

FY12 Strategic Funding Proposals September 2011

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost is providing several opportunities during FY12 for units to request funding to support new, innovative ideas that will advance an individual unit's and the institutional strategic plan. Resources to support these ideas will come from the Institutional Excellence Fund. The ideas must be grounded in the strategic plan, should be transformative and will require a partnership between the requesting unit(s) and these central resources. Measurable outcomes from each project will be expected and accountability for the funds will be required.

Projects will fall into two broad categories: strategic mission-driven initiations--those that directly support the core missions of the institution—teaching/learning, research, outreach/service and diversity and strategic administrative initiatives--those that support the administrative infrastructure of the institution. All proposals must show a connection to the unit's multi-year operating plan (when that plan has been completed) or to the unit's strategic plan in those instances where the operating plan is still being developed. Projects should include primarily "one-time" expenditures, although a few multi-year commitments will be considered. The majority of the funds awarded should be expended or encumbered by June 30, 2012. Cash or in-kind matching will be expected for all proposals.

A single proposal process has been established and each proposal must have at least one sponsor from among the deans, vice presidents, and CIO. All proposals will be reviewed by the Provost's Leadership Team and award recommendations will be made to the Executive Vice President and Provost who may confer with the President's Budget Cabinet and others, as appropriate. A few individual awards up to \$1.0M could be made, but these will be rare. Most awards will be in the range of \$10K to \$250K, with the exception of those focused on deferred maintenance, which may be greater. Awards will be made by October 31, 2011.

Strategic Mission-Driven Initiatives. The overall goal for these initiatives is to seed new ideas with the potential for realizing significant outcomes and/or attracting external longer term funding. Examples of the types of proposals that might be developed follow.

- **Multi-Mission initiatives:** Submissions in this broad category would include more than one of the mission specific orientations described below. These submissions would focus on seeding new ideas that cross multiple missions and goals and must have measurable outcomes.
- **Research:** Submissions would focus on seeding new ideas that will attract external funding and advance strategic research goals. The proposals are expected to be interdisciplinary and have measurable outcomes.
- **Teaching/learning/student support:** Submissions would focus on enhancing student outcomes through programs directed at students as well as programs to support faculty and others involved in teaching/learning activities. The proposals must have measurable outcomes. Cross functional proposals and those that can indicate the sustainability of the proposed concept will receive strong consideration.

- Outreach/extension/service: Submissions would focus on extending Iowa State's outreach mission throughout the State of Iowa paying particular attention to seeding new ideas that will attract external funding and advance strategic outreach goals, as well as programs to support faculty, staff and others involved in extension/service activities. The proposals must have measurable outcomes. Cross functional or multi-disciplinary proposals and those that can indicate the sustainability of the proposed concept will receive strong consideration.
- Diversity: Submissions would focus on enhancing retention and recruitment efforts with regard to diversity building on partnerships that foster an environment of inclusion in Ames and in Iowa and that enhance the experience of all faculty, staff, and students. The proposals must align with core values articulated in the Institutional Statement on Diversity and have measurable outcomes. Cross-functional or multi-disciplinary proposals and those that can indicate the sustainability of the proposed concept will receive strong consideration.

Strategic Administrative Initiatives. The overall goal of these initiatives is to improve administrative processes through enhanced efficiencies and to strengthen employee capabilities. Examples of the types of proposal that might be developed follow.

- Enhancing employee skills, abilities, health and well-being: Submissions would describe an activity, program or resource that will enhance, improve and/or expand faculty and staff members' abilities to expertly execute their roles at ISU. Those activities, programs or resources might include training, professional development, seminars, lecture series, etc that cover topics like specific job skills, e.g. utilizing new software or technological tools, general capacities such as effective communication or supervision, or overall life skills, such as stress management, health, wellness. The breadth of a proposals impact will receive strong consideration.
- Administrative process and work flow improvement: Submissions would describe an administrative process whose efficiency and functionality could be improved and further describe a mechanism or tool for making that improvement. The breadth of the impact of the administrative process will receive serious consideration as proposals are reviewed. Two more specific examples follow.
 - Administrative processes that would benefit from utilizing a newly available work flow/routing system. A portion of the funding available will be used to hire an ITS analyst on a two or three year term appointment to provide technical support for the new system. Units submitting proposals must match this central resource with "in-kind" effort from staff with the knowledge to define and execute the project.
 - Administrative processes whose efficiency and effectiveness would be improved or enhanced by other mechanisms or tools. These proposals must also identify the staff resources that can lead and provide content input to the process improvement.
- Infrastructure enhancements and improvements: Submissions would describe how additional investments can enhance and improve the physical infrastructure of the campus. Those investments could include classroom upgrades, technology upgrades, deferred maintenance, equipment upgrades, etc.