THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
College of Agriculture
& Life Sciences

AZ Experiment Station
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03 January 2017

Dear CALS Colleagues,

Please consider submitting a proposal to the inaugural Experiment Station Strategic Research Investment Fund. This Fund is intended to increase faculty success when using the Arizona Experiment Station Units. To learn more about those Units visit http://aes.cals.arizona.edu/.

Specifically, we are seeking proposals that identify investments in infrastructure, equipment, and/or activities that increase the research capacity at Experiment Station Units. Possible investments might include but are not limited to sensor arrays that generate data sets and the accompanying hardware and software to store and provide access to that data, or the conversion of analog data sets to digital on-line data for broader distribution to the research community. This is not a call for a research proposal.

We have $50,000 to fund proposals this year. Proposals seeking smaller amounts of money are strongly encouraged. The $50,000 could go to a single project, or split among many smaller projects. There is also the possibility that no proposals will be funded. Our intention is for this to be an annual program. Financing for this program is from money generated by the Experiment Station Units.

For more information contact Mitch McClaran at mcclaran@u.arizona.edu.

Cheers,

Mitch McClaran
Professor of Range Management, School of Natural Resources and the Environment
Director for Research, Santa Rita Experimental Range
Associate Director for Strategy and Range, Arizona Experiment Station
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
University of Arizona
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Strategic Research Investment Fund for AES

Purpose: Increase faculty success when using the Arizona Experiment Station Units.

Investment: Equipment and/or activity that benefits and attracts current and future users such as, but not limited to sensor arrays that generate data sets and the accompanying hardware and software to store and provide access to that data, or the conversion of analog data sets to digital on-line data for broader distribution to the research community. This is not a call for a research proposal.

Award: $50,000 total annually. Proposals seeking smaller amounts of money are strongly encouraged. The $50,000 could go to a single project, or split among many smaller projects. There is also the possibility that no proposals will be funded.

3-page Proposal must include:
1. Benefits to new and improved activities such as more competitive for extramural funding, facilitates collaboration among groups, attracts additional users, or addresses needs identified by end-users,
2. How will the investment increase use from campus faculty,
3. How will broad access to equipment or other outcomes will be assured,
4. How the equipment or outcome will be maintained,
5. Budget and justification including equipment quotes and maintenance/operations, and matching funds if applicable,
6. List of expected users and affiliations,
7. Letter of Support and Commitment from AES Unit Resident Director/Superintendent

Applicant Qualifications:
1. At least two CALS faculty must be Co-proposers
2. Include biographical sketch (max 3 pages each) for each Co-proposer

Review criteria:
1. Alignment with AES Mission which is to "*Provide a diverse world-class infrastructure essential to generating and disseminating critical knowledge and technologies for Arizona and the world.*"
2. Extent of multiple beneficiaries
3. Likelihood of increasing use of facilities by campus faculty
4. Likelihood of generating external funding
5. Qualifications of Co-proposers

Review Process:
Arizona Experiment Station Leadership Committee and CALS Assoc Dean for Research, with support of external reviewers.

Timeline: Announcement, Submission, Awards
Submission deadline: 10 March 2017: Awards late May 2017

Submit Proposal to:

Jennifer Garner Smith: jmgardne@email.arizona.edu

Reporting Requirements:

A report is required 12 months after the award. The report will describe equipment purchased, extent of users, new collaborations developed, and status of extramural funding proposals. Additional information regarding requirements will be outlined in the award letter.