

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Colleen S. Kennedy, Dean

In order to support the College of Education (COEDU) faculty in obtaining increased federal funding, the dean's office is establishing the *COEDU Research Collaborative Grant Program*. The program includes the following elements:

Identification of Federal Grant Opportunities

A staff member will "mine" for federal grant opportunities in education and education related fields offered by federal agencies, including, but not limited to:

- ✓ U.S. Department of Education (USDOE)
- ✓ The National Science Foundation (NSF),
- ✓ National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH),
- ✓ National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH),
- ✓ National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Working with the Associate Dean for Research, the staff member will identify high priority areas for federal funding such as reading; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), career and workforce education, etc. A communication strategy will be developed to alert department chairs, center directors, and faculty regarding the availability of funding in high priority areas as well as in areas that align with individual faculty members' expressed areas of interest.

Assessment of Critical Mass in Targeted Areas of Opportunity

The Associate Dean for Research will work with the dean's leadership team (department chairs, center directors, associate deans) to determine if the COEDU has:

- A "critical mass" of faculty within the COEDU in one of the targeted areas of opportunity, and
- Potential partners in other Colleges/Centers at USF, in the schools, in the community and at other institutions within Florida or nationally to mount a successful proposal for an identified RFP.

Convening the Research Collaborative Group

In instances in which the COEDU has a critical mass of faculty and partners that align with a targeted federal area of opportunity, the Associate Dean for Research will convene a group of faculty and other partners to discuss a specific RFP and their potential involvement in seeking external funding.

Request for Support

The Research Collaborative Group will prepare a brief request for internal funding from the College that includes:

- A description of the federal-level RFP under pursuit,
- A brief narrative about the project that the faculty member or members seek to secure funding for, and
- A budget, timeline and budget narrative that explains the resources and assistance needed to prepare a competitive grant proposal for the targeted federal research grant competition. Resources may be requested from participating departments, centers, the Dean's Research Collaborative Grant Program, and from other participating entities. Resources requested might include, but are not limited to: graduate assistant support, mentoring from an experienced faculty member, course release time for a member of the group, assistance with budget, technical assistance or secretarial support, etc. The object is to state what is needed to mount a successful proposal and the dean's office will work with departmental chairs, center directors, and other entities to pool our resources and try to "make it happen."

Notification of Support

The proposal will be reviewed as they are received by the Associate Dean for Research and shared with the Dean, Associate & Assistant Deans. Participating faculty will be notified as soon as possible regarding the outcome of their request for support.

On-Going Support & Assistance

The office of the Associate Dean for Research will regularly convene and support the efforts of Research Collaborative Groups whose proposals are selected for funding.

Program Review/Refinement

This program will be implemented on a trial basis during 2008-2009 and will supplant the COEDU Mini-Grant program. Approximately \$60,000 will be made available from the dean's office and its Research Incentive Fund to support this effort.

Although the emphasis here is on the formation of Collaborative Research Groups because we believe that strategy will be most successful, we will continue to support efforts of individual faculty to seek funding on both the state and federal level to the extent that funds allow.

We welcome the input of faculty during the trial implementation stage and will also seek your feedback following the first year of the program. Comments and questions may be directed to Dr. Bruce Jones, Associate Dean for Research.