

DRAFT INTRAMURAL OVPR GRANT PROGRAM

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is announcing a comprehensive and coordinated competitive grant program designed to leverage funds available through the OVPR. Applications are due by XX X, XXXX. This initiative will consolidate the four previous mechanisms of support (Competitive Research Grants, BioGrants, Interdisciplinary Grants and Faculty Mentoring Grants). The revised mechanism will streamline the review processes and identify performance metrics to leverage the research enterprise at Auburn University. Support for projects or equipment may begin as early as this fall. If arrangements are made for an OVPR Research Day beginning in 2011, awardees will be expected to present a poster detailing their project (description, work in progress, outcome if appropriate, etc.) the year after the award. For multi-year awards (Level 3) presentations will be expected during each subsequent funding year.

Level 1 – Seed Research/Scholarship Proposals (individual investigator driven projects) working on a new research program or initiative. A faculty member must be at the Assistant Professor level. Up to \$2,000 may be requested (\$2000 in OVPR support with 1:1 matching funds of up to \$2000 from the department/school/college can extend the total award to \$4000). **Expectations/deliverables:** The award is considered seed funding and the applicant must describe how the award will result in a) additional extramural support and/or b) how this award will result in furthering the research/scholarship mission of AU. The application form without additional narrative is required. Former grant recipients are ineligible (as either PI or co-PI) for 5 years after a Level 1 or Level 2 award. Funds must be expended within one year of award. As many as 20 individual Level 1 awards are envisioned each year.

Level 2 – Exploratory Interdisciplinary Research/Scholarship Proposals (faculty from at least two departments/schools/colleges) working on a new research program or initiative. At least one faculty member must be at the Assistant Professor level. Up to \$3,000 may be requested (\$3000 in OVPR support with 1:1 matching funds of up to \$3000 from the school/college can extend the total award to \$6000). **Expectations/deliverables:** The award is considered seed funding and the applicant must describe how the award will result in: a) additional extramural support and/or b) how this award will result in furthering the research/scholarship mission of AU. The application form without additional narrative is required. Former grant recipients are ineligible (as either PI or co-PI) for five years after either a Level 1 or Level 2 award. As many as 20 individual Level 2 awards are envisioned each year. Funds must be expended within one year of award. A school/college match of 1:1, up to \$3000 is required.

Level 3 – Developmental Interdisciplinary Research/Scholarship Proposals (faculty from at least two schools/colleges) working on a new research program or initiative. Between \$25,000 and \$75,000 are available in total for a period of time not to exceed three years from date of receipt of funds may be requested. A 1:1 match with funds from the Colleges/Schools involved is required (total award therefore could reach \$150,000). A minimum of two awards is envisioned annually. **Expectations/deliverables** for a Level 3 award include:

- a) Robust internal reviews (projects must be rated as outstanding).
- b) The work must represent an area of endeavor where the scope forms a definitive foundation for extramural support/consideration.
- c) Support must be used as seed money to capture new extramural public or private sector support - with a clear likelihood that the grant support will have a reasonable chance of being funded (grants/contracts) within the subsequent three year period.
- d) Deliverables include:
 - i) An extramural grant application by the end of the 1st year for continued funding (or an acceptable plan for an extramural proposal in FY2 and how FY2 funding will support the funding objective),
 - ii) Research/scholarly abstracts submitted each year for the duration of confirmed funding,
 - iii) An initial peer reviewed publication prepared within two years of receipt of funds that is directly related/associated with the funded project.
- e) Funding for up to one month's salary support for the PI and one co-PI will be allowed.
- f) Funding for travel will only be allowed if justified in support of developmental project activities.
- g) A school/college match of 1:1 required.
- h) If the 1d) deliverables are achieved, a one-time graduate student stipend for one or two semesters (dependent upon size of the award) will be provided to the research/scholarship team.

Level 4 – Interdisciplinary Equipment Proposals (faculty from at least two schools/colleges must demonstrate need). Between \$25,000 and \$75,000 may be requested for a Level 4 application (total award including School/College match could therefore reach \$100,000). A maximum of one or two awards is envisioned annually. Expectations/deliverables for a Level 4 award include:

- a) The work must represent an area of endeavor where the scope forms a definitive foundation for further collaborative development and future extramural support/consideration (and the project must be rated as outstanding on review).
- b) Support must be used as seed money to capture new external public or private sector funding support - with a clear likelihood that the equipment will lead to projects with a reasonable chance of being funded (grants/contracts) within the subsequent three year period.
- c) Cost-shares with school/college funds will be required.
 - i) For grants under \$50,000, the 1st \$12,500 shall be supported by Colleges/Schools.
 - ii) For grants over \$50,000, the 1st \$25,000 shall be supported by Colleges/Schools.
- d) Deliverables include:
 - i) One or more extramural grant applications by the end of year 1 (or within one year of equipment operation),
 - ii) Two or more scientific abstracts submitted by the 18 months identifying use of the purchased equipment,
 - iii) A minimum of two peer reviewed publications prepared within two years identifying the use of the equipment purchased.
- e) Funds cannot be used for travel or salary support on Level 4 applications.
- f) If deliverables in 1d are met, a one year equipment service contract will be provided by the OVPR (not to exceed 25% of original cost share support).

