ICTAS
Junior Faculty Award Request for Proposals
For Fiscal Year 2020 (July 2019-June 2020) Funding
(JFA-RFP)

ICTAS is soliciting interdisciplinary white papers from Virginia Tech faculty for a funding opportunity with anticipated support beginning July 1st, 2018 (FY 2019). Proposals will demonstrate an interdisciplinary, collaborative research relationship between the PI, a junior faculty member at VT, and other VT faculty members. ICTAS is requesting a 4-page (maximum) proposal for panel review and subsequent consideration for funding. ICTAS intends to award up to 10 awards of up to $80K total over two years ($40K per year for each year).

Principal Investigators (PIs)
PIs must be either 1) non-tenured, tenure track faculty member or 2) AP or research faculty appointed at Virginia Tech after February 1st, 2015. Post-Doctoral Fellows are not eligible to apply. There is a limit of one white paper submission per PI. Faculty who served as a PI on a funded JFA in past years are not eligible.

Co-PIs
Co-PIs may be any VT faculty member. Faculty may act as Co-PI on multiple proposals and awards and a PI on one proposal may be a Co-PI on another. It is acceptable to have additional Co-PIs external to VT, however, external Co-PIs may not receive funding from VT and there must be at least two faculty members from VT participating.

Interdisciplinary Research
The PI and Co-PIs should be from different academic disciplines. Faculty members with the same or similar terminal degrees, from the same department, or from markedly similar disciplines must make a compelling argument on the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed research. Proposals with team members from different colleges display greater “interdisciplinarity.”

Research Topics
Proposal topics must be aligned with one of the following Destination Areas (Data and Decisions, Integrated Security, Global Systems Science, Intelligent Infrastructure for Human-Centered Communities, and Adaptive Brain and Behavior) or Strategic Growth Areas (Economic and Sustainable Materials). PIs must identify the Destination Area or Strategic Growth Area most clearly aligned with the proposal.
Funding
Awards are for a maximum amount of $40K per year. Second year funding is contingent on demonstration of satisfactory technical performance and scholarship at our annual review and availability of resources. Faculty salary (except for Post-Doctoral Fellow salary) must not be included in the proposed budget. The proposal will not include overhead, so all funds should be budgeted as direct costs. Typically funds are used for GRA stipends and tuition, supplies and required travel. Equipment purchases are typically not approved, but may be requested on a case by case basis. There will be no transfer of funds to external partners.

Proposal Submission
Submit a PDF copy of your proposal by email to ictasrfp@vt.edu no later than 5pm Thursday January 31st, 2019. You will receive an acknowledgement the proposal has been received within 24 hours. If you do not receive the acknowledgement, check the email address and try again. If there is still no acknowledgement, contact Jon Greene, greenej@vt.edu, 540-231-8566.

Proposals should be submitted in 11 point font or larger, single spaced with 1” margins. Figures must be legible.

In the body of the email, include:
1. Proposal Title
2. PI
3. Co-PI
4. Destination Area/Strategic Growth Area (list only one)
5. Budget requested and proposed use (e.g. $40k total with $35k for GRA stipend and tuition, $4k for supplies, and $1k for travel). A general breakdown of the budget is all that is required.

Attach a PDF proposal of not more than four pages with the following sections:
1. Proposal Title
2. ½ page abstract (does not count toward page count)
3. Statement of Problem and Proposed Solution
4. Proposed Research and Differentiating Technical Approach
5. Interdisciplinary Approach and Potential Benefit to ICTAS Mission
6. Plan for external funding
7. References (does not count toward proposal page count)
8. A standard NSF or NIH biosketch for PI and all Co-PIs that includes current funding (this does not count toward proposal page count)

Note: Items 3-6 above count toward the 4-page limit.

Past awards in the ICTAS Seed RFP may be found at: http://www.ictas.vt.edu/research/pastAwards.php
Review Process

There will be a two part review process.

1. ICTAS will review the proposals for compliance.

2. Qualifying proposals will then be reviewed by NSF style panels formed around the Destination Areas or Strategic Growth Areas listed above.

3. Selection criteria:
   - Most Important:
     - Potential for external funding
   - Second level of importance:
     - Cutting edge science and technology
   - Third level of importance:
     - Clear association with the selected Destination Area or Strategic Growth Area
     - Clear research objectives and plan
     - “Degree of Interdisciplinarity” (evidence of real collaboration between VT faculty members of diverse disciplines)
   - Additionally, reviewers will consider:
     - Reasonable link between requested funds (budget details) and proposed outcome
     - The specific role of team members must be clearly defined along with a statement defining the interdisciplinary contributions of the team
     - Probability and impact of success

Panel review process will emulate the standard NSF style with rankings of Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Poor

Rankings will be tabulated for each panel for consideration and recommendation for funding by ICTAS.

Awards

Funding decisions will be announced on or about March 1, 2019. Review panel feedback will be provided on request.

Questions/advice? Please Contact: Jon Greene, 540-231-8566, greenej@vt.edu