**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**IC2 Institute**

**“Insight to Innovation: Processes and Impacts”**

**2017 Grant Solicitation**

### Awards up to $25,000

## Deadline for Submission: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The “Insight to Innovation” grant solicitation provides funds supporting research collaborations to tenured and tenure-track faculty at The University of Texas at Austin to accelerate research around innovation and entrepreneurship as they relate to fields including, but not limited to: science and engineering, economics, business, arts and culture, and social sciences. The IC² Institute (Innovation, Creativity and Capital; <https://ic2.utexas.edu/> ) of The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) anticipates funding 6-8 “Insight to Innovation” research projects of ~$25,000 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.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** Applications must be submitted on-line via CompetitionSpace: <https://utexas.infoready4.com/>, **by Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Questions:** Coral Franke ([coral@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:coral@ic2.utexas.edu)). Awards will be announced **April 11, 2017**.The CompetitionSpace 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 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, and other related miscellaneous expenditures as they pertain to the research being performed
4. Travel to relevant conferences for original research presentation
5. Faculty salary requests can only comprise 50% of requested funds.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** An interim (one-page) report will be due by September 15, 2017, and a final report (2 pages) will be due April 11, 2018. 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.

**COLLABORATION REQUESTS:** Proposals that include IC² Institute research scientists (see IC² Institute Research Report for 2015-2016 for research topics and contributors) as collaborators or engage IC² Institute projects or research priorities (below) will be given priority. IC² Institute research scientists include: Gregory P. Pogue ([gpogue@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:gpogue@ic2.utexas.edu)); David V. Gibson ([davidg@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:davidg@ic2.utexas.edu)), Elsie L Echeverri-Carroll ([e.carroll@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:e.carroll@ic2.utexas.edu)), Bruce Kellison ([bkellison@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:bkellison@ic2.utexas.edu)), James Jarrett ([jj@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:jj@ic2.utexas.edu)), and Matt **Kammer-Kerwick** ([mattkk@ic2.utexas.edu](mailto:mattkk@ic2.utexas.edu)). Funded PI’s will be requested to present data and research outcomes at a “Lunch and Learn” at the IC² Institute and attend periodic lunches with IC² Institute leadership to exchange research ideas, priorities and strategies.

**AREAS OF PARTICULAR RESEARCH INTEREST:** The IC2 Institute has benefited from a long history of collaborations with the UT-Austin faculty. A list of potential “Insight to Innovation” research topics is given below. The best-fitted research proposals will be funded, but research projects that engage UT-Austin faculty with the IC² Institute surrounding key research areas of mutual interest will be given priority. The following list of interests is not exhaustive, and proposals on any topic of interest to the IC2 Institute and its programs are welcomed.

1. **Entrepreneurial Cognition – intention, readiness and alertness studies:** 
   * Evaluate the antecedents to entrepreneurial behavior with particular attention to social (experience and education), societal (economic and political climate), and personality factors.
   * Explore ‘personal-environment’ interactions and the structures that individuals use to make assessments, judgments or decisions involving entrepreneurial opportunity evaluation, creation and growth of ideas to enterprise.
   * Define factors that lead entrepreneurs to make judgments distinguishing among ideas, inventions, and business opportunities, including knowledge sets, practices, behaviors, and attitudes that correlate with success.
   * Investigate differences in thinking, process, decision-making and action taken by engineers related to entrepreneurship and how does this potentially differ as it relates to other participants in scientific disciplines, liberal arts, communications, or other fields of studies.
2. **Business Networking Ecosystems**: 
   * Explore the components of a business ecosystem that strengthens the success of entrepreneurs.
   * Understand the role of entrepreneurs and innovators in the creation and sustaining of a business ecosystem in a region.
   * Investigate how one existing ecosystem may connect or link with other regions and the possible impact on operations, outcomes and efficiency.
   * Evaluate the impact of regional, state and national policy on the development and sustaining of business ecosystems.

1. **Interpersonal Skills and Success**.
   * Investigate the factors shaping entrepreneurial value propositions including the influence of market, funding, geographic and business model variables.
   * Explorations into the role of interpersonal communication skills’ influence on success in the process of commercializing new products or services, including the best ways to quantitatively assess skills and practices.
   * Develop an understanding of best practices regarding communication methods, persuasive approaches, and business development strategies that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of business deal discussions.
2. **Entrepreneurs and Organization Science**:
   * Develop an understanding as to how entrepreneurs create the internal structures and practice within their organizations to facilitate nimble business engagement in local and global markets.
   * Investigate the impact of culture and national history on these organizational structures and define what approaches correlate with entrepreneurial success.
   * Understand how gender, race, and ethnicity influence entrepreneurial success and the structure of entrepreneurial ventures.
3. **Incubation of Startup Companies:**
   * Explore models for company acceleration and incubation to define factors that contribute to the success of these entrepreneurial ventures.
   * Investigate the role of risk-based capital and funding models and the financial, geographic, temporal and relational factors impacting the support entrepreneurial company growth and regional economic growth.
   * Evaluate correlates for company success that link with liquidity to create an improved “best practices model” for company acceleration and incubation.
4. **Innovation Policy:**
   * Explore models to incentivize innovators to create solutions related to sustainability, whether in food, energy, water or other resources.
   * Explore policies that address economic growth, democracy and inequality, and the future of energy, transport, healthcare and education systems.
   * Investigate policies to direct innovation toward more socially desirable directions from inception.
   * Innovation policy that stimulates investment and provides direction throughout the entire value chain, from invention to innovation and diffusion.

**ABOUT THE IC2 INSTITUTE:** The IC2 Institute is focused on the study and practice of wealth creation and economic growth through technology entrepreneurship. The IC² Institute creates experiential learning courses and experiences from the latest research to improve entrepreneurial performance, build entrepreneurial capacity and physical infrastructure, and actively assist business growth locally and internationally. The IC² Institute 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. The IC² Institute desires to create deeper collaborations between UT-Austin faculty and IC² Institute researchers. The Institute runs the Austin Technology Incubator, which has a strong track record of business acceleration since its inception in 1989. In addition, the Global Commercialization Group provides worldwide reach with multi-year programs in more than 20 countries. Finally, the Bureau of Business Research provides applied economic analysis of key topics related to Texas and the world.

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**

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**Location of Research Period Covered**

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**Received Total direct costs awarded**

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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.