Request for Applications
iWEST 2015-16 Faculty Research Funding Initiative
Deadline to Apply: May 29, 2015

The Institute for Water, Energy, Sustainability and Technology (iWEST) at Sacramento State is a new initiative of Academic Affairs and Provost Fraka Harmsen that is being developed in cooperation with faculty and deans from three colleges (SSIS, ECS, and NSM). With one-time funds from the University, iWEST is being launched as a new hub for the fusion of interdisciplinary research and policy to focus on California and the region’s water, energy and sustainability issues. iWEST will bring together faculty and student researchers in partnership with agencies, industry, NGOs and community groups to create and foster an environment of inquiry, action-oriented problem solving, and engaged research that advances public awareness of the complex relationships that impact water, energy, and sustainability questions. (Please see www.csus.edu/research for more information)

To launch the iWEST research agenda, the following types of research funding are available to the campus. All Unit 3 faculty (full-time and part-time) are eligible to apply (with possible limitations on award duration for instructional faculty based on appointment term and time base). There are three types of funding available, and applicants may receive only one of the following types of awards, and may apply by designating in their application a primary award objective and a secondary award objective if the first cannot be awarded. Co-investigators and collaborators may participate in more than one award, subject to the limitations above.

1) Institute Research Fellowships
Fellows will focus heavily on projects that advance one or more of the Institute’s central themes. Four (4) fellowships are available, and each Fellow will receive 6 units per semester of release time for three consecutive semesters, for intensive research development, outreach and collaboration, grant development, and curriculum and program building activities. The submission of one or more grant proposals with a total project budget of at least $400,000 by December 2016 is a required outcome of the Fellowship. Awards commence with the Fall 2015 semester.

2) Institute Research Awards
Grantees will focus on research development, outreach, pedagogy, grant writing, and activities related to iWEST’s central themes. Six (6) awards are available, and each awardee will receive 3 units per semester of release time for three consecutive semesters. The submission of one or more grant proposals with a total project budget of at least $250,000 by December 2016 is a required outcome of the award. Awards commence with the Fall 2015 semester.

3) Extramural Development Awards
This award is a direct investment in faculty research development and proposal writing, as fifteen (15) faculty will receive either a) $5,000 in summer salary and $2,000 in research support expenses (travel, student assistants, supplies, equipment, other), or b) 3 units of release time and $1,500 in research support expenses. The required deliverable is a fundable grant proposal with a total project budget of at least $100,000. Awards may commence as early as summer 2015 and may continue through December 2016. (Note: faculty may not accept both an Extramural Development Award and a Provost’s Research Incentive Fund 2015-16 award except in very limited circumstances and with the support of the Provost.)

Release date: May 1, 2015

I.WEST INSTITUTE
WATER, ENERGY, SUSTAINABILITY, TECHNOLOGY
SACRAMENTO STATE
Application Review Criteria

Research Focus (25%)
• The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its potential to advance knowledge and understanding in the researcher’s field and iWEST themes as outlined above.
• The rigor of the proposed methodology as well as dissemination or publication plans.

Researcher Background (25%)
• How well qualified the researcher (and any collaborators) is to conduct the proposed research.

Project Plan (50%)
• The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the researcher’s clarity of expression.
• The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including its appropriateness to the targeted funding source(s) and any evidence as to the likelihood of receiving funding.
• The likelihood that the researcher (and collaborators) will complete the project, whether external funding is received or not.

Preference will be given to applications and projects that demonstrate collaborative efforts among faculty, including both inter- and intra-college collaborations, with an award divided as requested among partners. Applications will be reviewed by a group of faculty and campus administrators with appropriate backgrounds in sponsored projects, externally-funded research, and the iWEST disciplines, and may also include external experts in the field.

For the first two award options, successful applicants will demonstrate a track record or clear potential for grant funding, along with experience producing high-quality research and sponsored project outcomes on time that illustrate the likelihood of continuing a dynamic research agenda with external support. Relationships with federal and/or state funding agencies that can translate into mutually beneficial funded projects consonant with iWEST themes and campus priorities will be of particular importance to this initial round of funding for faculty research projects.

Application and Review Process

To be considered for funding, applicants must submit all of the following items (in Word) via email to research@csus.edu by 5pm on Friday, May 29th.

1. Research Plan - the research plan should clearly, and with a general academic audience in mind, address the following three areas of emphasis (single-spaced):
   a) Research Focus (25%) (two pages maximum)
   Describe the intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its potential to advance knowledge and understanding in the researcher’s field and iWEST themes as outlined above. Please address the research methods to be applied, briefly summarize the current literature in the field, and outline any specific dissemination or publication plans.
b) **Researcher Background (25%) (two pages maximum)**
Please describe your background and qualifications with regard to the proposed research and how it fits within your current research agenda as well as the iWEST themes, and how the campus can benefit from the proposed work. If you have collaborators, please detail the focus of these past collaborations, highlighting project successes and challenges faced.

c) **Project Plan (50%) (four pages maximum)**
Please describe your proposed research in detail, addressing the need for and purpose of the project, its relevance to iWEST themes, specific activities to be undertaken, the role of any collaborators, the primary methodology to be utilized, and a timetable for the project, including milestones and deliverables. Be sure to identify one or more external funding sources that will be pursued and why they were selected, and also how the release time and/or research support funds will be used to advance this project. Note: while the Cover Sheet requests some of this information, a more detailed explanation of time and expense allocation for the project duration is expected here.

2. **Current CV** - a current CV of no more than seven (7) pages that highlights research and scholarship directly supportive of the proposed project. Collaborators must also submit a current and similarly structured CV as well.

3. **Letter of Support** - a letter of support from your department chair or dean indicating their support for release time and research funds requested, as well as the importance of the proposed research, the feasibility of a proposal submission within the proposed project timeline, the likelihood of completion, and documenting any research support or release time that has or will be provided by the department or college to advance the proposed activity.

4. **Application Cover Sheet** - contains details on which type of award is preferred and certifies chair and dean review and approval.

Applications will be reviewed by a group of faculty, external reviewers, and Office of Research Affairs staff in early June, with recommendations forwarded to the Provost for final decision. Awards will be announced in mid-late June.

For more information, please contact David Earwicker in the Office of Research Affairs at 278-3668 or david.earwicker@csus.edu