initiatives Cover Sheet must be used and include:
   • A clear and concise project title (CU SUCCEEDS: Project Title),
   • The names of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators, including graduate and undergraduate students, should be listed along with departmental and college affiliations; additional personnel may be listed on a separate page if not enough space is provided in the cover sheet,
   • Center affiliations, if applicable,
   • Total budget amount,
   • Indication of prior R-Initiative funding, and
   • Anticipated deliverables.

B. Abstract [1 page]

C. Technical Narrative and Novelty [3 pages]
   In the technical project description, address the (1) objectives and specific aims of the project, (2) project significance, (3) innovativeness and originality of the project for the targeted submission(s), (4) how the multi-disciplinary team, across colleges, enhances the project, and (5) how the CU SUCCEEDS funding will ensure success of the targeted proposal submission(s).

D. Targeted Extramural Proposal Submission Plans [1 page]
   Provide the targeted extramural funding competition(s) for the planned proposal. If the targeted external competition requires an internal or external pre-selection (e.g., pre-proposal competition by the funding agency, limited submission in Clemson) in order to submit a full proposal, this section should include alternative funding targets should the team not be selected for full proposal submission. If the full proposal has previously been
submitted for external support, a copy of the panel summary and reviews from the agency to which it was submitted must be included with the application as a supplemental document. Describe how the comments from the previous review will be addressed.

E. Budget and Budget Justification [2 pages] – NSF or NIH Format

F. [OPTIONAL] Documentation of Cash Match Commitments and Other Resources
Provide commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including their source(s). Provide a list of any other University cash support available for the proposal. Matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on another federal project, space, equipment, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. Matching funds must be available during the project period.

If the faculty team is already funded by other college or University-level seed funding initiatives (e.g., TIGER, FRDP, OYA, ADR Research Awards in the College of Education, Brooks Sports Science Institute, etc.), a copy of the funded proposal and its budget from the other initiative should be included in this section. Include a clear, specific justification of why additional funding is needed and how it will be used to increase the competitiveness of the proposal.

G. Biographical Sketches [2 pages]
Submit 2-page biosketches in NSF or NIH format for PI, and all Co-PI(s), collaborators and key personnel.

H. [OPTIONAL] Letters of Support

I. [OPTIONAL] List of Potential Reviewers (4 max.) with E-Mail Addresses
Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

TIMELINE
January 12, 2021 Solicitation announced
April 14, 2021 Proposals due
June 11, 2021 Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
Proposals are accepted until April 14, 2021. All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30 p.m., April 14, 2021 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS
A review committee of Clemson University faculty will provide inter-disciplinary perspectives to evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research. External reviewers may be used, if needed. The proposal must be written in a clear and concise manner for a general audience. Avoid the use of jargon.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Clear identification of targeted solicitation(s) for submission and alternative submission opportunities if the targeted RFP is not issued or the proposal is not selected for funding
- Potential for the formation of competitive teams with organizational structures that provide confidence in the delivery of high-quality, targeted, external proposals
- Novelty of proposed topic and ideas for the targeted solicitation
- Multi-disciplinary and cross-college
- Potential collaborations with innovation campuses, research and education centers, and University research centers and institutes

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

All applications selected for the award must have received required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS

Questions about CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS can be directed to Kelly McSwain at rifunds@clemson.edu, 864-656-0260, in the Division of Research.