Accelerator Grant Program

Fall, 2016
## Lehigh research investment programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Budget max</th>
<th>Requires collaboration</th>
<th>Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>$ 6,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct / completion of projects; expanded scope and impact; new opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIG</td>
<td>$ 25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enable initiation of new projects and programs; take existing programs in new directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE</td>
<td>$ 60,000</td>
<td>✓ (min 2)</td>
<td>Establish and grow productive multi-faculty research programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accelerator</td>
<td>$ 100,000</td>
<td>✓ (min 3)</td>
<td>Building on established strengths and collaborations, accelerate growth in areas of potential national &amp; international prominence.</td>
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Accelerator Grant Program

• Requires identification of a **significant opportunity**: a line of research of rising importance in which Lehigh can establish a leadership position
• Intended to enable a **strong team** to quickly pursue the opportunity
• Provides **significant flexibility** in use of funds, over a two-year period
• Requires at least one tenured member of the faculty on the team; PI must be a tenured member of the faculty
Proposal narrative

1. The opportunity
2. The team, resources and approach
3. Goals and use of funds
1. The Opportunity

- Identify a research area of clear and rising importance.
- Identify who will value the work, and who will naturally be motivated and able to support it.
- Explain how your team is positioned to lead in this area.
2. The Team, Resources and Approach

Show that your **team is in a great position to pursue the opportunity**, including

- the particular capabilities of the team members, and your ability to work together productively
- your approach to the work
- critical resources – physical resources, existing funded projects, relationships, etc. – you will bring to bear
3. Goals and use of funds

- Accelerator grants provide **latitude in allocation of funds** over the two-year award period.
- You should have **clear initial goals**, and **means for making decisions** about future directions.
3. Goals and use of funds

- Describe your initial goals and first steps
- Describe how you will determine allocation of resources over time

- Aggressive pursuit of external support is expected
  - Identify sources, programs and strategies for competing successfully
  - Long-term goals should include a path to major multi-investigator programs
Budget

Concise, tabular budget with planned allocations by category
Selection Criteria

• Have the applicants identified a compelling opportunity?
• Have the applicants shown that they have a competitive advantage in this area?
• Do the applicants present a well-conceived plan for building their program?

Read the full Selection Criteria in the Guidelines! They will be provided verbatim to reviewers, and serve as the sole basis for their reviews.
Tips for success

• Read the guidelines
  ▪ If anything is unclear, ask!
• Follow the prescribed format carefully
• Write clear prose
• Remember that reviewers are reading across fields. Limit highly specialized material to what is necessary, and keep it concise.
Ways to fail

• Write a “big FIG”, describing a single project that happens to have a large budget.
• Propose a project that’s not a truly substantive collaboration and get some colleagues to sign on saying they’ll help.
• Describe a compelling problem or research area, then fail to describe what, specifically, your team can do.
• Write a dense, highly technical proposal as you might for your individual disciplinary community. At minimum, you are taking a big chance.
Dates

- Notice of intent to submit – Friday, **October 14**
  - Descriptive title
  - Brief abstract
  - Investigators
- Full proposal – Friday, **October 28, 5:00 PM**