

CALS Dean's Enrichment Grants Program

An Internal Request for Proposals to Support our People, Programs, and Partnerships

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at NC State University (NCSU) leads partnership-driven discovery, learning and engagement. We prepare student leaders, create and apply unbiased knowledge through advances in science and technology and drive economic development to improve the quality of life in North Carolina, our nation and the world. We fulfill the land-grant mission by embracing an interdisciplinary approach to achieve new scientific breakthroughs that translate into discoveries and meet grand challenges involving food, farming, fiber, feed, families, health, energy, water and the environment.

Based on a recent college strategic planning initiative, five core strategic themes emerged as focus areas to build our research, teaching, and outreach programs. The CALs NCSU strategic plan can be found at: <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/news-center/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/EnvisionFuture.pdf>.

The five core strategic themes are:

1. Enhancing the production, quality, accessibility and profitability of food, plant, animal and bioenergy products for North Carolina, the nation and the world;
2. Ensuring environmental stewardship and sustainability of air, land, soil and water resources;
3. Creating a food supply that is safe, secure, healthy, affordable and of high quality;
4. Improving human health and well-being for individuals, families and communities; and
5. Preparing students and stakeholders for leadership and success in the global workforce.

This RFP was developed as a direct response to the call-to-action from the CALs strategic planning process for CALs faculty; to help us grow programs related to the current and future strategy of the College. One of the primary focus areas of the project proposals is to support “multidisciplinary teams” and “integrated missions.” Multidisciplinary grants engage faculty members from different departments, colleges, and/or units. Integrated grants must incorporate at least two of the land grant missions (research, teaching, and Cooperative Extension).

This opportunity is open to tenure track and non-tenure track faculty, superintendents at research stations or field laboratories and Cooperative Extension specialists; however the PI who is responsible for administration and accountability of the grant must be a CALs department faculty member.

RFP Grant Categories

1. Integrated and Interdisciplinary Grants:

a. Core Strategic Themes Grants:

- i. These multidisciplinary and integrated grants will support the five core strategic themes of the CALs strategic plan. The purpose is to grow the identified theme areas highlighted in the strategic planning process in an effort to build teams and enhance our capacities in these designated areas. Project proposals will be accepted for maximum funding up to \$75,000/year for up to two years (\$150,000 total).

b. Cross College Grants:

Cross college grants are offered in partnership with NC State University's College of Natural Resources (CNR). The purpose of the cross college grants is to expand and synergize collaboration between the two colleges around their common strategic areas as outlined by both colleges in recent strategic planning efforts. The proposals must be integrated across disciplines between the two colleges and across at least two of the three land grant missions: research, teaching and extension. The proposals should address one or more of the common strategic priorities of both colleges and must include PI's from both colleges. Project proposals will be accepted for a maximum funding of:

Up to \$25,000/year funding provided by CALS (NCSU)

Up to \$25,000/year funding provided by CNR (NCSU)

Up to \$50,000/year maximum funding

Project funding period is for a maximum of two years for a maximum total budget of \$100,000 per project. It is anticipated that 4-6 awards will be made.

NOTE: CNR is publishing a companion RFP that refers to the same program as described here. The CNR RFP is entitled "CALS and CNR Strategic Enrichment Grants Program".

c. Regional Collaborative Grants with Virginia Tech:

- i. Regional Collaborative Grants are expected to foster interstate collaboration and provide seed funding to assemble interdisciplinary teams, thus improving competitiveness for extramural grants. The purpose of this year's regional grant program is to expand collaboration with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech (VT). Priority will be given to those proposals that address common strategic priorities of CALS at both universities. The regional collaborative projects can be conducted at facilities located on or off campus at VT or NCSU. The proposals must be integrated across disciplines between the two colleges and across at least two of the following missions: research, teaching and/or Cooperative Extension. Project proposals will be accepted for a maximum funding of:

Up to \$50,000/year funding provided by CALS (NCSU)

Up to \$50,000/year funding provided by CALS (VT)

Up to \$100,000/year maximum funding

The project funding period is a maximum of two years for a total budget up to \$200,000 per project.

CALS VT Strategic Plan:

<http://www.cals.vt.edu/about/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-pdf.pdf>

CALS NCSU Strategic Plan:

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/agcomm/news-center/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/EnvisionFuture.pdf>

d. Stakeholder Collaborative Matching Grants:

- i. Stakeholder Collaborative Matching Grants are intended to utilize interdisciplinary teams to build collaborations with new partners. A 1:1 match for funding is required in this category of grants from partners. The purpose is to focus on the stakeholder component of the CALS strategic plan; enhancing partnerships to solve stakeholder needs, increasing leveraging of project funding and providing enhanced value to our stakeholders and NCSU. The proposals must be integrated across disciplines and across at least two of the following missions: research, teaching, and/or Cooperative Extension. Project proposals will be accepted for a maximum funding of:

Up to \$100,000/2 year funding period provided by CALS (NCSU)

