The Joy of Discovery Seed Grant Program
A CAFNR "seed grant" program to support research

Program Description: The CAFNR Strategic Plan (https://cafnr.missouri.edu/strategic-plan/) proposed the "Joy of Discovery" program as a way to address our current inability to invest in new research initiatives developed by our faculty. The lack of "seed" funding has been limiting our faculty to conduct preliminary studies that would position them to submit competitive proposals for federal funding from agencies such as USDA NIFA AFRI, NSF, NIH, DOE, etc. The inclusion of preliminary data in a competitive grant proposal enhances the chances that the project will receive funding.

CAFNR Office of Research is pleased to launch the "The Joy of Discovery Seed Grant Program" that would support nascent, collaborative, multi and transdisciplinary research with the goal of developing a competitive proposal for federal funding. The return on investment in terms of grant awards and expenditures should exceed the investment. This program is a critical part of CAFNR's expectation of doubling research expenditures by 2025.

Funds are available to support 8-10 small grants per year based on an internal competition. Grants will be awarded in two phases. The first phase will award up to a total of $20,000 which can be used over a maximum of two years. Projects that are successful, but need additional data before applying for a major competitive grant will be eligible for the second phase funding of up to $15,000 for one additional year.

Eligibility: Lead PI (Project Director) should be a CAFNR ranked faculty. The goal of developing a competitive proposal for federal funding by the end of the project period should be clear; otherwise proposals will be returned. Funds for faculty salary and conference or workshop attendance should not be included in the budget. Funding request may not exceed 24 months. Funding will be limited to one active project per lead PI (Project Director).

Submission/Review: Proposals will be solicited in September with a final decision announced in December. Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty review committee. Funding of proposals will be based on merit of the proposed activity, qualifications of the project personnel, relevance of the project to enhancing the strategic priories of CAFNR, and likelihood of securing continued funding from other sources, particularly competitive sources that bring in AAU distinction.

Follow-Up: A brief report is due by December 15th every year and a presentation by the PI to the CAFNR Research Council by the end of the project period.

Deadline for Submission: October 15 at 5 pm
Please send your proposal as a single PDF file to Ms. Rhonda Turner (TurnerRh@Missouri.edu)

Proposal Format

Cover page (Include the following information)
      Title
      Applicant's Name (Project Director) and affiliation
      Other Personnel and affiliation

Summary/Abstract (limit to 200 words or less)

Project Description (not to exceed 4 single-spaced pages; budget and budget justification excluded from page limit). Please follow the following format:
      Rationale
      Objective/hypothesis
      Methods
      Expected results/Deliverables (including expected proposal and name of the agency/funding program where proposal/s will be submitted)
      Impacts
      Timeline
      References

Budget (Use the format provided below)

Category	Amount Requested		
	Year 1	Year 2	Cumulative
Salary			
Materials and Supplies			
Travel			
Other Expenses			
Total			

Budget Justification
The Budget and Justification section should include explicitly and in detail how the funds will be used. Requests for gifts or incentives will not be supported. Awarded funds may only be used for items requested and approved in the proposal budget. Itemize each expenditure in the appropriate category. All requested budget items must be referenced in your project application. Final payment will not exceed total budget request as itemized on this form.

Review Criteria

Maximum score will be 50 points.

The panel will assemble and rank the proposals once the reviews are completed.

These evaluation criteria will be used for the review of proposals.

A. Scientific Merit of the Application for Research (0-20 points)
- Novelty, innovation, uniqueness, and originality
- Where model systems are used, ability to transfer knowledge gained from these systems to other systems of importance
- Conceptual adequacy of the research and suitability of the hypothesis, as applicable;
- Clarity and delineation of objectives;
- Adequacy of the description of the undertaking and suitability and feasibility of methodology;
- Probability of success of the project is appropriate given the level of scientific originality, and risk-reward balance.
- Potential impact of the proposed activity
- Potential for continued funding, particularly from sources that would count towards AAU Phase I or II expenditures

B. Project Relevance (0-20 points)
- Documentation that the research is directed toward the broad mission and vison and strategic priorities, Programs of Distinction, and Grand Ideas of CAFNR
- When international collaboration or activities are involved, the project needs to show potential to leverage expertise, resources, and experience from beyond the United States to achieve greater impact, or brings foreign or international research efforts to address CAFNR priorities

C. Qualifications of Project Personnel and Adequacy of Facilities (0-10 points)
- Qualifications of applicant (individual or team) to conduct the proposed project, including performance record and potential for future accomplishments
- Demonstrated awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the problem identified in the application
- Adequacy of available or obtainable support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation; and
- Planning and administration of the proposed project, including: time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives

Panel members need to send their completed scores to Rhonda Turner (TurnerRh@Missouri.edu) by the deadline which will be communicated to them.