

2008-2011
Bowling Green State University
Research Enhancement Initiative: Round 2

Purpose:

The *Research Enhancement Initiative* (REI) is both a tool to assist the university in determining future directions of a limited number of research focused areas and an opportunity to use indirect cost recovery dollars to enhance our research environment.

The purpose of this initiative is to: a) assess present research assets, b) develop criteria for research enhancement that align with the mission of the University, State of Ohio, and federal initiatives, c) select a limited number of specific research clusters for enhancement, d) determine investment strategies that produce external funds, and e) set specific outcomes and expectations relative to external funds for each of the selected research clusters.

Process:

To begin the selection process, all research areas with a critical mass of faculty and excellent prospects for external funds are invited to submit a white paper which may not exceed two pages single-spaced. Clusters previously selected for investment are eligible to submit for this second round of support. These white papers should briefly describe the research area, the current state of the research cluster, and provide a description of the cluster after a three-year REI investment. A Research Enhancement Initiative Review Committee will be appointed by the Provost. This committee will evaluate the white papers and recommend which research clusters should be invited to submit a full proposal. Each full proposal will address in detail each of the *Evaluation Criteria* outlined below. The Committee will review the full proposals and in priority order make recommendations to the Vice Provost for Research.

Timeline for REI: Round 2

- i. September 29, 2008 - Two page white papers submitted.
- ii. October 13, 2008 - Invitations for full proposals issued.
- iii. November 24, 2008 - Full proposals submitted.
- iv. January 2009 - Recommendations for the selection of the 2008-2009 Research Clusters made.
- v. The Vice Provost for Research will receive these recommendations and after consultation with the Provost, a three-year investment plan will be determined.
- vi. Second- and third-year investments will be approved only after an annual review of the accomplishments for each research cluster.

Research Clusters:

Since significant expansion of the institutional research capacity is a goal of this initiative, the review and recommendation process must assure that the selected research clusters are capable of conducting nationally and internationally recognized research that will result in external funding. Research clusters will consist of one focused core research area supported by an interdisciplinary cluster of faculty that enhances the research capacity of the core. Research clusters may or may not contain existing or proposed interdisciplinary centers/institutes; however, they must address the research areas that align with the state and federal initiatives.

Investment Strategy:

Primary emphasis will be placed upon the ability of each research cluster to produce significant additional external funding in order to elevate the research environment and productivity of the faculty. The REI investment funds will be designated for research personnel and other research infrastructure needs such as two-year Research Professor Series appointments; post-docs; technicians; research equipment matching funds; non-routine research supplies; setting up inter-institutional research consortia; hosting international conferences that serve as planning sessions for collaborative research proposals to federal agencies, etc. Therefore, each white paper should briefly address the type of investment required for the research cluster. The full proposals should clearly outline an investment strategy and the commensurate projected outcomes.

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RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE: ROUND 2
Full proposal and evaluation criteria

Title of Research Cluster/Focused Activity: _____

1. **Description of research area and its significance.**
2. **List of all research faculty actively engaged in this research program.**
 - a. total number of faculty actively engaged in funded research activity
 - b. current ranks
 - c. academic training
 - d. relevant publications for the last 5 years
 - e. all grant/contract submissions and awards (include all co-investigators, agency names, amount of request/award, number of years of funding)
 - f. level of teaching responsibility (% time teaching)
 - g. level of released-time for research (% time researching)
 - h. number and level of graduate students in research group
 - i. invited research presentations
 - j. number of patents/disclosures/copyrights
 - k. research collaborations with universities, laboratories, centers
 - l. service outside BGSU on national/international boards/committees
 - m. recipient of federal earmark(s)
 - n. evidence of leadership capabilities
3. **External Support.**
 - a. List of current grants related specifically to this research program
 - b. Contributions to State Initiatives either currently or future plans (if not, what initiatives are addressed?)
 - c. Evidence of the research program's specific collaborations with the following:
 - federal laboratories
 - national centers
 - other colleges and universities
 - other appropriate organizations
4. **Prospects for increased external funding.**
 - a. Alignment with national and state S&T initiatives (federal roadmaps) as stated by federal agencies
 - b. Alignment with industrial needs with real evidence of industrial interest

- c. Indication of how research investment will leverage additional external funding
- 5. Describe existing research environment.**
- a. space
 - b. equipment
 - c. post-doc associates, technicians, research professors
 - d. graduate students and undergraduate students
- 6. Describe investment needed to move to the next level of excellence.**
- 7. Estimate of annual investment cost and justification.**
- a. \$25,000-\$50,000
 - b. \$50,001-\$100,000
 - c. \$100,001-\$500,000
- 8. Evidence that the research program is part of the college/department strategy to enhance specific research activity.**

Dean or Deans demonstrated commitment and/or interest in building this research cluster