Interdisciplinary Research Grants for Collaborations among Faculty

Call for Proposals
Fall, 2015

New Deadline: Wednesday, November 25, 2015

The DeLTA Center and the College of Education (CoE) invite faculty members to submit proposals for funding research projects during the 2016 calendar year. We are specifically looking for interdisciplinary research projects that span two or more approaches to education, learning and development. Our goal is to seed new and exciting research that creates or enhances collaboration and highlights the unique contributions of multi-disciplinary research.

This call for proposals targets new or existing projects that span multiple disciplinary approaches to important problems in learning development and education. Participating faculty do not need to be in different departments, but should be approaching different problems or utilizing complementary methodological approaches. At least one member of the research team must be a member of the DeLTA center (full or affiliate), but new members can join anytime. Reviewers will focus on the substance and innovation of the interdisciplinary work, not the particular affiliations. Work with animals, typical or atypically developing humans (including adults), or computational models are all encouraged. We especially encourage new or emerging work, though we will also consider ongoing collaborative projects.

The DeLTA center has budgeted up to $10,000 for this program. The College of Education will contribute up to $15,000 for collaborative grants that include members of the CoE. Budgets should not exceed $7500. Smaller budgets may allow us to fund more proposals. Funds can be used for supplies, data collection, participant compensation, or equipment. Conference travel is not permitted. Other expenses may be allowed at the discretion of the DeLTA Center Director and Executive Associate Dean of the CoE. All awardees will be expected to present their research findings at a DeLTA Center meeting, CoE symposium or both.

Applications must bridge two or more faculty members. All members of the DeLTA center (including from the COE) are eligible for DeLTA-contributed funds. Eligibility for the CoE funds requires participation of at least one CoE faculty member.

Proposals are due Wednesday, November 25.

A single PDF should be emailed to the DeLTA Center Director, Bob McMurray (bob-mcmurray@uiowa.edu). Projects will be reviewed and funding decisions will be made by a panel that includes faculty and staff from DeLTA and the CoE. Awards will be announced by late in the fall semester, and funding will be available immediately.

If you intend on submitting a proposal, please send a short 200 word summary of the topic you will be studying to Bob as soon as possible. This will not be sent out for review (so it doesn’t need to be perfect), but will be used to identify potential reviewers before the final proposals are submitted.

The application should not exceed six pages, excluding references. Please use a font no smaller than 11 pt Arial, with margins no smaller than .5”. Single spaced text is fine (and typical). Shorter proposals are acceptable. At the end of research proposal, the applicants should append their complete CVs (which does not count against the page limit). There is no need to include CVs of faculty mentors.
The first page should include:

- Proposal title
- Applicants’ names, Departmental affiliation and college.
- Collaborating lab and faculty member.
- Amount of funding requested.
- Faculty eligibility for DeLTA or College of Education competition (or both)
- Abstract: Up to 200 words, suitable for a general (DeLTA Center or CoE) audience.

Your project description can take all of the remaining space. It should address the following topics (these can be done in separate sections or as part of the narrative):

- **Research aims and approach:** A short synopsis of your question, why it is important, and how you intend to answer it. Make sure you include some details about how the project will be executed – who will do what, how both labs are involved, and a rough timeline of activities.
- **Interdisciplinarity and Innovation:** A description of how your project is innovative, how it will build on multiple approaches, and how it will leverage the strengths of multiple labs.
- **Fit of the project:** How does this project fit into the research programs of the sponsoring faculty members? How will this project lead to longer-term collaborations between scholars?
- **Projected outcomes:** What will this project lead to? Will the project provide pilot data for a grant or some other project? Is this the beginning of a longer term line of research? Will it lead to a conference presentation or journal publication? Is its purpose to catalyze a longer-term collaboration between labs?
- **Contributions:** What are the contributions of each collaborator and what specifically will they do? Will there be other people involved and what will they do.
- **Budget:** How the money will be used.

Bear in mind that the best proposals tell a clear, persuasive story, and emphasize the importance of the work, not necessarily the details. Proposals should be written for a broad audience with some background in education, learning and/or development.