REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
2015-2016 FACULTY RESEARCH INCENTIVE AWARD PROGRAM

Application Deadline: Monday, August 24, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Pacific time

WRPI is requesting applications for assigned time funding for the 2015-2016 academic year. The purpose of the WRPI Faculty Research Incentive Award Program is to stimulate CSU faculty members to develop and submit full proposals to external funding agencies and organizations for water-related research and educational projects.

Applications to develop full proposals on any fundable topic are eligible, provided they seek to advance or promulgate knowledge of California's water-related issues and the processes that affect them. In accepting an award, a Principal Investigator (PI) commits to develop and submit a full proposal for external funding through their host campus research office.

Applications from single PIs are permitted, but collaborative applications involving faculty from multiple CSU campuses that promote interdisciplinary, integrative research and/or educational initiatives and that include regional and disciplinary diversity are preferred. Applications seeking assigned time funding to develop new, previously un-submitted full proposals for external funding that are consistent with the WRPI Strategic Plan shall be highly considered. Applications seeking assigned time to revise and re-submit existing proposals (not previously funded) for external funding will be considered as well with appropriate justification.

SUPPORT PROVIDED
WRPI anticipates making multiple awards for the 2015-2016 academic year, contingent upon continued funding. This document serves as the RFA for Fall 2015 semesters and quarters, Spring 2016 semesters, or for Winter 2016 and Spring 2016 quarters. Assigned time funding is provided based on the system-wide Minimum Annual Rate for Assistant Professor/Lecturer B. At present, this rate is $1,716 per semester weighted teaching unit (WTU) and $1,144 per quarter WTU. Benefits are not included. Funds will be transferred to the award recipient’s College through a Cash Posting Order (CPO) and managed by the respective Dean. Office Awards are not subject to campus indirect costs (facilities and administrative fees1) or any other type of fees from any source.

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1 Provisional Guidance on Allowability of Indirect (F&A) Costs on CSU Internal Grant Proposals: Grants issued from CSU lottery funds, student fees (including State University fees) or other legislatively appropriated funds, as a result of a competition within the CSU, shall not be subject to indirect/F&A costs. Indirect cost will not be allowed as a grant-funded expense in proposals submitted in response to RFPs from programs that receive the majority of their support from student/university fee revenue or lottery funds. However, the F&A foregone at the campus/auxiliary's federally negotiated off-campus rate may be shown as cost match on the proposal. This amount may also be used by the auxiliary or enterprise fund as an offset to the university's cost allocation plan, in accordance with EO 753/1000.
Each individual PI applicant may request funding for assigned time equivalent to one course (nominally up to 4 semester WTUs or 6 quarter WTUs). Collaborators may request assigned time funding for different academic terms in the 2015-2016 academic year if it is demonstrated that each PI will do the proposed work during the respective semesters/quarters and that a proposal for external funding is submitted within twelve (12) months of the start of the assigned time award. Proposals demonstrating judicious use of assigned time funding will be highly regarded.

ELIGIBILITY
All CSU assistant, associate and full professors are eligible to apply.

REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS
Recipients of awards are to use their assigned time to develop full proposals to external funding agencies or organizations that will further WRPI goals and objectives and/or make use of the WRPI network. Proposals may cover a wide variety of topics related to water that is aligned with the WRPI mission; infrastructure (including electronic) or equipment that would help WRPI realize its goals; enhanced faculty professional development; and/or enhanced student learning.

Recipients must submit full proposals to external funding sources within twelve (12) months of the beginning of the academic term in which the assigned time is received. Submission of letters of intent, preliminary proposals and pre-proposals will not fulfill this requirement. *Recipients will not be eligible to apply for WRPI assigned time funding again until this requirement is met.* Reports will be required upon request to ensure satisfactory progress.

- Individual applicants may only submit one request for assigned time in response to this RFA.
- Recipients may not receive more than one award per academic year.
- Awards will not be given to individuals to write or complete manuscripts.
- Assigned time, if awarded, MUST be taken during the 2015-2016 academic year. Awards cannot be deferred.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
*Applications are to be submitted by the campus pre-award office as single pdf files to mpenilla@csusb.edu using the cover and signature sheets provided.* Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Pacific time Monday, August 24, 2015. Applications received after the deadline will be considered only if funding is still available.

Successful applications will clearly demonstrate understanding and support of the WRPI mission, goals and objectives. The external sponsor to whom the full proposal will be directed must be identified and detail provided on the specific program to be targeted, the projected submission date, and evidence of sponsor interest in the research/educational project proposed. Delineation of the sources to which the PI(s) plans to apply for funding is an essential part of the application.

*Applications must be submitted through the campus’ pre-award office. Applications submitted by individual faculty members will be returned without consideration.*

**Application Format:** The following elements must be included:
1) Cover and Signature Pages
Title, targeted funding agency information, the contact and status information for each PI, assigned time request (number of WTUs requested; note if these are semester or quarter units), and contact information and authorized signature of each PI’s Dean, Chair and campus pre-award officer. If a PI is not requesting WRPI assigned time, that PI should still complete the information and include a CV, but authorized campus officials’ signatures are not needed. All information except signatures must be typed. Signed forms must be scanned and included in final proposal in pdf format.

2) Narrative (3 pages maximum, not including References, Figures and Tables): The Narrative must be submitted using a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc.), single spaced, and have margins of one inch on all sides.

Describe the proposed activity for which the assigned time funding is requested. A strong application will clearly indicate the significance of the project and how submission of a full proposal will be facilitated by the WRPI award. Please use the headings below to organize your application. Note that these elements comprise the evaluation criteria (point value provided in parentheses). The overall qualifications of the applicants will also be considered.

- **Intellectual Merit and Need (30 points):** Within the context of previous work on this topic, describe the purpose of, need for, and originality of the proposed activity. Indicate whether this project breaks new ground or is part of continuing activity. Clarify the nature of each participant's contribution to the project making clear how the collaboration, if applicable, will increase the scope or significance of the proposed project and its contribution to the discipline.

- **Expected Benefits Related to WRPI (25 points):** State how the proposed activity and subsequent proposal fulfills the mandate of WRPI. Explain how the proposed work will strengthen WRPI and collaboration among CSU campuses, if applicable. A maximum of only 20 points will be allowed if there is no collaboration with another CSU campus.

- **Potential for Student Involvement (15 points):** Describe the nature and extent of involvement of undergraduate and graduate students in the project.

- **Justification for Requested Assigned Time (10 points):** Provide an explanation of why the assigned time is necessary for the development of the full proposal. Include a brief work plan describing the specific activities in which the PI or PIs will engage. Include timelines and justify the feasibility of meeting designated goals within the prescribed timelines.

The items above combined with information on the targeted funding agency (10 points) and overall qualifications of the applicants (10 points) total 100 points, the maximum possible for any single application.

3) CVs: A 2-page (maximum) curriculum vitae (CV) must be included for each PI. CVs should include appropriate research and education histories covering at least the last three years.

4) Letter of Support: Applications must include a letter of support from each PI’s department Chair or Dean indicating that such an award would be accommodated in departmental planning and that the release time is justified for the activity proposed. In the
event that a faculty member and his/her Chair are both applying for an award, the faculty member’s letter should come from his/her Dean, with the same provisions.

**SUBMISSION DETAILS:**

Submission Deadline: Monday, August 24, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Pacific time. Applications received after the deadline will be considered only if funding is still available.

Please combine all the required materials into *one pdf file* and submit electronically to mpenilla@csusb.edu.

Applications must be submitted through campus pre-award offices. Applications submitted by individual faculty members will be returned without consideration.

For further information contact:
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