Seed Grants: Advancing Transdisciplinary Communities in Rural Health Research

The Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Areas (DA/SGAs) and VT's investment Institutes are committed to advancing the Beyond Boundaries vision. In order to facilitate transdisciplinary research efforts, the DAs/SGAs in conjunction with the Institutes, are offering seed grants to foster collaborative efforts and to enhance the competitiveness for defined external support in areas that address issues related to rural health (e.g., socio-economic, environmental, health needs of rural populations). *It is important that the requests provide sufficient rationale and evidence for the strong probability that the teams will be able to apply for external funding in the near future.* Teams must be made up of **both junior and senior faculty member partnerships**.

Requests are due by October 15, 2018. *Email submissions to Catherine Amelink,* amelink@vt.edu

Requirements: All requests for research funding will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scope and Impact: The research project should address an important problem related to rural health and further the goals of creating transdisciplinary communities by contributing to meaningful advancements in two (or more) of the following DA/SGA areas
    (more information can be found https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination-areas.html):
    - A. *Adaptive Brain & Behavior*
    - B. *Creativity + Innovation*
    - C. *Data & Decisions*
    - D. *Equity & Social Disparity in the Human Condition*
    - E. *Economic & Sustainable Materials*
    - F. *Global Systems Science*
    - G. *Intelligent Infrastructure for Human Centered Communities*
    - H. *Policy*
2. Transdisciplinary Collaboration: Proposals for funding should address the unique aspects of the proposed team/network and the team's collaborative approach. The demonstrated or potential productivity and quality of the investigative team will be considered during the evaluation process. Teams must be made up of both junior and senior faculty member partnerships.
3. External Funding Potential: The potential ROI for the research project in the form of subsequent external funding is critical. Applicants should identify clear plans to apply for external funding based on the proposal work and provide a clear rationale of why the DA/SGA seed funding is crucial to this effort.
4. Level and Availability of Funding: The maximum amount for a single seed grant will be $20,000, and funds will need to be spent by June 30, 2019. Feasibility, scope, and magnitude of the project relative to the request will all be taken into consideration by the review committee. The budget should be realistic, appropriate, and well justified.

Evaluation Process: Proposals will be evaluated by a peer review committee comprised of stakeholders from the DAs/SGAs. Funding decisions will be communicated via email. The anticipated notification date is November 15, 2018.

Partnership Expectations: If a request for funding is approved, it is expected that:

• Grantees will provide a progress report at the end of the 7-month funding period. Progress reports must be concise, written for a general audience, include appropriate graphics (e.g. photos, charts), and be suitable for publicizing the transdisciplinary work of the DAs/SGAs. Reports may be disseminated on university websites and used for communicating the work of transdisciplinary scholarship at Virginia Tech.
• Grantees agree to participate in a university wide reception/small symposium at the end of the academic year to build transdisciplinary communities.
• Grantees must acknowledge support from the DAs/SGAs in resulting publications.

SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION
1. Completed applications must be submitted to amelink@vt.edu
2. Applications must include:

A. Introduction
• **Title** of proposal
• **Collaborators:** Provide a list of all team members (PI, faculty, staff, and students); include their affiliation (college and department), their research project role and how their responsibilities will contribute to success. Unique expertise among investigators should be identified.
• **Impact:** Which thematic program(s) or crosscutting area(s) (see list in *Guidelines*) does the research align with? Articulate the problem and describe the gap addressed by the proposed research. (~500 words)
• **Abstract**. Provide a brief lay description of the proposed research project and how it will lead to significant external funding that will contribute to addressing the identified problem. (up to 250 words)
• **Innovation:** What is novel and innovative about the proposed project? How is this work distinct from other projects (proposals and awards) of the members of the research team? (~300 words)
B. Project Narrative (3-page limit, single spaced, 11 pt. font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins)
• **Objectives:** Describe the scope of the project. Include a clear statement of the specific objectives/aims, including hypotheses that will be tested and/or the research questions to be addressed.
• **Interdisciplinary Team/Network:** Discuss unique aspects of the team/network. Address how it might enhance our ability to solve a traditional problem and/or how it is unique in terms of establishing new external partnerships, funding or commercialization opportunities.
• **Rationale and Significance:** What is the significance of the overarching line of research investigation? Include the current status of research, any preliminary results, and summarize significant published work. How will the requested support position the research team to be more competitive for significant extramural funding?
• **Research Methods:** Provide a brief description of the research design, methods, data analysis, application of results, and discussion of any limitations of the procedures.
• **Outcomes:** Provide a detailed description of the outcomes expected from the project (e.g., extramural funding proposals, publications, curriculum development, etc.), including new findings and/or insights that will be generated and how activities will be integrated across teaching and research. What is the specific plan to translate results of the proposed work to applications for significant extramural funding, including agencies and funding mechanisms?

The following information and Sections C "Budget Summary" and D. "Budget Narrative" are not included in the three-page limit
• **References**
• **Timeline:** Include a table or Gantt chart of key milestones or outcomes and associated deadlines. Include a brief narrative description.
C. Budget Summary – Funds will need to be spent by June 30, 2019

Item (and brief description)	Requested Funds	Matching Support (if applicable)
A. Personnel (Salary & Benefits)		
B. Supplies		
C. Equipment		
D. Outreach		
E. Travel		
F. Services		
G. Other		
Total		

D. Budget Narrative: Provide a brief budget justification