SUMMARY

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS is a competitive internal funding initiative positioning interdisciplinary faculty teams to successfully compete for significant external funding ($1.5 M or more) that will enhance the stature and distinction of the University in all key areas of research, scholarship, and creative activities at Clemson University.

CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS provides seed grants that support leading-edge research and scholarship that capitalize on the existing intellectual capital at Clemson University. Preference is given to projects that are multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional and that advance the ClemsonForward strategic innovation clusters: advanced materials; cyberinfrastructure and big data science; energy, transportation and advanced manufacturing; human resilience; Health innovation; and the sustainable environment.

The sole outcome of funded CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS grants is the successful submission of significant external research proposal(s); as such, the proposal should clearly identify this as the primary outcome. It is well understood that a firm technological and organizational foundation must exist for competitive multi-disciplinary, and perhaps multi-institutional, proposals. Funding is intended to serve as a catalyst to move these projects beyond the point of criticality for highly competitive submissions. By the nature of the targeted funding, proposals must include multiple faculty from at least three different departments and two colleges. Proposals with participation from across the University, including innovation campuses and research and education centers, are highly encouraged. Multi-institutional efforts may also be supported if Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the targeted proposal submission.

The CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS grant competition is coordinated by the Clemson Division of Research with assistance from the Clemson faculty and leaders across the institution as appropriate in proposal evaluation.

ELIGIBILITY

Tenured or tenure-track faculty and research faculty at Clemson University are eligible to submit proposals. Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects but may be included in the research teams.

A PI who is leading a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is ineligible to compete for additional CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS funding until the proposal from the current award is successfully submitted to the external funding agency.

FUNDING AND REQUIREMENTS

The University will provide funding of up to $35,000 per team that plans to submit large (>$1.5M for 3 years) external grant application(s) during the period of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. A 1:1 cash match is required from the proposal teams. Matches may come from individual faculty members, centers, institutes, departments, colleges, or combinations of these groups.
Funds will be available to successful PIs as individual project accounts that will be maintained and managed by the Division of Research. The PI will work with his/her department/college to transfer the cash match to the individual project accounts at the beginning of the project. Funds will be available after matching funds are transferred after July 1, 2018, and must be spent by June 30, 2019. Any residual funds at the end of the project will be returned to those providing the matching funds and the Division of Research.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Course release (PI only)
- Equipment/facility access for data collection for the proposal
- Travel to engage program managers, meet with collaborators for proposal planning, or to conduct field work
- Organizing workshops or similar activities for the proposal team
- Limited and well-justified specialty analyses or testing by external parties for the proposal
- Materials/supplies for data collection for the proposal
- Specialty software not available at the University
- Transcription expenses
- Proposal development staff/consultant/firm
- Graduate student and postdoc stipends (only for well-justified, specific, project-related activities that clearly define how the student or postdoc will fit into the multidisciplinary team, what the student or postdoc will be expected to achieve, how this work is absolutely necessary for the success of the eventual external submission, and why this work cannot be obtained without the student or postdoc funding from other mechanisms). The proposal should identify the graduate student(s) or postdoc(s) for whom the budget is requested.

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Faculty salary, except the PI course release
- Funding requests for first-year graduate students
- Travel to conferences or symposia
- International travel
- Office furniture or equipment
- Computers or printers
- Laboratory renovations or upgrades
- Tuition remission
- Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs

DELIVERABLES

The primary outcome of a CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award is the successful submission of a major research proposal. This proposal may be submitted to federal agencies, foundations, corporate consortia, or any other external sponsor. Proposals must be submitted within one year from the expiration of the CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS award. A copy of the submitted proposal should be sent to the VPR Office (vpr@clemson.edu) with the subject line CU_SUCCEEDS_2018_external_proposal_faculty_member(s)_PI last name

APPLICATION PREPARATION
Format all documents using 12-pt. Times New Roman Font, one-inch margins, single line spacing, and 8 ½ x 11inch paper size. Submit the proposal as a single PDF file with the following ordered sections:

A. **Cover Sheet** [1 page]
   The cover page must include a clear and concise title (CU SUCCEEDS: Project Title). The names and appointments of the PI, all co-PIs, and any other senior personnel or key collaborators should be listed along with their department affiliation. Include center affiliations if applicable.

