MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECT AWARD
(MURPA)

Award dates:
Spring: January 1- June 15
Summer: May 1- August 31
Due: October 6, 2023 by 5:00 PM

DEFINITION: Multidisciplinary research projects are defined as those that involve two or more investigators from different disciplines that focus different perspectives and capabilities on complex problems that intersect established areas of study. They are intended as **seed money** to develop pilot data for proposals to be submitted to governmental agencies, foundations, or industries.

GENERAL:

- Two awards for multidisciplinary research projects may be made, for up to $7,500 each.
- Funds are restricted to WSU faculty project expenses.
- Awards may be requested for either Spring (January 1st - June 15th) or Summer (May 1st - August 31st).
- Proposals are reviewed by the Senate Faculty Support Committee.
- Applicants <u>MUST</u> follow all instructions and should prepare their application using plain language. Remember reviewers may not be experts in your subject area.
- Proposers **MUST** work with the Office of Research <u>prior</u> to submission. **Please contact proposals@wichita.edu to request assistance.**

ELIGIBILITY:

- Full time current tenured, tenure eligible and probationary faculty members of WSU are eligible. Distinguished and endowed professors, as well as temporary and visiting faculty, are ineligible. All investigators must meet eligibility requirements.
- Those who request summer funding may hold no more than a 10-month appointment and have no teaching or other concurrent appointment or employment at WSU or elsewhere during two summer months. Summer pay is limited to those pay periods not allocated to the 9 months academic pay.
- Awardees are expected to resume their appointments at WSU in fall for the next academic year.
- A faculty member may only participate on <u>one</u> application as a PI or Co-PI in any round of funding
- A faculty member may receive only one of the following in a fiscal year: an ARCS, a University

SUBMISSION

- You MUST work with a member of the Pre-Award Team prior to submission to ensure that the proposal is complete. Please contact proposals@wichita.edu at least two weeks prior the submission deadline to receive proper support.
- Fully completed applications should be returned to the Office of Research either electronically to proposals@wichita.edu or hardcopy to Campus Box 7 no later than 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Electronic applications should be submitted as one document either in Microsoft Word or as a PDF. Hardcopy applications must be single-sided.
- Incomplete or late applications **will not be reviewed.**

Failure to follow <u>ALL</u> application instructions will result in your application not being reviewed/considered for funding.

ALLOWABLE COSTS:

- For Spring awards, costs up to $7,500 for salary and fringes of WSU student/technical assistants, supplies, travel, equipment, and unusual communication are allowable. For Summer awards, costs WSU faculty salary and fringes are also allowable.
- Fees for health services provided to subjects involved in medical research.
- A detailed budget with justification must be provided for all items.
- The roles of student or technical assistants must be clearly defined.
- Costs **not** allowed include materials readily available from the department; travel to present findings; course development; textbook writing or typing; page, review and reprint charges; dissertation preparation; food/catering service; gift certificates/cards (does not include participant incentives paid via Greenphire), and indirect costs.
- Expenses must be incurred and processed during the grant period.
- Faculty having access to their "start-up funds" should clearly explain why the startup funds cannot be used for budgeted items in this proposal.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

<u>Merit of the proposed project is the primary criterion</u>. Factors such as excellence in scholarship and creative activities, potential impact on institution and individual, **inaccessibility** of funding available to junior faculty or certain fields, challenges in moving into a new research directions, etc. are also considered.

Proposals that the Faculty Support Committee find difficult to read or have excessive technical language may be rated low. The Faculty Support Committee has members from different units on campus who are not necessarily experts

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a. What is the novelty of the project to the applicant's discipline?
b. Is the proposed project innovative, convergent, creative, and/or scholarly?
c. What is the importance of the project to the applicant's research (e.g., if applicant is a junior faculty or a tenured faculty with shifting research fields or specialties, mastery of new techniques, or change of appointment, seed funding may accelerate his/her research)?

- Validity of approach or methodology;
  a. Does the proposal plan address the research/creative objectives?
  b. Does the proposal sufficiently demonstrate knowledge of related literature?
  c. Does the proposal adequately describe the research/creative methods?
  d. Is it likely that the project will be successfully completed within the time, budget and available facilities as proposed?

