2018 Targeted Research Internal Seed Program (TRISP)

**PURPOSE**

The Charlotte Research Institute is pleased to announce the third annual Targeted Research Internal Seed Program (TRISP). Serving as a catalyst for UNC Charlotte faculty, the seed grant program offers internal funds intended to (1) help generate more compelling grant submissions to federal agencies, (2) initiate new intellectual directions for our faculty, and (3) foster new relationships across colleges, departments or centers. Key considerations include the likelihood that the project can be leveraged ***to obtain new externally-funded research*** from mission-oriented funding agencies such as DoD, DoE, DoT, DHS, etc. (typically not NSF or NIH), and whether the project cannot be otherwise initiated using regular department or college resources. An ideal project would apply for external funding within 6-10 months following seed funding. Although single Principal Investigators (PI’s) are also encouraged to apply, we are particularly keen on using this funding mechanism to ***promote interdisciplinary collaborative teams***. For the purposes of the TRISP Program, interdisciplinary means crossing department or college lines. Two or more investigators from the same department will not be competitive. Teams with seed funding who generate preliminary results and gain experience working jointly have proven more successful when they later compete for multi-investigator and/or multidisciplinary grants.

**TYPES OF AWARDS**

Large Project Seed Grants: Enable a team of two or more UNC Charlotte faculty to obtain initial results or data to prepare for large scale funding opportunities or center grants. Large project seed grants have a maximum budget of $55,000 and funds may be spent from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

Small Project Seed Grants: Enable one or more UNCC faculty to obtain initial results or data that will make them more competitive for any peer-reviewed federal program. Small project seed grants would include summer support for a graduate student plus supplies. Small project seed grants have a maximum budget of $12,000 and funds may be spent from July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Proposals are invited from all UNC Charlotte tenure-track and tenured professors, especially those at the pre-tenure stage. Although external collaborations with universities or companies are encouraged, seed funded projects may not be used to support outside institutions. A faculty member may participate in multiple seed proposals but should serve as lead Principal Investigator on no more than one. An awardee may not apply for a new Targeted Research Internal Seed Program grant until the Principal Investigator has submitted a proposal for external funding based on the previous award.

**USE OF FUNDS**

Funds may be used for any activity directly related to the conduct of the research, e.g. salaries and benefits for students, postdocs, or research scientists, research supplies, equipment/facility recharge, etc. Funds may **not** be used for faculty summer salaries, administrative staff, course buyouts, seminar speakers, consultants, conferences, or travel, except to federal agencies or proposer workshops. Small project seed grants will receive all funding at the start of the project. Large project seed grants will receive 50% of funds to initiate the project, with the remainder made available upon completion and approval of a brief report on project status. All funds must be expended by the end of the project period. All unexpended funds will be returned.

**DEADLINES**

**The internal proposal submittal deadline is February 5, 2018. Estimated date for notice of award is April 15.**

**APPLICATION FORMAT**

Bearing in mind that not all reviewers will have an extensive knowledge of your field of inquiry, faculty should use proposal language accessible to an educated lay reader. Both types of Seed Grant proposals use the same application format:

1. Application Form.
2. External Funding Target – no more than 3 pages: What specific federal mission agency funding opportunity (typically not NSF or NIH) will be targeted for subsequent funding? Who is the intended Program Manager/Officer? What correspondence or interaction has been made or is planned with the Program Manager or federal agency (include emails and a description of interaction when possible). What is the proposed timeline for applying for external funding? ***Projects that do not indicate a specific, mission-oriented opportunity will be returned without review***.
3. Research Plan - No more than 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font with one-inch margins. Proposals should include the following sections:
   1. **Objectives.** *What are you trying to do?*
   2. **Current State-of-the-Art.** Point out scientific challenges and limitations; quantify whenever possible; start broad but most importantly, get down to the root cause of the challenge you are trying to overcome – detail is helpful.
   3. **Innovation.** Highlight the innovative nature of your proposal by differentiating it from the current state-of-the-art. Be specific and quantify when possible.  *What’s new about your approach? Is it a first? What specifically differentiates your proposed research from your peers’ research at other institutions? How might it revolutionize research and advance your field? Why hasn’t it been done before and what leads you to believe that now is the optimal time (ex. an observation, a recent discovery, or a breakthrough in your lab)? Point out how and why your research should overcome the challenges and limitations you stated in (b) State-of-the-Art.*
   4. **Interdisciplinary Nature** (for interdisciplinary proposals only). Clearly specify the contributions from each of the required disciplines. *How and why does combining these different disciplines create a new opportunity or the potential for revolutionary advances?*
4. Quad chart – 1 page (see example template).
5. Budget with breakdown of cost categories.
6. CVs - no more than 2 pages per individual investigator.
7. Current and Pending Support Information

**NOTE: All proposal documents should be merged into a single editable PDF file. The file should not be scanned and then saved as a pdf image, but saved as a PDF file from your computer. Submitted PDF files must be labeled as: *Your Last Name.Your Department.Year.pdf.* Example: Wilson.CivilEngineering.2018.pdf**

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Proposals will be reviewed by UNC Charlotte faculty and staff as well as federal funding agency program managers where possible, with comments returned to explain funding decisions. Evaluations for large grants will be based on four major criteria (listed in order of importance); (1) innovation, (2) external mission-oriented agency funding potential, (3) the extent of interdisciplinary collaboration, and (4) the feasibility of completing the project. Small grants will be evaluated on three criteria; (1) innovation, (2) external funding potential, and (3) the feasibility of completing the project. Innovation is viewed as disruptive research that uses existing technology in new ways and/or launches entirely novel approaches. Deans of the PI and co-PI’s may also be asked for input on the importance of the project for their college.

**PROGRESS TRACKING AND REPORTING**

Awardees of large grants (greater than $12,000) are required to submit both a brief interim report to release the remaining 50% of the funds and a final project report within 60 days of the award period end. Small grant awardees (less than or equal to $12,000) are required to submit only a final project report within 60 days. The final project report should include the results of the research, a financial statement, and plans or efforts underway to obtain external funding. Detailed reporting requirements and templates can be found at the following [link](https://cri.uncc.edu/sites/cri.uncc.edu/files/media/TRISP-Reporting-Form.ppt). Lack of timely reporting may result in exclusion from future award opportunities. PI’s are responsible for tracking expenses associated with award.



Duke Energy Special Initiatives Fund

Application Form

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PI NAME |  | PHONE |  |
| DEPARTMENT |  | COLLEGE |  |
| ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT |  | PHONE |  |
| DATE OF FACULTY APPOINTMENT AT UNC CHARLOTTE:  Tenured Pre-tenure | | | |
| PROJECT TITLE |  | | |
| TOTAL REQUEST AMOUNT |  | | |

OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

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**CURRENT AND PENDING RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

# Current Support

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

# Pending Support

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

Project/Proposal Title:

Source of Support:

Total Award Amount:

Award Period Covered:

Project Location:

Person-months Committed:

**SIGNATURES OF SUPPORT AND APPROVAL**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

*Signatures of the PI, chair, dean, and center director are required at the time of proposal submission. The remaining signatures will be secured after proposal submission.*

DEPARTMENT CHAIR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

DEAN OF COLLEGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

CENTER DIRECTOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

*Award approved:*

VICE CHANCELLOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT