

Faculty Research Awards: A New Program for School of Education Faculty
Released on 12/14/2022

Goals of the School of Education Faculty Research Program:

The Dean's Office is excited to announce the *School of Education Faculty Research Program*, a new grant initiative that will support innovative SOE faculty research projects that are aligned with our mission-vision. The program, which will fund smaller research grants, seeks to increase the number of faculty pursuing external funding, encourage new equity-focused research collaborations, and extend our connections with and across communities.

Proposed projects must be led by at least one faculty member whose primary full-time appointment is in our School of Education. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that the research takes an interdisciplinary approach to asking relevant questions about education, equity, and engagement from critical perspectives and in a variety of contexts. Projects must advance aspects of our School's mission-vision, with particular emphasis on our commitments to equity, justice, and innovation, to pursuing and producing knowledge, and to forging, participating in, and/or supporting engaged research initiatives.

Funding Priorities:

All areas of research represented in our School of Education that advance equity, justice, and innovation are eligible. **Critical interdisciplinary research is encouraged.**

Scope and Budget:

Awards will be made for up to two years for a maximum total of **\$50K**. Projects that are slightly smaller in scale, that are in a developmental stage, and/or involve secondary data analysis and that require less than \$50K will also be considered. If projects are based on more developed work—for example, faculty researchers engaged in previously funded lines of work with schools and/or community groups who decide to expand their collaborations or collaborate on a new effort—then researchers might request the maximum.

Budgets should primarily support student researchers (GSAs and/or undergraduate students) and/or direct research costs (e.g., necessary equipment, research participants, allowable stipends, etc.). If faculty members currently have existing research grants and/or start-up funds, then they must justify how they will use those resources first before requesting funds from this new faculty research grant program. Note: You can use your other grants and start-up funds to cost share. ***Faculty summer salary and overages are not allowable expenses.***

Proposal Content:

All completed applications must be submitted via email no later than **March 20, 2023**.

Applicants should submit a proposal that includes the following sections: a) Project narrative, timeline, and references; b) Budget and budget justification, and c) Project personnel and their proposed contributions. Guidelines for the individual proposal sections are below:

A. Project Narrative, Timeline, and References (no longer than 7 single-space pages)

1. *Project significance.* Clear description of the proposed research/activity, including its rationale (i.e., aspects of the work that make it intellectually exciting), contribution, and main research questions. Be sure to include how your proposed work will advance aspects of our mission-vision.
2. *Methods/Hopeful Outcomes.* Clear description of the methods for the proposed research including the methodological framing, sampling strategy, data sources, measures or anticipated coding schemes, and analyses. Also, include a brief indication of what some of the hopeful outcomes might be as a result of the research project.
3. *Sustainability.* A brief description of how aspects of the project signal the *potential for sustainability* through sources that are internal (at the University of Pittsburgh) and/or external (from foundation and/or federal agencies). This should include an identification of the internal and external units/agencies who could fund the research moving forward and a rationale for why the proposed project might be fundable on a larger scale.
4. *Equity, Justice, and Innovation.* A section that describes how the proposed work is expected to generate knowledge to advance a more just and equitable society and contribute to, expand, and deepen equity, justice, and innovation in/across our School.
5. *Timeline:* Detail the expected time (up to two years) for project activities.
6. *References*

B. Project Budget

Submit a cost effective and detailed budget and budget justification to support your proposed project. Include time estimates of workflow and expenditures for the length of the project. Budgets should show costs directly in support of research (personnel, equipment, participant stipends, etc.). Faculty salaries are not supported. Budgets should be prepared with the assistance of the School's Grants Management Team and/or Department Representative. **Requests should not exceed \$50K for a maximum of two-years.** Among proposals of similar quality, preference may be given to requests of smaller amounts to ensure the widest access to funds.

C. Project Personnel

Short bios (no more than a paragraph) and CVs for each investigator.

Criteria for Evaluation:

- *Significance:* Clear description of the research questions and their significance, including how knowledge generated from the research would contribute toward a more equitable society.
- *Methods:* Rigorous methods that are appropriate to answering the research questions.
- *Innovation:* The project represents new and novel directions for the field, write large, and for our School of Education. Projects that are interdisciplinary are strongly encouraged.
- *Sustainability:* The potential of the proposed research to lead to projects that are competitive for federal awards is determined by looking across the proposal's significance, methods, and potential for innovation; it also takes into account knowledge of funding priorities in funding agencies.
- *Cost effectiveness:* At this relatively low level of funding, leveraging research productivity through strategic funding of students and other personnel is more

effective than funding equipment and technology purchases, travel or other non-personnel costs. However, these things will be considered as relevant to the proposed work.

Submission Deadline:

The Call for Proposals will be released on December 14, 2022 and the submission deadline is **March 20, 2023**. Notification of awardees will occur shortly after the review/selection process is complete in order for projects to launch by fall semester 2023.

Review Committee:

The review committee consists of School of Education faculty, staff, and potentially one non-School of Education person. Members of the review committee ideally have past experience obtaining external awards and/or serving on review panels for foundations or federal agencies.

Deliverables:

- A brief overview of the project and working outcomes at a SOE-wide meeting.
- Final report of results to the Dean and her Senior Leadership Team that includes outcomes and a plan for future funding, if applicable.