Seeding Excellence: OVPR Community Engaged Scholars

FY 22 Request for Proposals

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) seeks collaborative, one-year OVPR Community Engaged Scholars proposals with awards up to $50k to assist in creating and solidifying community research and scholarship partnerships within Iowa. The goal is to enable and sustain community engaged research and scholarship partnerships that reciprocally benefit the University and Iowa communities. In FY22, it is anticipated that there will be five OVPR Community Engaged Scholars awards through the Seeding Excellence Initiative (SEI).

Seeding Excellence Initiative – OVPR Community Engaged Scholars
SEI, a two-year initiative, aims to sustain the continued growth of the campus research enterprise by providing competitive pilot funding in four strategic areas. The OVPR Community Engaged Scholars program, one of SEI’s four strategic areas, will invest in the success of the University’s efforts to partner with Iowa’s communities for sustained research and scholarship collaborations. SEI is made possible through funding to RDO from the public-private partnership (P3) Year 1 funding cycle.

OVPR Community Engaged Scholars Overview
OVPR Community Engaged Scholars aims to support community partnerships within Iowa that create new opportunities for pilot projects to gather data that enable long-term research partnerships sustained through external funding proposals. Partnerships should have a well-defined research question at the core of the relationship. The community partner should have substantial involvement in the study design and/or implementation. Projects may include testing small scale interventions, conducting surveys and focus groups, or community analyses.

Community Engagement*
Community engagement describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. Community engaged research and scholarship provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students and their community partners to enhance the communities in which they live through partnerships that engage with scholarship and innovation in the arts, the sciences, healthcare, economic development, and the humanities.

Community Engaged Research: A collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and to the community. All forms of community engaged research, including community-based and community-based-participatory research approaches are eligible for the OVPR Community Engaged Scholars program.

Community Engaged Scholarship: The creation and dissemination of knowledge and creative expression in furtherance of the mission and goals of the university and the community. Community-engaged scholarship addresses community needs through research, teaching, and service in a mutually beneficial partnership.

Questions: Contact Aaron Kline (aaron-kline@uiowa.edu, 319-335-4142)
*Modified from the UI Office of Community Engagement
Eligibility Criteria

- Any area of research and scholarly inquiry is welcome.
- Must have at least four team leaders: two University personnel and two community partners.
  - University Team Leaders
    - University team leaders must be UI faculty (tenure-track, clinical track, research track) or staff members for whom research and scholarship are assigned as one of their primary job responsibilities and have at least a 50% university appointment.
    - University team leaders must represent at least two colleges.
  - Iowa Community Partners Team Leaders
    - Must have at least two Iowa community partners/organizations with substantial involvement in the study design and/or implementation.
  - Existing partnerships are eligible, but the research and scholarships must be a new direction for the collaborators.
- Projects must be within Iowa and be a Community Engaged Research or Scholarship project as described above.
- Priority will be given to applicants that have not received funding from any source of P3 funds.
- A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by February 4, 2022. Full proposals, by invitation only, are due April 15, 2022.

Required Award Outcomes

- Collect feasibility/pilot data that enables competitive grant proposals.
- Provide a significant community impact.
- Successful partnership that enables future collaborations and external funding.

Letter of Intent

A brief LOI is required (<1 page, Arial 11-point font, 1” margins). LOIs will be reviewed by a panel of campus community engaged researchers with up to 10 competitive concepts invited to submit full proposals. The LOI should include an abstract of the research and scholarship question, the community partners and their involvement, overall community impact, and at least two metrics for evaluation of the project’s impact. Biosketches/CVs/resumes for team leaders must be submitted. No budget is required for the LOI. Please note the “Eligibility Criteria”; noncompliant LOIs will be returned without review.

Budget

This program provides up to $50,000 in direct costs for a one-year period.
- Faculty salary is not allowed.
- Staff and student salaries are allowed. Graduate tuition is allowed.
- Honoraria and consulting fees for community partners are allowed.
- Research subject participation payments are allowed.
- Community engagement events and associated costs are allowed.
- Travel is allowed but only if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for convening meetings.

Proposal Guidelines

All documents should be Arial, 11-point font, and 1” margins.

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Seeding Excellence: Community Engaged Scholars RFP
LOI Deadline: Feb. 4, 2022; Submit LOI
Application Deadline (April 15, 2022)

- Executive Summary (<250 words; non-technical abstract)
- Proposal Narrative (<5 pages)
  - Research Question
    - Describe the research question and its significance.
  - Community Partners
    - Describe the community partners that are a direct partner on the project.
  - Approach
    - Describe and justify the research data, methods, and measures employed.
  - Partnership
    - Describe community partners’ involvement in the study design or implementation. What are the benefits of this partnership to each party?
  - Community Impact
    - Describe the potential community impact of the research. How will the research results impact the community?
  - Strategic Engagement
    - Describe your strategy to engage traditionally marginalized groups, early career faculty, and students in your research activities.
  - Evaluation
    - How is progress defined, measured, and evaluated?
    - Provide a timeline of activities and milestones.
- Sustainability Plan (<1 page)
  - Articulate the sustainability plan for the research (i.e., define federal or private funding target areas including specific agencies, programs, and grant solicitations). How will this work contribute to success with each identified funding source?
- Budget Spreadsheet (use budget template)
- Budget Justification (<2 pages)
  - Line-item explanation of why the requested resources are needed.
- Letters of Collaboration
  - NSF format must be used with no additional text allowed. All collaborations must be explained within the project narrative.
- Community Partner Information (<1 page per community partner)
  - General information including history, mission, and work in the area.
- NIH/NSF biosketches or brief CVs (<5 pages) for University team leaders and resumes for community partners.

Review Process and Criteria
Proposals will be peer reviewed by a group of senior campus researchers with experience in community engaged research and scholarship. It is encouraged to write towards a lay audience. The proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:
- Significance
  - Does the proposed research have the potential for significant community and scholarly impact?
- Approach

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- Are the data, methods, measures, and overall approach well-articulated and viable? Are they grounded in community engaged research and scholarship literature and best practices? How is the team insuring against unintentional harm in partnerships with historically excluded groups?

- Community Engagement and Partners
  - Is there a clear description of the partnership(s) including roles of each partner? Is this a new partnership or a new research direction for the investigators and the community partners? Is there a clear description of community engagement strategies?

- Sustainability
  - Does the project develop opportunities for additional engagement with communities after the project is completed? Does the application articulate a compelling plan for securing extramural funding?

- Strategic Engagement
  - Does the proposal strategically engage historically excluded groups, early career faculty, or students?

- Investigators
  - Do the researchers have the required qualifications, accomplishments, and track record to accomplish the proposed work?

Reporting Requirements
A final project report regarding the research and scholarly advances and community impact as well as a draft external funding proposal must be submitted through InfoReady by July 1, 2023. Further, brief annual reports for three years following the award are required, which will only ask about number of proposals submitted/awarded, publications, and presentations. Further, at the end of the project year, the team must conduct a community survey regarding the partnership’s impact.

P3 Symposium
Awardees of the SEI programs shall expect to participate in future P3 Symposia, which will highlight the outcomes associated with the UI’s P3 funding mechanism.

FY 22 Application Process and Timeline
To apply, log in to the OVPR Community Engaged Scholars submission portal with your HawkID and password. Contact brittany-ryan@uiowa.edu or cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu with submission portal questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 4, 2022</td>
<td>LOI Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18, 2022</td>
<td>Invitation to Submit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 2022</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of May 2, 2022</td>
<td>Teams Notified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2022</td>
<td>Funds Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2023</td>
<td>Final Project Report Due</td>
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