



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE TEAMS

Request for pre-proposals and proposals

March 9, 2021

SUMMARY

Over the past two years, the College of Agricultural Sciences has collaboratively developed broad-reaching areas of excellence where we are uniquely able to build a distinction in addressing significant challenges that face the state, nation, and world. These themes are our Strategic Advantages in terms of our disciplinary expertise, geographic location, relationships, and understanding of how to pursue transformative change.

It is now time to think BIG and invest in those strategic advantages to realize that transformative change.

The College of Agricultural Sciences is launching a new opportunity for faculty teams to initiate projects advancing the College's strategic advantage vision. Seed funding will be available to multi-disciplinary, multi-departmental teams who formulate plans to pursue new ideas with the potential for transformational impact on a discipline, industry, or one of the wicked problems facing society. Projects should align with one or more of the College's four strategic advantages:

- Coastal Food Systems and Conservation
- Agricultural Competitiveness and Resilience
- Food Innovation for Health, Markets and Access
- Working and Natural Landscapes

By reviewing the white papers on each theme, faculty can learn the perspectives of their colleagues who contributed to the College visioning process. Ideas proposed for seed funding can align with one theme or span several of them, and do not need to address specific focus areas in the white papers. They may also include research, extension, and/or teaching but are not required to include all three.

Seed funding will be up to \$50,000 per year for each of two years. Up to four teams will be funded by the College this year. The College also expects to fund additional teams in future years on an ongoing cycle.

TWO-STEP PROCESS

There is a two-step process to apply for College seed funding:

Step 1: Submit a pre-proposal for a mini-symposium (i.e., Ignite session) to feature your idea and attract collaborators. Up to four preproposals will be selected. Faculty submitting successful pre-proposals will have the opportunity to organize a mini-symposium in May or June of 2021.

Pre-Proposals for Mini-Symposium (Ignite Session)

The College calls for pre-proposals describing the new idea being submitted by the faculty team. Pre-proposals will describe the idea as a set of topics for the ignite session, composed of a series of 5-minute presentations. The purpose of these ignite sessions is 1) to inform the audience (composed primarily of OSU faculty) about the scope of the idea proposed by the team; 2) feature College faculty with the expertise needed to advance the topic area, and; 3) provide an opportunity for OSU faculty outside of the original team to present and learn how they may contribute to the team.

Pre-proposals are limited to two pages and should include the following:

1. **The BIG Idea** - Identify/describe the idea and how it addresses one or more of the four strategic advantage areas. How is it transformative in its impact? We are looking for ideas that are game-changing and not simply making additional incremental steps.
2. **Our Positioning** - Describe how the idea is unique/novel. What is the gap it could fill and how are we uniquely suited to fill it?
3. **Resources and Assets** - Describe how it might capitalize on our strengths. Do we have the appropriate components (people, facilities, location, partners, connections, etc.) needed to become a leading institution in the conceptual area proposed?
4. **Team Building** - Provide examples of presentations and presenters planned for the ignite session.
5. **Sustainability** - What is the potential for programmatic and financial sustainability? What specific funding programs can be pursued in this area, and what is needed to become competitive for that funding?

Pre-proposals are due by April 16, 2021, by submitting to CAS-Deans.Approval@oregonstate.edu. Submissions will be reviewed by the College leadership for input to the Dean for final decisions. Ignite sessions will be held during May and June.

Step 2: The team from each ignite session will be invited to submit a proposal for seed funding (up to \$50,000 for each of two years). **Proposals are due September 1, 2021.**

Proposals for Expanded Teams

The ignite sessions in May and June are expected to result in greater faculty engagement, enhancement of the original concepts, and development of larger and more robust teams.

The team from each ignite session will be invited to submit a proposal for seed funding of a visionary concept. The potential of the proposed concept to have a transformational impact should be clearly stated. Proposals should focus on the integration of the team members and disciplines into an initiative that can ultimately attract substantive and sustained external funding (e.g., a center grant, a federal/state initiative, or some similar long-term and large vision effort). Teams are encouraged to identify gaps that can be filled with the seed funding, to better position the team for success in seeking such external funding. Examples include planning retreats, proposal development assistance, travel for coordination meetings with partners, course release, generating data for proof-of-concept, logistical or technical support, or the purchase of key equipment.

Proposals should originate from College of Agricultural Sciences' faculty as PIs, but can involve partners from other OSU colleges, agencies, and other universities that will enhance the competitiveness of a proposal. No formal transfer of College funds will occur outside of the College of Agricultural Sciences. Leverage or planned leverage of funds/support and cost-sharing 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 idea and the initiative** - How is the idea transformative? The idea should have evolved from the ignite session. How will the proposed activities advance our College, science, and society? Which of the College's themes are addressed? How is our College 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 a clear goal, such as the submission of a proposal to a specific grant program, and the steps that the team will take to achieve that goal. How will the College funds be used to achieve the goal?
3. **Annualized budget** - Budget for two years with sufficient itemization to see both how each component relates to the plan of action and how the various units involved (departments/institutes/centers) are accounted for.

4. **Milestones for years 1 and 2** - Progress in meeting year one milestones must be demonstrated to receive year two support. Milestones should include the submission of proposals for the acquisition of external funds.
5. **Partnerships** - Briefly describe the role of each partner (individuals and/or organizationally) as well as cost-sharing agreements.
6. **Goals for accomplishment** - What will success look like? (is it measurable?)
7. **Long-term sustainability plan (both programmatically and financially)**- What specific funding programs will be pursued in this area, and what is needed to be competitive for that funding?

Proposals are due by September 1, 2021, by submitting to:

CAS-Deans.Approval@oregonstate.edu.

Funding decisions and funding availability decisions will be made on or about October 1, 2021. Proposals will be reviewed by the College leadership for input to the Dean for a final decision.

Questions should be directed to our Executive Associate Dean, Staci Simonich, at staci.simonich@oregonstate.edu. Teams and prospective teams are encouraged to seek guidance and input into the formulation of their plans to maximize effectiveness and alignment with institutional priorities.