

UMass Lowell-Worcester Polytechnic Institute

2019 Collaborative Seed Funding Initiative

Overview:

The leadership of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Worcester Polytechnic Institute are committed to leveraging our respective strengths to foster productive and sustainable interdisciplinary collaborations among our faculty and students. To support this goal, UMass Lowell and WPI will jointly provide up to \$20,000 per project to support intramural collaborative projects for research teams comprised of faculty from both institutions.

Description:

This initiative is intended to support new collaborations, novel discoveries, increased external funding, future industry partnerships, and possibly, the development of patentable intellectual property. Priority for funding will be given to new collaborations, projects that include multiple UMass Lowell and WPI faculty, projects that include more than one discipline, and projects that are likely to lead to external funding and/or commercialization/industry partnerships.

Priority Areas:

Include (but are not limited to) Photonics, Electronics, Imaging, Sensors, Robotics, Smart/Advanced Materials, Gaming and Learning Technologies, and Criminal Justice.

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to five (5) collaborative, one-year projects

Estimated Funding Amounts: Up to \$20,000 per project

Estimated Start Date: June 1, 2019

Application Deadline: April 12, 2019

Eligibility: All full-time UMass Lowell tenured/tenure-track faculty are eligible to participate. All full-time WPI faculty, whether tenured/tenure-track or non-tenure track, are eligible. An individual investigator may serve as primary applicant on one proposal and co-applicant on one additional proposal.

Proposal Submission: Proposals must be submitted through the UMass Lowell Research and Innovation Opportunities Portal (<https://uml.infoready4.com>) by 11:59 pm, April 12, 2019. This portal allows access by both UMass Lowell and WPI faculty to the Collaborative Seed Funding Initiative program opportunity. WPI personnel must first register for an account on this system by clicking “Apply” on the Collaborative Seed Funding Initiative program page and selecting the “Register” button on the “Login for Other Users” section of the page. After creating an account, WPI users may then login under the “Login for Other Users” section and proceed to fully access the Collaborative Seed Funding Initiative program on the portal.

UML-WPI Collaborative Seed Funds Proposal Format

Cover Sheet: Completed electronically through the UMass Lowell Research and Innovation Opportunities Portal. Include the following information: primary and co-applicants' name, title, departmental affiliation and institution, total budget requested, and budget portion requested for each institution. Indicate if the research involves human subjects or vertebrate animals and if approval has been obtained or is pending.

Two-Paragraph Abstract: Paragraph One: A non-technical description of the project that states the problem to be studied or activity to be conducted, and explains the project's broader significance and importance. This component should be understandable to an educated lay reader. Paragraph Two: A technical description of the project that states the goals and scope of the project and the methods and approaches to be used.

Narrative: Not to exceed five (5) type-written, single-spaced pages, using 11pt font (or larger) with 1-inch margins. The narrative should include a discussion of a novel research project that involves substantial collaboration between one or more faculty from each institution, and includes the following:

1. Problem statement
2. Project goals and objectives
3. Project design and methodology
4. Innovation and potential impact
5. Roles and responsibilities of performing team
6. Existing resources available to support the project
7. Potential for future funding, industry partnerships, and/or commercialization
8. Project timeline

Literature Cited:

Include a separate section listing any literature or scholarly works referenced in the text.

Biographical Sketches:

Please provide a two-page biographical sketch for each applicant and co-applicant.

Budget:

Provide a detailed budget that contains separate columns for the UMass Lowell and the WPI portions of the project budget, justifying all expenses. Each institution's share of the budget should reflect reasonable effort and costs anticipated by that institution's participants in the project, since in this program each institution may only pay for the costs incurred by its own participants.

Unallowable costs include: applicant and co-applicant salary and additional compensation, student tuition, equipment acquisition costs, and indirect costs.

Allowable categories include:

1. Student hourly wages: Identify if graduate or undergraduate. Include an estimate of the number of hours, pay rate, and description of the work to be performed.
2. Research or administrative staff: Hourly funding to support a technical program manager, postdoc, or other research or administrative staff. Include an estimate of the number of hours, pay rate (and any applicable fringe benefits), and description of the work to be performed.
3. Material and supplies: May include tools, sensors, software, columns, etc., as well as other necessary lab materials and supplies. Provide an estimate (itemized) budget.
4. Core facility charges: Provide an estimate of hours and hourly charges.

5. Travel: Travel to annual conferences/workshops must be justified and show a direct link to the success of the project.
6. Meeting costs: Funds for hosting workshops and/or meetings related to the project should be justified based on the potential to build relationships and/or expand collaborations with other organizations and institutions. The estimated number of participants, itemized travel costs, and anticipated venue must be included.
7. Participant costs: Funds for participant incentives are allowable, but must be justified and fall within the standards/averages of the discipline.
8. Consultants: Any costs budgeted for an outside consultant must be well-justified.

Outcomes:

It is expected that a research proposal for submission to an external funding agency will be one of the project deliverables. Proposals that have a clearly identified target funding agency and that make a strong justification for how the seed funding will strengthen a submission to that agency will be given greater consideration.

Human subjects/Vertebrate animals:

If the proposed work includes human subjects or vertebrate animals, an award will not be made without IRB or IACUC approval.

Awards:

Proposals will be reviewed by a joint UMass Lowell/WPI selection committee. Awards will be disbursed in two funding portions, allowing each institution to provide its funding internally to its own participants. The combined total award for any project will not exceed \$20,000, and no award will contain a funding portion for either university that exceeds \$15,000.

Performance Period:

All seed projects supported under this program must be completed within one year, or by May 31, 2020, whichever comes first. Awards are “one-time,” with no extensions or supplements.

Monitoring and Further Assistance:

Awarded projects will be monitored by each university to track progress and to enable prompt assistance on developing follow-on proposals to external funding agencies during the course of the seed funding period.

Questions:

- UMass Lowell faculty: contact Anne Maglia, anne_maglia@uml.edu, (978) 934-4254.
- WPI faculty: contact Michael Wright, mdwright@wpi.edu, (508) 831-4946.