Faculty Research Awards: A New Joint Program of the School of Education and the Learning Research and Development Center
As of 12/13/2022

Goals of the Joint Research Award Program:
The School of Education (SOE) and the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) are sponsoring a joint research award program with the goal of sparking *new and innovative research* in education and learning; promoting SOE and LRDC collaborations; and developing ambitious lines of research that *have the potential to be financially sustainable* through future external funding.

Proposed projects must be led by a research team that includes at least one researcher from each unit (SOE and LRDC) entering a *new* collaboration. LRDC Research Associates as well as faculty are eligible to co-lead a project.

Funding Priorities:
All areas of research are eligible. Interdisciplinary research is strongly encouraged.

Scope and Budget:
Awards will be made for a period of up to two years for a maximum total of **$150K** (the maximum amount per year that can be awarded is $75K). Projects that are small-scale and/or involve secondary data analysis and that require less funding will also be considered. If projects are based on more developed work—for example, researchers with previously funded lines of work decide to collaborate on a new effort—then researchers might request the maximum. Budgets should mainly support student researchers (GSAs and/or undergraduate students). Additional direct research costs (e.g., necessary equipment, research participants) are allowed. Cost sharing is encouraged. Faculty summer salary and overages are ***not*** allowable expenses.

Proposal Content:
Applicants should submit a proposal that includes the following sections: a) Project narrative and references; b) Budget and budget justification, and c) Description of research team members and their proposed contributions. Revisions of previously submitted unfunded proposals to internal awards programs at LRDC or the SOE should include an additional section (d), *Response to reviewers,* that describes changes to the proposed project in response to reviewers' comments. Guidelines for the individual proposal sections are below:

A. Project Narrative (no longer than 5-7 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.
2. *Methods.* Clear description of the methods for the proposed research including the sampling strategy, data sources, measures/anticipated coding schemes, and analyses.
3. *Investigator partnership.* Description of how the investigators have/have not collaborated in the past and how the proposed study relates to the investigators' relevant strands of research.

4. *Sustainability.* Aspects of the work that signal the *potential for sustainability* through federal funding beyond the awards program. This would include an identification of the agencies likely to fund the research moving forward and how the proposed project fits within funding priorities and/or past studies funded by the agency. (Note: As you think about sustainability efforts, consider working with someone who has a history of successfully securing external grants and who can provide guidance on writing potentially fundable proposals).

5. *Diversity, equity, and inclusion.* A section that describes how the proposed work is expected to generate knowledge to advance a more just and equitable society and expand diversity at LRDC and SOE. This requirement is based on the belief that attention to diversity and inclusion strengthens the significance, process, and outcomes of interdisciplinary research.

B. Project Budget

A cost effective and detailed budget and budget justification must be submitted and include time estimates of workflow and expenditures for the length of the research activity. Budgets should show costs directly in support of research (personnel, equipment, and other costs directly in support of the proposed research). Faculty salaries are not supported. Budgets should be prepared with the assistance of SOE and/or LRDC Fiscal Services. Requests should not exceed $150K for the two-year award period (excluding a possible postdoc supplement). Among proposals of similar quality, preference may be given to requests of smaller amounts in order to ensure the widest access to funds.

Postdoc salaries are allowed. An additional supplement (up to 50% of the postdoc's salary) may be awarded for LRDC postdocs from historically under-represented and minoritized groups. After receiving notice of the award, an awardee may apply for this supplement. Initial budgets should not assume receiving the supplement – an alternative budget will be requested from awardees who wish to apply for the supplement.

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 significance of the research for advancing knowledge of learning processes, environments and outcomes, and its value in promoting a more equitable society.
- *Methods:* Rigorous methods that are appropriate to answering the research questions.
- *Innovation:* The project represents a new direction for the investigators, the field, LRDC and the School of Education. Projects that are interdisciplinary are valued over projects that are within a single discipline/field and novel directions for a field are valued over only new directions for investigators.
- *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.
- *Funding history:* Other things equal, proposals from investigators who have not been funded through programs in LRDC and the SOE are prioritized.

Funding Cycle (Possible):
If funds are available, then project funding might occur on a yearly basis. The Call for Proposals will be released on December 14, 2022 and the submission deadline will be ***April 3, 2023.***

Review Committee:
The review committee consists of faculty from the SOE and LRDC. Members of the review committee ideally have past experience obtaining significant external awards and/or serving on review panels for foundations or federal agencies. (Note: The idea is that these faculty are probably better positioned to judge the future fundability of projects.) Reviewers' comments are conveyed anonymously to applicants.

Deliverables:
- A presentation of projects (brief overview when funded and results) at an LRDC faculty meeting *and* at a SOE-wide meeting.
- Final report of results to the SOE Dean and LRDC Director that includes a plan for future funding or reason for why future funding will not be pursued.