

## Call for Seed Grant Proposals for Realizing the Digital Enterprise

Funding period up to June 30, 2021

The *Realizing the Digital Enterprise* research impact area is soliciting seed grant proposals to grow new collaborations that leverage the cross-cutting power of computing broadly into traditionally physical activities with funding to be spent from August 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The purpose of this seed grant funding opportunity is to provide support for supplies, equipment, salary (undergraduate student, partial graduate student, faculty summer) support in these collaborations. We expect this support to lead to the submission of external proposals while also fostering the development of this Polytechnic research community.

To be considered, proposals must include the following sections, with an overall limit of three (3) pages.

1. Research team members, with your explanation of how the project represents interdisciplinary forms of inquiry with regard to disciplinary context, methodology, or potential for outcomes relevant to two or more disciplines
2. Problem Statement and Research Question(s)
3. Relevance of the problem to the *Realizing the Digital Enterprise* impact area mission (see below)
4. Proposed Approach
5. Expected Outcomes, including a brief description of at least two external funding opportunities relevant to the proposed effort for future submission of proposals.
6. Budget and timeline with Gantt chart– funding period will be up to June 30, 2021.

### Guidelines

- Each proposal must include at least one member from the *Realizing the Digital Enterprise* community.
- All awarded funding must be expended by June 30, 2021.
- The PI and Co-PIs must represent at least two different disciplinary perspectives within Purdue. Co-PIs may be from another Purdue college, but the funding can only be used for Polytechnic expenses (including support for students).
- Faculty may submit multiple proposals. No more than one proposal will be funded per faculty member listed as a PI and no more than one will be funded per faculty member as a co-PI. This guideline will span across all five Polytechnic Research Impact Areas.
- The PI of a current seed grant (awarded in most recent competition) is ineligible to serve as PI for this competition. PI eligibility will resume upon completion of the current seed grant, June 30, 2020.

### Review Process

In the first phase, submitted proposals will be peer-reviewed by RDE members using a comparative process to select up to 5 proposals to engage in the second phase. This review will be based on:

1. *Originality*. This opportunity looks to grow *new research ideas* and *new collaborations*. Ideas that have been previously presented to a Research Impact Area or internally or externally funded previously will not be supported through this funding opportunity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Note: We expect that concepts previously funded by an internal seed grant or an external funding agency will have advanced to a stage at which no further internal seed grant funding is necessary for progress and preparation for external funding. These “graduated” projects will not be considered for seed grant funding and the submission of these projects is discouraged. Investigators who are unsure if their project is considered “graduated” should contact Associate Dean for Research Berger to discuss.

2. *Relevance to the RDE impact area mission.* The proposed approach should have the potential to make a substantive impact on a problem or opportunity relevant to the RDE mission, including the potential following areas outlined in our mission:
  - a. Digital transformation in a range of physical and digital contexts (e.g., IT, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, education)
  - b. Challenges relating to computing automation, intelligence, scale, and interconnectedness that bridge the physical and digital worlds
  - c. Social consequences and volatile patterns of acceptance and use of technological systems that impact personal and collective well-being
  - d. Educational connections to (a) – (c), with a particular focus on lifelong learning, interdisciplinary approaches to engaging challenges, and/or workforce development.
  
3. *Strengthening the RDE community.* The proposed approach should leverage the expertise of relevant faculty members. The proposal will be judged based on the degree of collaboration needed to solve the problem.

The second step will entail presentations by the PIs of selected proposals during the RDE meeting on April 17, 2020 to the RDE community. Attending RDE members will review and rank the presented proposals for funding. RDE leaders Hacker and Gray will submit recommendations for funding to the Polytechnic Associate Dean for Research, who will make the final decision on awards and the final level of funding (which may be less than the requested amount) for each award. We expect to fund projects up to \$8,000 per award, for a maximum of \$16,000 depending on the availability of funds.

#### **Timeline**

- February 21, 2020: RFP is Released
- April 1, 2020: Proposals must be submitted as a Word or PDF attachment to an email with the subject line “RDE Seed Grant Proposal 2020-2021” to Felicia Anderson at [fanderso@purdue.edu](mailto:fanderso@purdue.edu) by 4pm ET to be eligible.
- April 17, 2020: Presentations of selected proposals will occur during the RDE meeting.
- May 1, 2020: Awards announced
- August 1, 2020: Funds are available for use

#### **Award Terms and Conditions**

- PI’s are expected to expend all funds by June 30, 2021, submit a 2-page report highlighting the work accomplished, scholarly outcomes, lessons learned, and plans for future research, and present this to the RDE group during a meeting before 7/30/21.
  - Any faculty member receiving direct support (salary, travel, equipment, student support, etc.) will be expected to be an active member of the RDE impact area by contributing to the success of the group and its members. Non-members may be Co-PIs but cannot receive direct support. Extenuating circumstances that necessitate a deviation from this condition will be considered with strong justification.
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**Budget**

Supplies & Equipment	\$ _____
Undergraduate Student Salaries	\$ _____
Partial graduate Student Support	\$ _____
Faculty Summer Support	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

**Gantt chart to show tasks/milestones with time:**

Project Tasks and Milestones		Month – Month			Month-Month			Month-Month	
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Task 1</b>	<b>Description</b>							
	1.1	Description							
	1.2	Description							
	1.3	Description							
	1.4	Description							
	<b>Task 2</b>	<b>Description</b>							
	2.1	Description							
	2.2	Description							
	2.3	Description							
	<b>Task 3</b>	<b>Description</b>							
	3.1	Description							
	3.2	Description							

**Milestones**

1. Milestone 1 Description
2. Milestone 2 Description
3. Milestone 3 Description
4. Milestone 4 Description