Objective

The goal of this program is to support the training of UW graduate and undergraduate students so that they might have the freedom to explore novel, high-risk/high-reward research topics that are outside of the traditional expertise of their supervisor.

Eligibility

Each Principal Investigator (PI) may submit a single proposal from their research group. The project should be exploratory, and in a new research area. For the purposes of this solicitation "new area" is defined as a specific topic that the PI does not have current funding to investigate from external sources, and has not previously had funded via external grants, contracts, or awards.

Financial Support

The maximum requested budget will include at most:

(i) an RA stipend to support a graduate student for the period from December 16, 2014 through June 15, 2015 at the appropriate departmental stipend rate.

(ii) Supplies and expenses of up to $6k total. However, any funds unspent by May 30, 2015 will be forfeited back to the CEI budget.

Alternatively, undergraduate student salaries and materials and supplies may be requested if the total budget request is less than 1 6-month RA + $6K of materials and supplies.

(iii) Equipment funds of up to $10k may be requested, but the funds must be necessary for the project, justified in detail in the proposal, and spent by June 15, 2015. Funding for equipment is not anticipated to be common.

Proposal

Candidates should complete the online application and submit a single PDF proposal that includes:

(i) a cover page,

(ii) a (max 1 page) project description,

(iii) (optional) an equipment explanation page,

(iv) current and pending support for the PI,

(v) CV of the PI.

» **See page 2 for detailed proposal requirements.**

Award Conditions

As a condition of the award, one participant from the funded project (PI, graduate student, or undergraduate) will work with the CEI education director to prepare a short informative video suitable for online presentation (e.g., YouTube video) to be delivered prior to June 1, 2015.

Evaluation and Decision

Decisions are anticipated the week of November 21, 2014. Evaluation criteria will include, but are not limited to: (i) likelihood the results will lead to new extramural funding at UW, (ii) transformative nature of the research for science or technology; (iii) relevance to the CEI mission areas.

All materials must be submitted online by 9:00 pm on November 3, 2014.

Apply online at www.cei.washington.edu/exploration

Proposal Requirements

Candidates should complete the online application and upload a single PDF with 1" margins in 12 point Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or Calibri font that includes the following:

(i) Cover Page

The cover page must include: (i) project title; (ii) total budget request, (iii) PI name and contact information

(ii) Project Description (1 Page of Text and Figures + 1 Page of References Maximum)

The main project description should be no longer than 1 page of figures and text, plus 1 additional page of references (1" margins; allowed fonts are: 12 point Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or Calibri).

The description must answer the following questions explicitly: (i) What distinguishes this research from currently funded projects in the PI's lab? (ii) How will this project help catalyze new external funding for the PI? (which upcoming program solicitations will this research enable you to be more competitive for, and how?) (iii) How will long-term success of the project transform CEI's ability to accelerate the creation and adoption new clean energy technologies, especially in its key mission areas of solar, storage, and grid systems technologies? (iv) A separate (optional) project budget and justification (additional ½ page max) should be included for any project requesting equipment funds (see below).

(iii) Optional Equipment Explanation (1/2 Page Maximum)

Proposals that request equipment supplements should include an additional stand-alone ½ page (max) that gives a technical justification for the requested equipment, an explanation of why similar instrumentation at UW cannot be used or borrowed to conduct the exploratory experiments, and provide a reliable cost-estimate and timeline for acquisition. There must be a clear necessity for the equipment to achieve the impact of the project, and it must be clearly established that the equipment can be acquired and commissioned early in the period of the award.

(iv) Current and Pending Support for the PI

(v) PI CV (Maximum 2 pages)

The CV of the principal investigator must be included and should not exceed 2 pages.

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