Announcing a New Funding Program from the Office of the Vice President for Research and The Research Council

As part of Aspire 2020 (https://aspire2020.ou.edu/) the Norman Campus Vice President for Research and the Research Council are evaluating the Research Council awards portfolio with a view towards streamlining both the number of programs and their requirements, but also increasing accountability, setting expectations, and having an overall increase in available funding dollars. In this vein we introduce the following pilot program:

**Potentially Transformative Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Program**

**Description**

In the spirit of Aspire 2020, the Norman Campus Research Council is piloting a new funding program to enhance substantially the University's commitment to encouraging potentially transformative research, scholarship and creative activity among its diverse faculty. The purpose of this program is to provide impetus towards the three primary objectives of Aspire 2020 – to transform research culture, engagement, and competitiveness on the Norman Campus. With this new program, the Research Council aims to provide substantial seed funding to promote research, scholarship, and creativity that has the potential to effect radical changes to existing paradigms in a faculty member’s field, but which might be considered too risky for standard funding venues.

The Research Council solicits single- or multiple-applicant proposals that engage the purpose noted above. The Research Council will consider proposals that do any of the following:

- Contribute to creating a new trajectory in research, scholarship, or creative activity for a faculty member or group, or
- Create exciting new synergies across multiple fields, or
- Lead to major new external funding opportunities.

The Research Council encourages faculty to submit innovative proposals for high-risk research, scholarship and creative activity that they believe will have significant impact if successful. Note that the purpose of this program is to seed faculty efforts at transformative research, and so an award does not carry an expectation that the transformative results will occur within the period of the award.

The Research Council encourages all Norman Campus faculty to submit proposals. If you have questions about the program, please contact the chair of the Research Council. If you would like assistance in proposal preparation, please contact Alicia Knoedler (mailto:aknoedler@ou.edu) at the Center for Research Program Development and Enrichment (http://crpde.ou.edu/).
Award amount

Applicants may request an amount ranging from $10,000 to $50,000 for up to 12 months.

Proposal guidelines and due dates

The Research Council will rank proposals and provide recommendations to the VPR using a two-step selection procedure.

1) Pre-proposal

Pre-proposals should be submitted electronically to Linda Kilby (lkilby@ou.edu) by 5 pm on Monday, November 8, 2010. The pre-proposal is limited to two pages single spaced, and should include the following information, with clear headings:

- Title of proposal,
- Name(s) of applicant(s),
- Description of the potentially transformative aspects of the proposed activity,
- Description of the proposed research, scholarship, or creative activity,
- Description of the challenges involved,
- Description of potential rewards and outcomes, and
- Projected budget (please provide a line-item or tabular budget with justification).

2) Proposal presentation

Based on a review of the submitted pre-proposals, selected applicants will be invited to make fifteen-minute oral presentations to the Research Council during the week of December 13-17, 2010. Further instructions for presentation content will be provided at the time invitations are made.

Following all presentations, the Research Council will make recommendations for funding to the Norman Campus Vice President for Research by Friday, December 17, 2010 and awards will be announced by Monday, January 3, 2011.