CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: TIFF AWARD

Fall 2018 Call for PI’s.

The Trifecta Initiative Facilitating Funds Award: 2018-2019

The Trifecta Initiative seeks to support federal grant applications authored by faculty in the colleges of Communication Arts & Sciences, Engineering, and Nursing at MSU. The Trifecta Initiative Facilitating Funds Award is designed to provide investigators with additional support and resources to enhance/finalize their federal grant submissions.

Purpose of the Trifecta Initiative

The Colleges of Communication Arts & Sciences, Engineering, and Nursing at Michigan State University have joined forces to create the Trifecta Initiative—a winning partnership of three innovative colleges. With support and investment from all three colleges, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Trifecta is a launch-pad for interdisciplinary development of innovative computing and communication technologies to improve healthcare and address health disparities.

Facilitating Funds Award

The purpose of the Facilitating Funds Award is not to simply fund small studies or pilot projects. Instead, the goal is to facilitate the finalizing of a federally funded NIH/NSF grant ideas and proposals that are already in the planning stage (e.g., a team is identified; preliminary work has begun; components of the federal application like the Specific Aims page are partially developed). For this academic year, support for up to six projects—with up to two from each of the three Trifecta Initiative colleges—may be awarded. Each team may request up to $5000 in facilitating funds. In addition, funding will be available to each awarded team to support at least one registration (with more potentially available) for the day-long grantsmanship workshop sponsored by Vice President Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies (“Write Winning Grant Proposals”) in January of 2019.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for the Trifecta Facilitating Funds Award, the following criteria must be met:

- The submitting faculty (Principal Investigator) must be from one of the three Trifecta Initiative colleges. The PI must also be the PI on the planned federal proposal. A submission by a PI who is a lead co-investigator of a portion of a federal proposal (e.g., a subcontract) may be considered if justification is shown.

- At least one co-investigator in the larger federal proposal must have a primary academic home in one of the other two Trifecta Initiative colleges. Other co-investigators (including students) from non-Trifecta Initiative colleges may be listed as part of the proposal.

- The PI must submit quarterly updates to the Trifecta Initiative Director (or designee) about progress of the federal proposal and the project generally.

- The federal proposal must have a submission date no later than June 2019.

- The team must utilize at least one VPRGS resource (e.g., writing consultants, grant Workshops and Events) during the proposal development. This is in addition to the “Write Winning Grant Proposals” that will be provided to the funded teams from the first submission. (Potential resources are available at: https://vprgs.msu.edu/proposal-prep).

- Any presentations and publications that result from these support funds must include the following label: “Support for this project was in part provided by the Trifecta Initiative Interdisciplinary Health Research at MSU.”
Application Procedure

The Trifecta Facilitating Funds Award application was designed to be a step in the started federal application. Therefore, the application described below contains abbreviated components of standard NIH/NSF proposals (e.g., 150-word Project Narrative). If a federal application has been started, these components may be just summaries of what has already been composed.

To apply, please submit the Facilitating Funds Award template as one PDF document to trifecta@msu.edu. The filename should be as follows: “[PI last name] - TIFF Award 2018-19.pdf”. The application must contain the following parts:

- **Page 1:** The Cover Page should include the following: (1) the title of the larger planned federal proposal; (2) The Principle Investigator, including primary and secondary affiliations; (2) all co-investigators, including affiliations, with 1-2 sentences describing each investigator’s contribution to the larger planned proposal; (3) RFA or other program announcement the larger application is responding to, the program officer associated with the planned submission, and deadline for application submission; (4) a Project Narrative (<150 words) for the larger project.

- **Page 2:** This section should be the most recent draft of the larger proposal’s Specific Aims page and must match formatting guidelines of the federal mechanism.

- **Page 3:** This section should include (1) a brief description of the larger proposal’s Significance (70-word limit), Innovation (70-word limit), and Impact (70-word limit); and (2) a brief description (less than 500 words) of why these funds are needed to help finalize the larger application (e.g., student support to do analysis, travel to a conference to present data) and how these funds will increase your chances of a successful federal funding proposal.

- **Page 4:** This section is divided into 2 parts: (1) The top half of page should provide a summary timeline of the project up to the actual federal funding submission. It should include major events and milestones which must be completed (e.g. names and dates of conference to present data, when to talk to program officer, meeting with college pre-award budget personnel, VPRGS workshops, MSU internal approval); The bottom half of page should provide a short budget plan, with justification for why these expenses are necessary to prepare a federal grant submission. *Eligible expenses may include items such as:* support for graduate or undergraduate research assistants, statisticians, or other personnel needs; small supplies needed to conduct supporting pilot research; course releases; travel to a conference to present data; publication costs; travel for data collection; incentives for participants. Questions regarding eligible expenses can be directed to the Trifecta Initiative Director.

**Key Dates**

**Submission deadline:** Wednesday, October 31, 2018

**Announcement of awards:** Wednesday, November 14, 2018

If you are considering submitting a Facilitating Funds Award, please email Katie Lacey (lacyk@msu.edu) so that we can be on the lookout for it. I am also available to discuss your proposal.

To join our listserv, send an email to trifecta@msu.edu with your name, department affiliation, and preferred email address.

**Good luck!**

Eric Hunter, PhD
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