Provost’s Research Incentive Fund: 2015-16

- REVISED -

Deadline to Apply: May 1, 2015 by 5pm

Program Outline
Academic Affairs is pleased to announce that up to 40 awards from the Provost’s Research Incentive Fund (PRIF) will be available to assist faculty in pursuing external funding for research, scholarly, and creative activity. PRIF is open to all Unit 3 faculty (full-time and part-time) and faculty who are currently being hired and will begin their service commencing with the Fall 2015 semester. The program is designed to support researchers whose work advances their discipline, contains creative, original, or potentially transformative components, and is sufficiently conceptualized to turn into a competitive grant proposal to an external funding agency.

Applications may be for individual, collaborative, or institutional projects, and must be for grant or sponsored project proposals of at least $100,000 in total project costs. Note: applications focusing on smaller grants of $50,000-$100,000 can be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Vicki Pearson-Rounds in Research Affairs for details.

PRIF applicants may request either $5,000 in “summer” salary (less taxes) shortly after submission of an appropriate grant proposal to an external funding source or 3 units of release time during the 2015-16 academic year. Recipients must commit to submission of an appropriate grant proposal by the end of summer 2016 (unless alternate arrangements are made with Research Affairs).

The application criteria for evaluation include:

1) The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its potential to advance knowledge and understanding in the researcher’s field (30%).
2) The quality of the project idea, including the conception, definition, organization, and description and the researcher’s clarity of expression (30%).
3) The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including its appropriateness for the identified funding source and any evidence as to the likelihood of receiving funding (20%).
4) The qualifications, background, and track record of the researcher (and collaborators) as an indication of capacity to successfully deliver on the proposed project (20%).

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**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 1st.

1. **Project Description** - a three to five (3-5) page description of the proposed research, specifically addressing the criteria outlined above, including whether summer salary or release time is requested. Please be sure to identify one or more external funding sources for the proposed research. Faculty receiving (or who have recently applied for) other forms of support, including both internal and external funds, must also indicate the amount and source of their funding in the Project Description.

2. **Current CV** - a current CV of no more than five (5) pages that highlights research and scholarship directly supportive of the proposed project.

3. **Letter of Support** - a letter of support from your department chair (or dean if preferred or if the chair is unavailable) indicating the importance of the proposed research to your research agenda, its feasibility within the proposed timeline, the likelihood of completion, and documenting any research support or release time to be provided by the department or college to advance the proposed activity.

Applications will be reviewed by a group of faculty and Office of Research Affairs staff, with recommendations forwarded to the Provost for final decision. Awards will be announced on or about May 29th. Awardees will receive EITHER:

A) **$5,000 in “summer” salary (less taxes) short of submission of an appropriate grant proposal to an external funding source, with submission estimated to take place between summer 2015 and the end of summer 2016 (unless alternate arrangements are made with Research Affairs), OR**

B) **Three (3) units of release time at internal rates to be taken during 2015-16. Release time recipients must commit to submission of an appropriate grant proposal by the end of summer 2016 (unless alternate arrangements are made with Research Affairs).**

Please note that a final draft of the external funding proposal will be reviewed by the researcher’s chair and dean in advance of submission. The researcher may also work with the Office of Research Affairs to submit early proposal drafts to external reviewers to ensure the most robust and competitive proposal submission possible.

**Questions**

Questions may be addressed to Vicki Pearson-Rounds, Research Development Officer in the Office of Research Affairs at 278-4918 or pearson_rounds@csus.edu.

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