An application cover page is attached. The proposal outline and additional pertinent criteria for application follow. Please pay close attention to the guidelines for application. Please review the calls above and the guidelines below prior to submission. Failure to follow guidelines may adversely affect your competitiveness.

1. Research Proposal (Instructions)
 - A. Level 1 and 2 applications require a completed OVPR Grant Application Form only.
 - B. Level 3 and 4 applications require a completed OVPR Grant Application Form and a Proposal Narrative (sections B-J not to exceed 10 single spaced pages).
 - C. Fonts must be Times New Roman or Arial and no smaller than 11 pt. One inch margins are required. Failure to abide by these specific requirements will cause rejection of your proposal.
 - D. One original hard copy with signatures (not stapled) and one electronic copy should be forwarded to the OVPR (the electronic copy may be sent by email to odonndj@auburn.edu).
2. Duration - Duration as noted by the specific call. Level 1, 2 and 4 projects are for one year in duration. Level 3 projects may be awarded for a maximum of a three year duration; however, second or third - year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress, specific deliverables AND availability of funds.
3. Include the significance of the proposed application. Criteria to be used include a) potential of proposed research/scholarly activity to achieve a targeted metric of success (e.g., scholarly works produced, attracting external funding, exhibitions/productions, etc), b) technological quality of the approach, d) adequacy of training or experience of the assembled interdisciplinary team, e) impact on Alabama economy and/or Alabama citizenry, f) feasibility of attaining objectives within suggested time frame, g) research, publication and scholarly activity-related productivity, and h) development of pilot data for externally sponsored applications.
4. List all current funding & pending support and all extramural grant proposals submitted during the past year that were not funded. Application for extramural funds, especially if you have been supported previously from the internal funds, will be considered in the decision to fund the current project.
5. Budget. The budget should realistically reflect the scope of the proposed work or if for equipment, a vendor quote is required. If the proposed work requires more than what can be allocated by Level-specific

limits, then supplemental funding sources available to the principal investigator for completion of the proposed research must be indicated (copies of School/College cost share letter(s) should be appended to the hard copies of the application). If investigator salary is requested, a justification is required, and the appropriate fringe benefit rate should be included.

6. If you have been funded previously from any OVPR funding source (within the last 8 years), please list the project(s) and for the most recently funded project provide a progress report that includes significance of findings and publications and/or presentations resulting from the research. Funding of a new grant will be contingent on evidence of satisfactory progress on previously funded work. Timely publication in appropriate refereed journals of results from previous grants will be considered favorably.
7. All proposals will be reviewed and rated by a Research Review Committee composed of Associate Deans for Research and ad hoc subject matter experts as needed. If you perceived any conflicts-of-interest with Auburn faculty or administrators – please identify such in a separate letter to the Associate Vice President for Research at the time of submission.
8. Expected starting date: Fall 2010. However, in order to initiate the award, copies of any relevant IACUC, IBC, IRB protocols and other approvals (if applicable) must be provided.
9. All co-investigators are required to sign the proposal. (If co-investigators have not read the proposal; it will be disqualified). Also all department heads involved will need to initial the proposal in order to keep them informed of the research activities of their faculty.
10. The Dean(s) or Associate Dean(s) for Research must provide a letter assuring identified cost-shares and sources of funds.

LEVEL 3 AND 4 PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

- A. OVPR GRANT APPLICATION FORM.
- B. TITLE.
- C. OBJECTIVES.
- D. JUSTIFICATION OR RATIONALE AND SIGNIFICANCE
- E. EXPERIMENTAL PLAN.
- F. EXPECTED OUTCOMES, PITFALLS AND ANY ALTERNATIVES.
- G. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.
- H. LITERATURE REVIEW.
- I. TIME TABLE.
- J. PUBLICATION PLANS.

[NOTE: ITEM A IS NOT INCLUDED IN 10 PAGE LIMIT.]

Additional criteria:

- 1) Individuals may be PI's on only one submission in a given year (*only a single submission at any level*).
- 2) An individual may only be a PI on one OVPR research grant (others will need to be relinquished).
- 3) Funding for up to one month's salary support for the PI and one co-PI will be allowed on Level 1-3 applications.
- 4) Investigators must demonstrate a reasonable track record - that would be indicative of likely success in the proposed efforts on Level 3 and Level 4 applications.
- 5) For purposes of interdisciplinary work - an individual's primary appointment will be taken into consideration.
- 6) If you perceive any faculty members in conflict in the review of your application, please list those individuals on a separate cover letter addressed to the Associate Vice President for Research (Dr. C.A. Pinkert).

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact D. Jeannie O'Donnell or Dr. Pinkert.