- Qualifications of applicant;
  a. Is the applicant qualified to successfully complete the proposed project?
  b. Has the applicant demonstrated scholarly capability and productivity?
  c. If applicant has previously received URCA/MURPA/ARC support, have they produced scholarly/creative results?

- Adequacy of resources; and

- Adherence to allowable costs.

- Evidence of External Submission Activity
  a. Will this award increase the likelihood that the applicant be successful in obtaining external funding or receiving prestigious awards?
  b. If external funding is available in the applicant's area of research or creative activity, is there evidence that the applicant previously attempted to obtain such funding?

Applicants that are unable to demonstrate a prior record of scholarly productivity or record of external funding applications may be rated unfavorably by reviewers. While the Faculty Support Committee recognizes that certain disciplines may have limited opportunities for external funding, all applicants are encouraged to explore external funding opportunities and apply whenever possible. Applicants should contact the Office of Research at funding@wichita.edu if assistance identifying external funding sources is needed. Applicants who have previously received an URCA/MURPA/ARC are required to state the results of the three most recently funded projects.

B. Additional Review Criteria

Other factors that are given consider

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URCA/MURPA/ARC awards are highly competitive and are relatively modest considering the award amount and volume of applications received during each funding cycle. Therefore, priority may be given to faculty in the early years of professional development who have received limited support, or tenured faculty with shifting research fields or specialties, mastery of new techniques, or change of appointment.

- Projects that can transition into larger scale/multi-disciplinary/convergent science projects will be regarded favorably.

URCA/MURPA/ARCS MATERIALS, PRODUCTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A. Property

Title to materials, equipment, supplies, microfilm, computer files, books, tapes, documents, etc. purchased with URCA/MURPA/ARCS funding will vest in Wichita State University. If purchased materials, equipment, etc. are no longer needed for the project, applicant should release such items to their department, college or to the University Library so they can be utilized by WSU faculty, staff and students.

B. Acknowledgements

Publications, presentations or performances supported in whole or in part by an URCA/MURPA/ARC award should include the following acknowledgment: **"This project was supported by the Wichita State University Research/Creative Projects in Summer Award Uxxxx."**

AWARDS:
- Awards are made by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs based on recommendations of the Faculty Support Committee and are subject to availability of funds.
- Awards will be announced in November.
- **Due to the nature of the funds, <u>NO</u> extensions will be allowed.**

FINAL REPORT:
- A final report with all data/manuscript(s)/product(s) generated is due to the Office of Research within 90 days of the project end date.
- The filing of the report is a precondition to any future award.
- Please reference your grant number when submitting and send electronically to proposals@wichita.edu.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

Applications should use the section headings below in the order listed and be assembled as a single document. You **must** work with a member of the Pre-Award Team <u>prior</u> to submission. Please contact proposals@wichita.edu <u>PRIOR</u> to the deadline for assistance. **Incomplete or late applications <u>will not</u> be reviewed.**

<u>PROJECT APPLICATION FORM</u>

- Complete and return the Project Application form as part of your submission. Please note that this form includes required signatures from the Chair and Dean. It is the responsibility of the PI to collect signatures and ensure an on-time submission. Make sure to allow sufficient time to collect Chair and Dean signatures. Each PI must complete a separate application form.

<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>

- The text needs to include enough detail about the project so that reviewers can assess the quality, feasibility and significance of the project. Proposals should also be written in **plain language.** The project description is **limited to 5 pages <u>excluding</u> references.** Any page(s) exceeding the limitation will be removed before circulation to the reviewers.
- <u>Abstract</u>. Provide a brief narrative in non-technical language describing the project, overall goals and specific objectives, and the approach/methodology to be employed.
- <u>Background</u>. Present the project to be addressed and the importance of the proposed project.
- <u>Methodology/approach</u>.
  - Provide both a description of and a justification for the project.
    - For research projects, this might include design, sample size, measurement techniques, instrumentation and data analysis.
    - For creative projects, this might include an outline of the project, a sample of the material, a description of the plot e.g., slides, audio or videotape, written description.
  - Include a timetable for accomplishing specific tasks.
  - If student assistance is requested, clearly delineate the activities of the faculty investigator and student.
- <u>Significance</u>.
  - For research projects, describe the expected outcomes and their impact on current understanding, knowledge or practice. For creative projects, describe the significance of the project both to a particular field and to the arts and humanities.

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