

Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Program (IRPP)

The purpose of the Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Program (IRPP) is to foster new collaborative research within and across departments in CSBS and across colleges. Many of today's critical challenges to the social and natural world are interdisciplinary by nature as we live in a world of complex, interdependent systems. The emphasis on interdisciplinary research has been embraced by funding agencies and the University of Utah as evidenced by the recent cluster hires. At the college level, cross departmental research has the advantage of increasing the productivity of multiple departments from a single, successful research endeavor. Emphasis of the IRPP will be placed on enhancing opportunities to obtain external funding as returned overhead from grants is used to sustain these pilot programs.

Funding Opportunities

1. Seed grant (up to \$10,000)

Funds can be used to prepare for submitting an externally funded research proposal. The funding organization can be a federal agency or a foundation. The project needs to be interdisciplinary in nature with a priority given to new collaborations among two or more faculty members either in the same department or preferably across departments. Example uses of funds include: purchase of equipment needed to collect or analyze data, hiring a graduate assistant, expenses related to collection of field data, etc.

2. Collaboration building events (up to \$3,000)

Funds and Dean's office support are available to organize events ranging in size from a workshop to a hosting high-profile research talk that demonstrates CSBS interdisciplinary research activity to the rest of the campus. If a visiting lecturer is involved she/he should also be serving as a research team member or consultant to a CSBS research team(s).

3. Miscellaneous (up to \$1,000)

Small amounts of money needed quickly to purchase items for collecting pilot data

Review criteria and evaluation process

The proposal must include a specific deliverable such as an external grant proposal; workshop and conference; or cluster hire proposal, etc. and a timeline for its attainment. Preference will be given to teams with a range of faculty experience (e.g., including junior faculty) to enhance mentoring opportunities, proposals that leverage matching funds, or new teams that have not collaborated previously. Proposals will be evaluated by the CSBS Research Committee as advisory to the Research Dean.

Proposal content

Prepare a 1-2 page statement describing the project. It should be single spaced with minimum font size of 11-point. Lengthier applications will not be reviewed. For research proposals, the

statement should include: a project title, a succinct project description including specific aims, methods, a specific timeline for start and finish (projects should ideally be completed within one year), budget and justification, and at least one specific outcome that the award is expected to have. For collaboration building events, a 1-2 page proposal is required that identifies why the requested activity will build collaboration across members in the college. Examples of outcomes include submission of a manuscript or a grant application. Please indicate whether other funds and resources are available to help with the project, and if so, the approximate dollar amount(s) and source(s).

A request letter may be submitted before IRB approval (if needed) is obtained, but documentation of final IRB approval or exemption is required before funds will be disbursed.

Email proposals to Rick Forster (rick.forster@csbs.utah.edu) by June 1st, 2015.

Project Reports

A one-page report summarizing the outcome of the project and providing details on the deliverable is due within one month of the proposal submission or completion of the event.