ADVANCE Interdisciplinary and Engaged Research Seed Grants
Request for Proposals: Due date October 20th, 2014

The UMD ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence aims to transform the institutional culture of our university by facilitating networks, offering individual mentoring and support, and providing information and strategic opportunities for women faculty in all areas of academia. Our program, which is funded through a partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park and the National Science Foundation, is pleased to announce the fourth and final cycle of funding for a program aimed at promoting collaborations among women faculty members in departments and colleges across our campus. This program funds Interdisciplinary and Engaged Research Seed Grants of up to $20,000 each to tenured/tenure track-women faculty at UMD, and encourages collaborative projects that involve the integration of two or more disciplines (interdisciplinary research), and/or projects that involve external partners and that benefit the public good (engaged research).

Interdisciplinary Research defined...
“A mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice.”
- Project Kaleidoscope, National Academy of Science

Engaged Research defined...
“The collaboration between academics and individuals outside the academy—knowledge professionals and the lay public (local, regional/state, national. Global)—for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”
- New England Resource Center for Higher Education
A second critical goal of these seed grants is to provide funding for preliminary research projects that will contribute to future external grant applications. These grants assist faculty members with the process of establishing critical partnerships for scholarly work to which they have a long-term commitment.

Relevance of Interdisciplinary Research...
“Many of the great research triumphs are products of interdisciplinary inquiry and collaboration: discovery of the structure of DNA, magnetic resonance imaging, laser eye surgery, radar, human genome sequencing, the ‘green revolution,’ and manned space flight.”
- Project Kaleidoscope, National Academy of Science

Relevance of Engaged Research...
“Increasingly, academics in many disciplines are realizing that their own intellectual territory overlaps with that of other knowledge professionals working outside the university sector... Knowledge is being keenly pursued in the context of its application and in a dialogue of practice with theory through a network of policy-advisors, companies, consultants, think-tanks, and knowledge brokers as well as academics.”
- Association of Commonwealth Universities

Overall, proposals should:

• Fall within the definitions of interdisciplinary and/or engaged research.
• Involve collaboration between at least one UMD tenure-track woman faculty member and one faculty member from a different discipline.
• Clearly identify the soundness of methods and significance of the work.
• Clearly contribute to future external grant applications.

ADVANCE Interdisciplinary and Engaged Research Seed Grants are awarded through a competitive peer-reviewed process. Each grant applicant, regardless of whether they are or are not ultimately funded, will receive feedback from a qualified set of reviewers. For further information on submission and review process, see Seed Grant FAQs on the UMD ADVANCE website at: www.advance.umd.edu (click on Resources).
Additional Information on ADVANCE Seed Grant Submission

Proposal application packages should include the following components:

1. Cover letter that identifies partners in the project, and in particular, the name and department/college of the Principal Investigator. Please also include a brief outline of the ways in which the project qualifies as interdisciplinary and/or engaged research. In your letter, please provide the names and contact information of two individuals who might act as reviewers for your application. You may also indicate up to two individuals who you would prefer not act as reviewer for your proposal.

2. The full UMD format curriculum vitae for all PI and Co-PIs

3. Research project description, including:
   a. Title
   b. Research Summary (one page, single spaced – written toward general professional audience)
   c. Outline of long-term objectives of the study and its pertinence to future external grant applications (up to two pages)
   d. Theoretical framework (up to three pages)
   e. Methods (up to three pages)
   f. Time-line of activities (up to two pages)
   g. Itemized budget up to $20,000 (up to two pages)
   h. Literature cited (up to two pages)
   i. Type should be a minimum of 11 pt and should be double-spaced (except where noted above). One-inch margins on all pages required.
   j. Except where noted above (Research Summary), proposal may be written toward professionals in your field.

4. A letter of support from the PI’s dean, dept. chair, or ADVANCE Professor (please cc dean).

Note: More than one proposal can be submitted per college.

Please also note the following:

1. Quality of scholarship of the proposed research is the top priority for selection.

2. PI must be a woman, however Co-PIs may be women or men.

3. PI must be tenured or tenure-track faculty at UMD. (Priority will be given to applications whose PIs are junior faculty.)

4. Previous awardees may not reapply.

5. Co-PIs may be off-campus. (Priority will be given to applications whose partners are on campus.)

6. Given that a goal of the seed grant program is to build networks across campus, proposals that include PIs from different academic units will be given priority.

7. Multiple applications may be sent from the same department or college.

8. Applicants may participate as PI on only one application, but may participate as Co-PI on others.

9. Awards are subject to flow-down of NSF terms and conditions.

Proposal packages should be submitted by 5 pm on October 20th, 2014 to: advance@umd.edu. Please refer to “Seed Grant application” in the subject line. Projected start date for awards is April 1st, 2015.

The ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation in partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park.