



MEMORANDUM

TO: Rensselaer Faculty
FROM: Francine Berman, Vice President for Research
Wolf W. von Maltzahn, Associate Vice President for Research
RE: Seed Funding Program
DATE: November 2, 2009

The emerging work in social networking, immersive technologies, crowd sourcing, new interaction and communication modes, and other 21st century tools and technologies are having an enormous impact on science, engineering, and other academic disciplines. This year, the Office of Research is soliciting cross-disciplinary proposals for FY10 Research Seed Projects targeted to the emerging synergies between ***cognition, communication, culture*** and 21st century tools and technologies.

Proposal submissions (up to 5 pages in length) should

- *Describe preliminary and cross-disciplinary work that builds on Rensselaer's programmatic and intellectual resources in Schools, Departments, and Centers*
- *Leverage unique research environments such as EMPAC and other advanced research facilities and infrastructure*
- *Serve as the first step to a high-impact, larger effort that is likely to attract federal funding*
- *Advance Rensselaer research as a leader in the area of infrastructure-enabled cognition, communication and cultural research*

Eligibility Criteria:

- All faculty who can be principal investigators on externally funded grants, and are currently not supported by a seed grant either as principal investigator or co-investigator, are eligible. (Research staff are not eligible).

Program Guidelines:

- Proposals are due Friday November 20, 2009. Please submit them electronically to Natalie Wonders at wonden2@rpi.edu. *No late proposals will be considered.*
- Decisions on funding will be announced by December 18, 2009.

Submission specifics:

- Projects must begin on January 1, 2010 and may last up to 18 months (Ending June 30, 2011).
- Projects must focus on cross-disciplinary collaborations related to cognition, communication, and culture.
- The budget for any one project may not exceed \$40,000. The budget must include fringe benefits (30.2%), no indirect costs, and use graduate tuition cost sharing of 35%.
- Proposals may not exceed five single-spaced pages in length, excluding references and CVs.
 - Proposals must use be formatted in 12 pt font.
 - The first half page of the proposal must provide an Executive Summary of the project.
 - Please use the short (2 page) NSF version of PI and co-PI CVs found in NSF's Proposal Preparation Guide.
- Up to 5 projects will be awarded.
- Recipients of FY10 Seed Funding must demonstrate submission of a proposal to a federal funding agency based on the seed funding award in order to be eligible for subsequent seed funding in FY11 and beyond.

Evaluation Criteria:

Proposal submissions will be reviewed by an internal research review panel convened by the Office of Research.

Submissions will be evaluated on

- Innovation, creativity, impact, and utilization of unique RPI facilities and resources
- Strategic alignment with Rensselaer's signature research themes
- Potential to provide an intellectual foundation for emerging trends in cognition, communication and culture
- Potential to serve as the building block for a major externally funded research effort

We appreciate your interest and participation. Please contact Wolf von Maltzahn at vonmaw@rpi.edu (276-4873) with any questions about this important program.