

September 25, 2016

Request for Proposals
Grand Challenges Integrative Teams
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
FY17

The RFP is requesting:

- 1) Proposals for funding from Integrative Teams Spring 2016 mini-symposia, and
- 2) Pre-Proposals for new integrative teams to host a Spring 2017 mini-symposia

All integrative teams are expected to be multidisciplinary and multi-departmental. The “Big Ideas” should be transformative initiatives that can “move the needle” on one or more of the Grand Challenges. One proposal from each team is allowed.

While some data collection and proof of concept may be involved, these initiatives and proposals should focus on integration of the team and disciplines into an initiative that results in substantial and sustained external funding (e.g. a center grant, a federal/State initiative, or some similar long term and large vision effort). The initiative may occasionally result in the formation of a Texas A&M University System entity (center or institute); but the program and progress will be the driver of forming a new entity; the entity formation does not drive the program.

Request for Proposals for funding from Integrative Teams Spring 2016 mini-symposia

The four integrative teams from the spring 2016 mini-symposia are invited to submit proposals that focus on their large-vision “Big Idea” initiatives. The proposals can involve things like interdisciplinary graduate student support, logistical and technical support, concept testing, planning retreats, proposal development assistance, travel for coordination meetings with partners, course release, etc. Teams may want to take advantage of the proposal development resource in AgriLife Research Corporate Relations. Proposals should originate from College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty as PI’s, but can involve partners in the AgriLife agencies, other TAMU colleges, TAMUS agencies and other universities that will enhance the competitiveness of the proposal. No formal transfer of College funds will occur outside of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences or the Texas A&M AgriLife agencies. Leverage or planned leverage of funds/support from these partners is expected.

The Proposal should include the following sections and be no longer than 5 pages, 12 point font, including the budget.

1. **Description of the initiative** (the “Big Idea”). Describe how the proposed activities will advance our College and society through addressing one or more of the Grand Challenges. It should address how our organization is uniquely suited to pursue/accomplish this initiative.
 2. **Plan of action.** This section can include information about your planning and team development process, project initiation including initial/pilot/concept testing, scale-up proposal development, etc. It should state what will be done with the proposed budget to accomplish your “Big Idea”. It should also describe who is in your team and how it is appropriately multidisciplinary.
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3. **Annualized budget.** The budget can be for 2 years with sufficient itemization to see both how each component relates to the plan of action and how the various units (departments/institutes/centers) are accounted for. There is no set limit on the budget for each project, but funding beyond \$75,000/year for 2 years would need sufficient justification.
4. **Partnerships.** Can involve either from a critical subject matter contributions or from a cost-sharing/funding perspective. Briefly describe the role of each partner (individuals and/or organizationally).
5. **Long term goal for accomplishment.** What will success look like? How will you “move the needle” on one or more Grand Challenges?
6. **Sustainability.** What is the long term plan, both programmatically and financially?

Proposals are due by November 4, 2016 to David Reed, dwreed@tamu.edu. The goal is for funding decisions and funding availability prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. Proposals will be reviewed by the College leadership and the College’s Grand Challenge Council for input to the Dean for final decision.

Request for Pre-Proposals for new integrative teams to host a Spring 2017 mini-symposia

College faculty are invited to form new integrative teams and submit new ideas to be the subject of Spring 2017 mini-symposia. Agency faculty can and should be part of the integrative team. The themes are expected to be multidisciplinary and multi-departmental and have the potential to generate a “Big Idea” initiative. College faculty can apply by submitting a pre-proposal no longer than 2 pages in length. These preproposals should:

1. Identify/describe the concept and how it addresses one or more of the Grand Challenges.
2. Describe how we have the appropriate components (people, facilities, location, partners, connections, etc.) to have some strategic advantage.
3. Describe how it is unique/novel. What is the gap it could fill?
4. Describe how it might capitalize on our strengths.
5. What is the potential for programmatic and financial sustainability (with some specifics, not just “get external grants”)?

Pre-proposals are due by November 4, 2016 to David Reed, dwreed@tamu.edu. Proposals will be reviewed by the College leadership and the College’s Grand Challenge Council for input to the Dean for final decision. Integrative teams that have a successful mini-symposium will be eligible to submit a Proposal for start-up funding in the Fall 2017 RFP.

Questions on the process should be directed to David Reed at dwreed@tamu.edu. Teams and prospective teams are encouraged to seek guidance and input into the formation of their plans to maximize effectiveness and alignment with institutional priorities.