Transformative **R**esearch and **I**nnovation, **A**ccelerating **D**iscovery

- internal seed grant program -

Goals

- Why?
  - To stimulate and support innovative research
  - To develop long-term interdisciplinary research collaborations
  - To lead to external grant proposals; increase in funding; inventions and patents; publications and visibility

- Models

  University of Michigan—Mcubed

  Texas A&M University—T3

  University of Virginia—3 Cavaliers

  UMich accomplishments from 2 rounds:
  Over $120M in externally-funded grants
  Over 320 publications
  50+ scholarly/artistic products
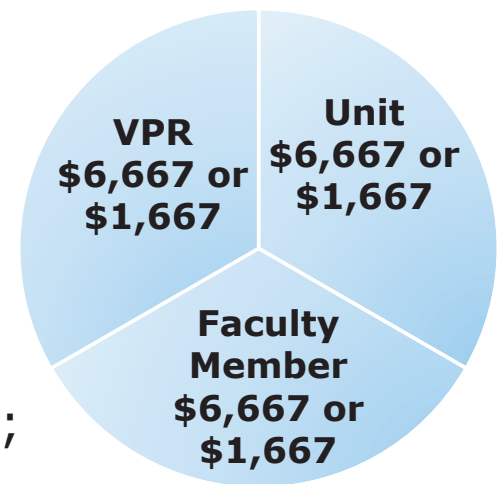 20+ invention disclosure reports/patents
  Hundreds of presentations

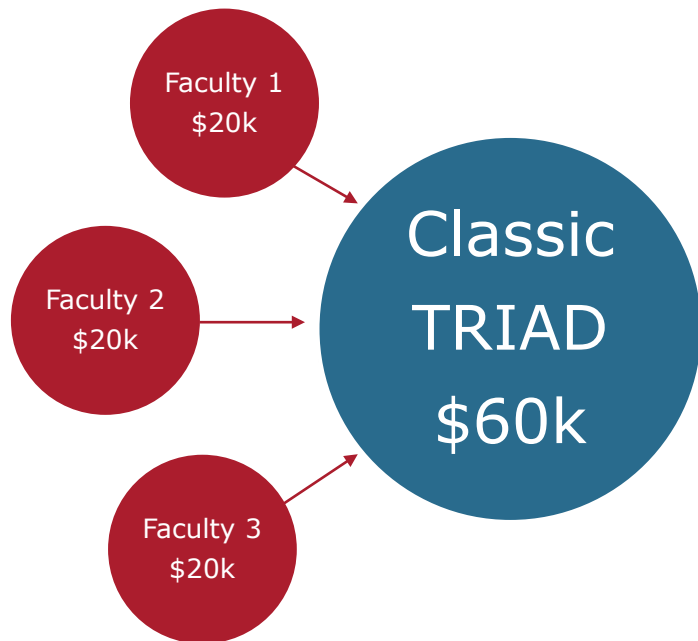Worcester Polytechnic Institute

TRIADs

- Three faculty collaborating—the TRIAD
  - Faculty from at least two units
  - Not currently working on a project together
- Funds **new** research
- No traditional peer review!
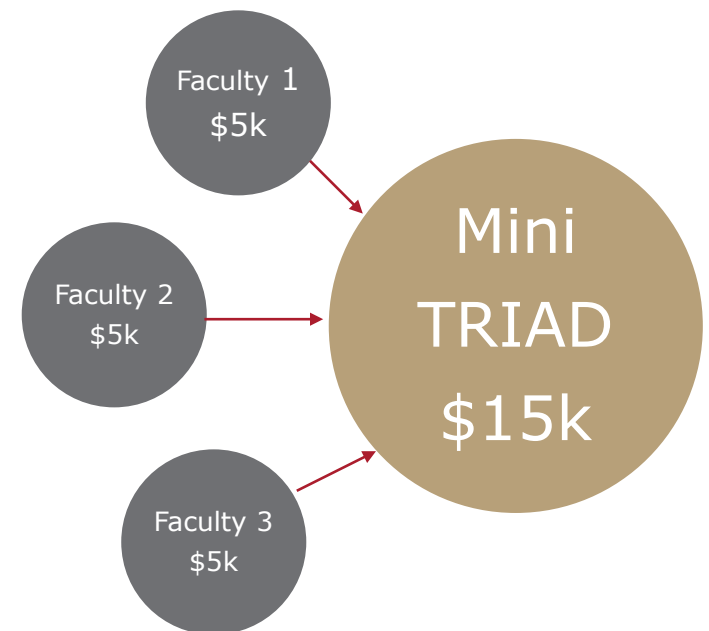
RULES

- Funding: shared 1/3 VPR, 1/3 unit, 1/3 faculty
- Spending: at least 50% on students or post-docs;
                  no faculty salary
- Deliverables: report, participation in symposium, grant
                  proposal

VPR
$6,667 or
$1,667

Unit
$6,667 or
$1,667

Faculty
Member
$6,667 or
$1,667

Funding per project

Faculty 1
$20k

Faculty 2
$20k

Faculty 3
$20k

Classic
TRIAD
$60k

- Team decides on size at time of submission

- Department Heads and Deans decide on number of faculty they want to fund

- Project owners indicate whether the proposed project competes as part of the grass-roots and/or the strategic competition

- 4th member without funding can join team

Faculty 1
$5k

Faculty 2
$5k

Faculty 3
$5k

Mini
TRIAD
$15k

How do I create a project?

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How do I find projects to join?
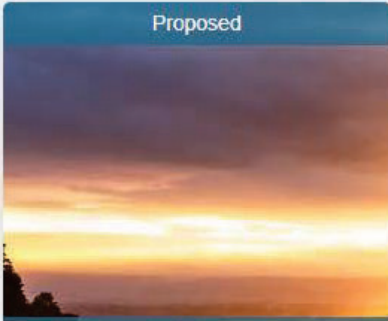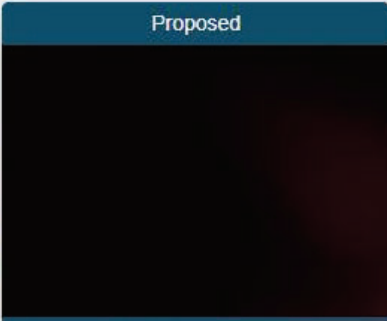
How do I add comments or indicate interest?

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Process

Faculty post or search for projects on website

Faculty may post comments, indicate interest to join

Project owner invites 2 faculty to join

Project owner submits project by deadline

Semi-random lottery awards TRIADs

How are projects selected for funding?

- No peer review

- Semi-random selection process
  - Step 1. list of submitted projects is sorted into a random list.
  - Step 2. The first project on the list is funded.
  - Step 3. If the next project (a) contains faculty from a unit that is not represented in the funded projects thus far and (b) the units of all the faculty in the TRIAD still have funding remaining, the project is funded; otherwise, the project is skipped.
  - Step 4. Repeat step 3 until all the submissions have been examined.
  - Step 5. Start at the top of the list of unfunded projects and fund the projects in order—if the units of all the faculty members in the TRIAD still have funding available.
  - Step 6. Continue down the list, funding the projects until all projects are funded or all funds have been committed.

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Timeline

September 1: website opens for posting proposals

October 15: deadline for final formation of TRIADs

November 1: announcement of awards

December 1: Start date; account will be set up in project owner's department

Nov. 30, 2020: End date; 6 months extension may be requested

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