B. **Abstract** [1 page]

C. **Technical Narrative and Novelty** [3 pages]
   In the technical project description, include a novelty section to explain the originality of the proposal for the targeted submission(s).

D. **Targeted Extramural Proposal Submission Plans** [1 page]
   Provide the targeted extramural funding competition(s) for the planned proposal. If the targeted external competition requires an internal or external pre-selection (e.g., pre-proposal competition by the funding agency, limited submission in Clemson) in order to submit a full proposal, this section should include alternative funding targets should the team not be selected for full proposal submission. If the full proposal has previously been submitted for external support, a copy of the executive summary of the review from the agency to which it was submitted must be included with the application as an appendix. Furthermore, a description of how the comments from the previous review will be addressed should be included.

E. **Budget** [NSF format]

F. **Budget Justification** [1 page]

G. **Documentation of Cash Match Commitments and Other Resources**
   Provide commitment emails or letters for the cash match funds, including their source(s). Provide the list of any other University cash support available for the proposal. If none, include a statement indicating so. In preparing the budget, please keep in mind the matching funds must be allowed under federal and state guidelines. Unallowable matching funds are costs on another federal project, space, equipment, supplies on hand, etc. Fund sources not allowable are Fund 18 and Fund 20. The matching funds must be available during the project period.

   If the faculty team is already funded by other college or University-level seed funding initiatives (e.g., TIGER, FRDP, OYA, ADR Research Awards in the College of Education, Brooks Sports Science Institute), a copy of the funded proposal and its budget from the other initiative should be included in this section. Furthermore, this section should include a clear, specific justification of why additional funding is needed and how it will be used to increase the competitiveness of the proposal.

H. **Biosketches** [2-page NSF format for each]
   Submit a 2-page biosketch in NSF format for key personnel

I. **Letters of Support** [optional]
J. List of Potential Reviewers (4 max.) with E-Mail Addresses [optional]
Faculty from any institution may be listed, but at least two must be current Clemson University faculty. Ineligible reviewers include department chairs and collaborators of the project team. Each person listed should be notified that he or she has been included and may be invited to review.

Proposals that are not in compliance with the requirements and the instructions may be returned without review.

Proposing teams may also be required to make brief (5 slides/8 minutes maximum) presentations to the evaluation panel on the vision and goals of the proposed effort and the specific outcome and answer questions. At least one member of the proposal team must be present. Presentations are planned for the weeks of March 5th and 12th.

TIMELINE
December 5, 2017 Solicitation announced
February 14, 2018 Proposals due
March 29, 2018 Decisions announced

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE
All proposal documents, including electronic signatures, must be received by 4:30pm, February 14, 2018 in InfoEd. PIs will contact their OSP Support Centers as they would normally do for an external submission. To ensure that all electronic signatures are received on time, faculty are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for routing and electronic signature at least two business days before the deadline. Only those proposals having completed the InfoEd routing process by the deadline will be reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS
A review committee will be formed to evaluate the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Vice President for Research.

Evaluation Criteria:
✓ Clear identification of targeted solicitation(s) for submission and alternative submission opportunities if the targeted RFP is not issued or the proposal is not selected for funding
✓ Potential for the formation of competitive teams with organizational structures that provide confidence in the delivery of high-quality, targeted, external proposals
✓ Novelty of proposed topic and ideas for the targeted solicitation
✓ Multidisciplinary and cross-college
✓ Potential collaborations with innovation campuses, research and education centers, and University research centers and institutes

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE
All applications selected for award must have received all required approvals from the Office of Research Compliance before the award can be activated.

QUESTIONS
Questions about CLEMSON FACULTY SUCCEEDS program can be directed to Diana Thrasher (dianas@clemson.edu) or 864-656-6444 in the Division of Research.