

Faculty Have New Funding Option: Office of Research Launches \$1 Million Seed Funding Program

ORLANDO, Sept. 18, 2019 -- One of the goals of the Office of Research is to support faculty so they can conduct their research. That's why this semester the office is sponsoring a university-wide one-year Seed Funding Program. The goal of the pilot-program is to enhance the visibility and recognition of our faculty members and help them be more competitive in attracting external funding.

The Seed Funding Task Force established earlier this year has been looking at ways to assist faculty and the group made this recommendation to start this program. This program will be overseen by the Seed Funding Faculty Board, which is composed of faculty from UCF colleges and centers.

The program has \$1 million (from the Office of the Provost and Office of Research funds) to allocate for projects that fall under two general categories: Exploratory Research Awards (ER) and Interdisciplinary Research (IR) Awards. ER Awards are intended to fund UCF researchers (PIs) to initiate new high risk, high reward activities, which will strengthen faculty credentials and make them more competitive by allowing them to prepare preliminary data for submission of external grant funding applications appropriate to their discipline.

ER Awards are also available for PIs to apply for time on shared research facility equipment to gather preliminary data for proposals, editorial review comments, or test feasibility of partnerships with industry.

IR Awards focus on new or expanding teams to engage in convergence activities that lead to externally funded grants requiring preliminary data and proof of established multi-PI engagement. This program will promote research that can only be achieved through collaboration.

Faculty who obtain funding under this program must execute their proposals, provide reports to the Vice President of Research within six months of concluding the program and present their findings during the Seed Funding Research Forum.

Complete details about the program including criteria, deliverables, selection process and how to apply can be found at:

https://www.research.ucf.edu/documents/PDF/2019/rd_FINALSEEDProtocols.pdf

Deadlines to apply are coming up fast – Oct. 15 (with Notices of Intent for IR Awards on October 1). Recipients are expected to be notified by Nov. 27. For more information contact Debra Reinhart, Associate VP for Research and Scholarship at debra.reinhart@ucf.edu

