**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**IC² Institute**

**2019 Grant Solicitation**

**“Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Rural and Small City Environments”**

### Awards up to $100,000

## Deadline for Submission: Friday, March 29, 2019

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The new IC² Institute grant solicitation provides funds supporting research collaborations to tenured and tenure-track faculty at The University of Texas at Austin to accelerate research in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in rural or small city environments. Studies addressing this topic from public policy, social science, engineering and solid science, business, technology, economics, education, business, arts and culture are encouraged. The IC² Institute (Innovation, Creativity and Capital; <https://ic2.utexas.edu/> ) of The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) anticipates funding 6-8 research projects of $100,000 over 24 months (max $50,000/year) in an ongoing effort to stimulate research by faculty across all disciplines at UT-Austin focused on key topics of interest to the IC² Institute. Results from these projects will be presented at an IC² Institute sponsored Conference Spring 2021 – specific dates and title for this meeting will be forthcoming.

This solicitation follows the successful Insight to Innovation Grant Program conducted between 2017-2018. Eleven grants were provided to UT faculty which engaged over 10 student researchers at UT-Austin, produced many peer-reviewed publications and a number of others in preparation or under review, and supported a wealth of scholarly presentations. Further, student-led investigations were conducted in Nepal and Japan through UT courses supported by Insight to Innovation grants.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** Applications must be submitted on-line via InfoReady Review: https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1782746, **by Friday, March 29, 2019. Please direct any questions to:** Gregory Pogue (gpogue@ic2.utexas.edu). Awards will be announced **May 3, 2019**.The InfoReady Review portal will provide a download mechanism for the Research Grant proposal, to be assembled in a single PDF document, as follows:

1. **Application Form (see attached)**

**1.** Description of the proposed research (3 single-spaced, or 6 double-spaced pages or less; see template provided)

**2.** Detailed Budget and Budget Justification (1 page or less)

**3.** Other Support Requested or Received for the Proposed Project (<1/2 page)

**4.** Uses and Results of Previous UT Research Grant Support (<1/2 page)

**B. Curriculum Vitae,** in outline form (use NSF format if available; 2 pages or less) and listing no more than five recent publications relevant to the proposed work, five other publications, and full PI contact information.

**C. Plans to Obtain Future Funding for this Project,** including funding agencies to which proposal(s) will be submitted, amount(s) requested, research topic(s), and anticipated timeline for submission and result.

**D. Bibliography,** not to exceed 1 page.

**FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR:**

1. Collaborative research conducted by UT-Austin faculty
2. Recruitment and support of students or post-doctoral researchers
3. Data collection, supplies, research materials, travel and other related miscellaneous expenditures as they pertain to the research being performed
4. Travel to relevant conferences for original research presentation
5. For projects in which the faculty member intends to do the data collection and analysis (rather than having students engaged in the work), faculty can request funds to pay for course release time. Faculty salary requests can be made, but must be less than 50% of requested funds.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** An interim (one-page) report will be due by June 1, 2020, and a final report (2 pages) will be due June 1, 2021. Each report should include a brief description of what was accomplished to date; a listing of papers submitted/published; relevant presentations; and proposals submitted or funded as a result of the funding received.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:** Researchers and/or funded students should expect to present papers at an IC² Institute sponsored conference focused on exploring cutting-edge thinking on Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Rural and Small City Environments. The conference is planned for spring 2021. Defined dates, submission process and publication plans for conference proceedings will be made available.

**COLLABORATION REQUESTS:** There will be periodic PI meetings to allow the researchers working on funded projects to discuss their progress with other PIs. PIs are expected to attend these meetings and to participate in building a research community. Additional funds can be made available to support projects that develop through discussions among PIs. There will also be meetings for students supported by IC² funds to give them an opportunity to network with other students and faculty.

**AREAS OF PARTICULAR RESEARCH INTEREST:** This call for proposals seeks novel approaches to increase understanding of rural and small city entrepreneurial ecosystems. IC² has collaborations around the United States and in a number of other countries that may prove valuable for researchers. Researchers who have an interesting approach but do not know where they would conduct a study should contact Gregory Pogue to discuss their project idea and to find out whether their project can leverage Institute connections.