Up to \$100,000/2 year funding period by Stakeholder Group (1:1 match)

Up to \$200,000/2-year funding period maximum funding

2. Wynne Innovation Grants:

In 2012, a special fund was created in honor of former Dean, Dr. Johnny Wynne. The goal of the fund is to stimulate innovation and idea development. In the spirit of this fund, three areas will be supported for innovative projects. NOTE: a single proposal may include more than one mission (research, teaching and/or Cooperative Extension/outreach). It is anticipated that, while some proposals may include more than one mission, proposals should not exceed \$20,000/year for up to two years (\$40,000 total).

a. Academic Innovation Grants:

- i. The purpose of the Academic Innovation Grants is to create innovative instruction or curriculum design delivered either face-to-face or via distance education. Projects can be single or multi-investigator. Project proposals will be accepted for maximum funding up to \$20,000/year for up to two years (\$40,000 total).

b. Research Innovation Grants:

- i. The purpose of the Research Innovation Grants is to develop research projects that fall outside of the realm of the CALS Strategic Plan. This seed funding provides an opportunity for research innovation. Projects can be single or multi-investigator. Project proposals will be accepted for a maximum funding up to \$20,000/year for up to two years (\$40,000 total).

c. Extension/Outreach Innovation Grants:

- i. The purpose of the Extension/Outreach Innovation Grants is to create innovative outreach programs supporting stakeholder needs in the state of North Carolina. Projects can be single or multi-investigator. Project proposals will be accepted for a maximum funding up to \$20,000/year for up to two years (\$40,000 total).

3. Multi-user Equipment (research, extension, academic) Grants:

- a. The purpose of the grant is to help us achieve the land-grant mission by enabling collaborating faculty to share usage of critical equipment. A requirement of these proposals is that proposed equipment be used by multiple users. Equipment requests will be accepted for a maximum of \$150,000.

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Proposal Format:

The proposal packet should include:

1. Core proposal content
 - a. A cover page that includes: the project title, category of the RFP for the proposed work, investigator name(s) and specific contact information (address, email, telephone) for the PI, the project start and end date as well as the total requested funds and cost share.
 - b. Project description: Not to exceed five pages, single spaced, with 11 pt. font and 1" margins.
 - i. Problem statement
 - ii. Goals and objectives
 - iii. Rationale and significance of the problem
 - iv. Plan of work/methods -- including plans for future sustainability of the program
 - v. Relationships with other current or planned program initiatives
 - vi. How the project will improve competitiveness for future extramural grants
 - vii. Partners to be included and their contribution and involvement in the project.
 - viii. Available facilities or other support should also be listed.
2. The budget form (attached on page 6). Projects for Integrated and Interdisciplinary Grants and for Wynne Innovation Grants should begin July 1, 2014. The Multi-user Equipment Grants do not require a start/end date.
3. Brief description and letter of commitment of any matching funds (if applicable). Note that matching funds are encouraged for all projects and will be a factor when making funding decisions.
4. One page CV for each PI and Co-PI on the project.

Proposals do not need to be approved by the Office of Sponsored Programs. Indirect costs do not apply to these grants. Eligible funding categories include post-doc salary, graduate student stipend, tuition, hourly wage, expendable materials and supplies, software and tools, publication and website development expenses, travel, etc.. Limited facility upgrades to the research stations or field laboratories will be considered as part of the budget requests if directly relevant to the proposed project.

NOTE: *For Regional Collaborative Grant Proposals with Virginia Tech: A complete proposal packet must contain information for both institutions including rationale for collaboration and plans for utilization of identified facilities. Separate budget forms are required for each institution.*

Submission of Proposals:

The College contracts and grants unity requires that the submission be received via PINS (<http://research.ncsu.edu/sparcs/systems-portal/pins/>) for review five business days prior to the submission due date. All proposals must be approved in PINS by 5:00pm on December 10, 2013. If you have questions please contact Josh McIntyre (josh_mcintyre@ncsu.edu) or David Monks (david_monks@ncsu.edu).

Proposal Review Criteria:

College wide committees will be created to evaluate the proposals in each of the three funding category areas. Proposals will be ranked based on their merit and satisfying the RFP requirements. For Cross College and

Regional Collaborative Grants, committees will be comprised of CNR (NCSU) faculty and CALS (VT) faculty respectively.

Reporting Requirements:

A progress report is due 11 months after the date of the project being awarded. Year two funding (if requested) is based on the satisfactory progress in meeting the objectives during the first year of the project. A final report outlining activities undertaken, results and impacts is due within 60 days of the completion of the project.

Acknowledgement:

All publications, posters, websites, field day presentations, etc. resulting from this internal competitive grant program must include the following statement: “This activity was funded, in part, by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State University.” For the cross college grants, a similar statement referring to both colleges must be included.

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Budget Form

Year 1

Year 2 (if requested)

Personnel

Materials and supplies

Software and tools

Publications

Website development

Travel

Other