MCSI Seed Grant Program in Sustainability
Application Deadline: Friday, October 20, 2017

The Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation (MCSI) at the University of Pittsburgh is requesting faculty grant proposals for interdisciplinary sustainability education and research initiatives. The goals of the grants are: (1) catalyze the formation of interdisciplinary synergistic research teams focused on sustainability (2) fund projects capable of obtaining external funding upon completion; and (3) enhance Pitt's national recognition in sustainability and the visibility of interdisciplinary sustainability research and education on campus.

Proposals that incorporate and build on the following research thrusts are particularly encouraged:
- sustainability of water quantity, quality, and management in natural- and human-dominated systems;
- the impact/management of urban environments and structures on behavioral and health outcomes;
- the intersection of energy generation and consumption on air quality, human health, policy, technology, and behavior;
- interplay between sustainability investments and social systems/structures and their implications for successful implementation and community resilience;
- curriculum innovations;
- campus improvements and living laboratory projects.

Requirements

Eligibility:
A University of Pittsburgh faculty member (tenure or non-tenure stream) must be a Co-PI on the proposal, however, collaborations with Pitt staff and students are encouraged. In addition, due to the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability we highly encourage collaborations between departments and schools especially those topics that connect science and engineering with the social sciences.

Budgets:
$100,000 is available to award and we are seeking to fund 3-5 projects. A maximum of $50,000 can be requested per grant. All funds are available for expenditure between November 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018. Funds can be used for undergraduate and graduate student support, post-doctoral support and **only** in the case of new curriculum development can funding be allocated for faculty salary. Funds can also be used to support sustainability projects related to campus improvements and living laboratory projects. Small amounts of funds will be considered for equipment, supplies and travel.

Proposal Cover page
- PI's name, department, email address, campus address and phone number.
- Names and contact info of all co-PI's.
- Title of proposal, research challenge being addressed, and a 200-word abstract.

Body of the Proposal
The body of the proposal should not exceed *five single-spaced pages* and should employ a 12-point font size and one-inch margins.   The five-page limit excludes references.

The body of the proposal should provide:
- A clear statement of goals and rationale for the work.
- Synergistic strengths and capacity of the research team.
- A strong connection to sustainability.
- A detailed work plan.
- A set of milestones that will allow judgment of project success.

Budget
Proposals must include a 1-page budget and 1-page maximum budget justification.

Appendices (CV's, current support):
The PI and all co-PIs should include their NSF (or NIH) 2-page CVs.

Matching Support
If any matching support is being provided, this should be detailed in a letter of support.

Important Submission instructions:
Proposals are due October 20, 2017. Files should be emailed to *mcsi@pitt.edu* and should be named *LastNameSeedGrants2018*. Proposals are reviewed by a committee of internal and external advisors.

Reporting Requirements:
Recipients of a seed grant must fulfill the following requirements:
- Three to five PowerPoint slides summarizing the goals and outcome of the work due on December 31, 2018.
- Acknowledgement of MCSI funding in any publications resulting from the work.

For Additional Information:

Eric J. Beckman	Gena M. Kovalcik	David Sanchez	Melissa Bilec
412-624-4828	412-624-9698	412-624-9793	412-648-8075
beckman@pitt.edu	gmk9@pitt.edu	david.sanchez@pitt.edu	mbilec@pitt.edu