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**2017-18 RESEARCH INCENTIVE OPPORTUNITY**

**FOR TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY**

The Dean and College of Education Research Office (COERO) invite tenured and tenure-track faculty to participate in the Research Incentive Opportunity (RIO), a program ***designed to*** ***support faculty in proactively seeking external research funding***.

COERO staff will guide and support eligible COE faculty as they (1) ***develop a work plan*** to operationalize their research idea, and (2) ***craft a one- or two-page concept paper*** that will be submitted to targeted external funders. Based on funder feedback and guidance, faculty will then (3) prepare and ***submit a full proposal***.

**Purpose**

The RIO process is designed to ***strategically and efficiently turn research ideas into fundable research projects***, and help faculty develop and ***hone the skills necessary to submit high-quality, competitive research proposals*** to external funders.

The strategic purpose of RIO is to ***change the culture of waiting for a formal request for applications*** (RFA) before seeking feedback from funders on the viability of faculty research projects. This approach allows researchers to focus on the work they truly want to do – the work they are passionate about – and mitigates being “boxed in” by funder parameters (e.g., grant period and budget limitations) as articulated in a RFA.

RIO’s ***work plan transforms an idea into an operationalized research project***, with a budget and timeline. The concept paper allows researchers to ***receive from external funders almost immediate feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their proposal***, versus waiting up to six months for reviewer comments on an application that often requires over 50 pages of documents. See the last page for a visual representation of the advantages of this approach.

**The Incentives**

Eligible principal investigators (PIs) and their co-PIs will receive payroll stipends upon completing a work plan and submitting a concept paper to a targeted funder (see Phases 1 and 2 in the Instructions below):

* Proposals with direct costs totaling $50,000 - $99,999 – Eligible PIs and their co-PIs will share a $750 payroll stipend upon completing a work plan and an additional $750 upon submission of a concept paper to a targeted funder.
* Proposals with direct costs totaling at least $100,000 – Eligible PIs will receive the $750 payroll stipends – and up to three co-PIs will each receive $250 – upon completing the work plan and again upon submitting the concept paper.

Incentives for 25 proposals are available in 2017-18; however, interest in RIO will be monitored to determine if additional funding is warranted prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**Eligibility**

* COE tenured or tenure-track faculty identified as PI who
* have never received an external grant greater than $50,000 and who propose projects totaling at least $50,000 in direct costs

OR

* within the past three years (since September 1, 2014) have not received an external grant greater than $100,000 and who propose projects totaling at least $100,000 in direct costs.
* Faculty who began the RIO process in 2016-17 may start anew on September 1 and receive incentive stipends upon satisfying the 2017-18 RIO deadlines.
* Faculty who complete the RIO process and whose proposal remains pending or is denied may participate in RIO again in the current academic year as long as the research project is distinctly different from the one that remains pending or was denied.

**Instructions**

Phase 1

1. Meet and work with [Stephanie A. Korcheck](http://www.education.txstate.edu/coero/about/skorcheck.html), COE Research Coordinator for Proposal Development, to develop and finalize a [work plan](http://www.education.txstate.edu/coero/prepare/develop-idea.html) for your research project. The work plan must be completed within two months of your initial meeting with Stephanie.
2. Upon completion of the work plan, receive the payroll stipends described above.

Phase 2

1. Based on the work plan, work with Stephanie to develop a [concept paper](http://www.education.txstate.edu/coero/prepare/develop-idea.html); its length will depend on the targeted funder.
2. Work with Stephanie to identify an external funder that is likely to support the project.
3. Within two months of completing the work plan, submit the concept paper to the targeted funder.
4. Upon submission of the concept paper, receive the payroll stipends described above.

Phase 3 – no incentive payment

1. Discuss with Stephanie the feedback received from the funder.
2. In accordance with the feedback and guidance received on the concept paper, work with Stephanie to submit a proposal to the targeted funder by the first available submission deadline.

