2019 Request for Proposals: Dean’s Collaborative Research Award

Cutting-edge discoveries that lead to new areas of research often happen at the interface between fields of inquiry. The Dean’s Collaborative Research (DECOR) program is intended to catalyze novel and risky research proposals. Applicants for a DECOR award should be faculty collaborators who have seemingly disparate areas of research expertise. The proposers must describe in clear and compelling terms the breakthroughs possible from this research. Proposals from collaborators who are not in the same department are highly encouraged.

Successful proposals will be those in which:
- **pairs** of faculty apply for the funding
- the faculty collaboration is **new**
- student guidance and mentoring is provided by **both faculty**. At least one of the faculty applicants must be a faculty member in a department in the College of Engineering.

Awardees will receive one-year of financial support for one graduate student researcher. The student must be enrolled in a graduate group/program administered by the College of Engineering.

Proposals for the DECOR program should include the following items:
1. Description of the research problem to be addressed. Particular emphasis on the novelty and risks of the research to be performed must be included.
2. Research objectives, plan and timeline
3. Student co-mentoring and advising plan and roles of each faculty member
4. Summary of current and/or expected federal, state and private funding opportunities that would sustain the research collaboration
5. Literature cited
6. Biosketch (maximum of two pages) and current and pending support for each faculty member

Items 1-4 should not exceed three (3) pages of 11-point font text. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file to Alin Wakefield (amwakefield@ucdavis.edu) by April 11, 2019.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Research & Library Committee in the College of Engineering and Dean Curtis. Emphasis will be placed on how closely the proposal meets the following evaluation criteria:
- Extent that the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts
- Importance of the proposed research in advancing knowledge/understanding within its field or across fields and benefits of the proposed research to society
- The need for the proposed collaboration to address the research problem
- The organization and feasibility of the research plan and likelihood for strengthening the collaboration between faculty
- The quality of advising and mentoring activities
- The qualifications and appropriateness of the team to conduct the project
- The potential for acquisition of additional funding support

Support equivalent to one full year of graduate student researcher step 3 (9 academic months at 49% and 3 summer months at 100%) will be provided directly to the faculty awardees. The total amount will be divided evenly to each faculty member for them to each contribute to supporting the graduate student. Funds can be expended over a two-year period starting from the date of the award letter. The student must be enrolled as a full-time graduate student in an engineering graduate program/group and be in good academic standing to receive support. Each faculty member is limited to one proposal per funding cycle.