**ABOUT THE IC² INSTITUTE:** The IC² Institute is focused on the study and practice of wealth creation and economic growth through technology entrepreneurship. It played a critical role in the creation of the “Austin Model,” and insights from Austin’s transition into a technology center have been applied in active programs in Latin America, Asia, and Europe. In keeping with the vision of founder George Kozmetsky, the IC² Institute aims to catalyze research that addresses current problems in entrepreneurship and innovation. We believe that rural and small-city entrepreneurship is a pressing multi-dimensional problem that requires new scholarship to understand and address, and thus will provide the focus of work for the next several years. The IC² Institute has always operated as a “Think-and-Do” tank, in which research findings are ultimately translated into impactful practice. While we want researchers to engage in basic research in their disciplines, we also hope that they will explore ways that their findings can be applied.

1. **APPLICATION FORM**

**A.1. Description of the Proposed Research: in narrative form and not exceeding six (6) single-spaced pages or twelve (12) double-spaced pages with type no smaller than 11 pt.** Since the proposal will be evaluated by staff researchers and faculty reviewers who, while generally acquainted with the applicant’s field of study, cannot be specialists in each particular research area, it should be written such that a non-specialist can understand it in plain language and free of jargon. It should be clearly focused and organized and should cover the following:

**(a)** The **significance of the project,** including the nature of the general problem and the specific aspect to be investigated, the importance of the problem to the research area, and what difference the expected results of the project will make and to whom. Applicants should not assume that their project will automatically appear significant to others, but should explain this significance explicitly and cogently.

**(b)** The **conception and definition of the project,** including the specific program of study or research planned for the award period and the basic ideas or questions to be explored; the approach or line of thought to be taken; the relationship of the proposed project to the applicant’s previous, immediate, and long-range research objectives; and the relationship of the proposed project to the work of other scholars in the same general area.

**(c)** The **plan and method of the proposed work,** including the specific tasks to be performed and the expected results and publication plan. If the study involves travel or residency off-campus, explain why the travel is essential to the success of the project.

**A.2. DETAILED BUDGET & BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**In one page,** please provide a detailed budget and budget justification for the proposed research project. Wages for research assistants and technicians, research-associated travel, supplies, items of research equipment, and any other expense should be specified in detail. Faculty salaries can only comprise 50% of requested funds. Briefly describe the basis for estimating the budgeted amount. *Do not include: any type of expense not allowed in a 30-account; student tuition, manuscript preparation costs, costs for indexing, page charges, reprints, books, CDs, DVDs, or videos.* Highly specialized research software is allowable ***only*** if fully justified by the scholarly demands of the proposed work.

In addition, explain the need or justification for this grant in the context of other funding sources available to you, at this point in your career.

**BUDGET ITEM & JUSTIFICATION AMOUNT**

**A.3. OTHER SUPPORT REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

**[Copy if you need additional pages]**

**Project/Proposal Title**

**Source of Support**

**Received Total direct costs awarded**

**Pending Expected date of notification (approximate)/Funds requested**

**Future Submission Submission date/Funds requested**

**Location of Research Period Covered**

**Project/Proposal Title**

**Source of Support**

**Received Total direct costs awarded**

**Pending Expected date of notification (approximate)/Funds requested**

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**Location of Research Period Covered**

**Project/Proposal Title**

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**Future Submission Submission date/Funds requested**

**Location of Research Period Covered**

1. **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Curriculum Vitae, in outline form and not exceeding two (2) pages,** consisting of a record of the applicant’s contact details, educational and professional experience; a list of his/her most important academic honors, including grants and fellowships; and a selected list of his/her recent (last five relevant) published works.

1. **Plans to Obtain Future Funding for this Project (optional except for proposals with a predominantly scientific content).**

Specifically, discuss your plans for obtaining funding for this project in the future. How will the proposed project, if funded, provide a foundation for your future research? What agencies outside the university do you plan to approach for future funding for this project? If the current project will not lead to future grant proposals, please indicate why.

1. **Bibliography**

The bibliography should be a list **not to exceed one (1) page** of primary materials and publications offering the greatest relevance to the proposed study.