Request for Proposals
Provost’s Grants Program for Junior Faculty Who
Contribute to the Diversity Goals of the University
(Awards up to $25,000)
August 2016

Description

This small-grants program is designed to support Schools’ diversity plans, and to assist the University in meeting placement goals established in its Affirmative Action Programs, by advancing the career success of outstanding junior faculty, in disciplines where the availability of qualified minorities and women exceeds their representation on our faculty.

Applications will be accepted for:

- Support of new or ongoing research and scholarship
- Seed funding for innovative research for which external funding would be difficult to obtain
- Curricular development projects that focus on issues of diversity

Requests for proposals occur twice a year (fall/spring). The maximum award is $25,000.

Deans and Department Chairs should alert eligible faculty members about this RFP. Given the limited number of slots, Schools are strongly encouraged to develop a process for determining which junior faculty proposals will be prioritized and put forward in this round. Departments planning to nominate a junior faculty member should coordinate with their Dean. Proposals must be submitted with the support and sign-off by the School’s Dean.

Eligibility

Support is intended for untenured faculty in the early stages of their careers who have strong support from their Departments and who have demonstrated potential for long-term academic appointments. In most cases, this refers to tenure-track faculty members who are at least two years away from tenure review. Some Schools may choose to nominate clinical faculty or professors of practice, provided that these faculty members are in the early stages of their career, hold a full-time professorial appointment, have primary involvement in the conduct of original scholarship and research, and that their Departments are committed to their long-term development.

Candidates must belong to a group that is eligible for funding support (please consult with your school leadership for more information about eligibility). He or she should also have a commitment to diversity as demonstrated in their research, teaching, or mentoring activities. Please note that all eligibility tables have been updated—schools/departments must use the current tables to determine their eligibility for recruitment support.

NOTE: Faculty members who have previously received this award, or a grant from Columbia University’s Professional Schools Diversity Research Fellowships, are not eligible to apply.
Scope of Commitments and Budget

The Provost’s Office will provide up to $25,000 per successful junior faculty applicant. The typical project period will be 12 months, although projects lasting longer will be considered. The number of awards made will be contingent on the number and quality of proposals received, as well as the amount requested and allocated per proposal.

Funds may be used for purposes that directly support a junior faculty member’s new or ongoing research and scholarship, seed funding for innovative research for which external funding would be difficult to obtain, and/or curricular development projects that focus on issues of diversity. Budget items may include, but are not limited to, research assistance, computational resources, procurement of research materials, equipment, travel to scholarly meetings or to conduct research, and supplies. The funds may not be used as salary support for the applicant, support for an unpaid leave of absence, summer salary, or housing supplement. Provost’s Office funds should not be assessed administrative fees.

Application Requirements

The application package must include:
1) Completed cover page (see page 4 of RFP), with all the necessary signatures
2) Letter of support from the Dean (and Department Chair, if applicable) that includes the following (each section denoted with a separate header):
   - the qualifications, accomplishments, and future promise of the applicant
   - the School’s/Department’s long-term commitment to the applicant
   - how the proposed project will further the career goals of the applicant (e.g. progress toward tenure or promotion or generating additional funding from other sources)
   - how the applicant contributes to the diversity mission of the University/School/Department
   - the mentoring and support efforts the School/Department is undertaking to advance the applicant’s professional career development
   - the applicant’s commitment to diversity as demonstrated in their research, teaching, or mentoring activities
3) Applicant’s proposal (not to exceed 3 pages)
   - describing the planned project and anticipated outcomes
   - describing how the project will further the career goals of the applicant
   - NOTE: The proposal should be written in such a way that it is understandable to an interdisciplinary review panel
4) Budget and budget narrative, to include explanation of why central funds, as opposed to School, Departmental, or external funds, are needed for the planned activity (see page 5 of RFP)
5) Applicant’s curriculum vitae

NOTE: The entire application must be submitted as one PDF file, in the order of the application requirements noted above.
Selection Criteria

A committee will review the applications and make recommendations to the Provost. Attention will be given to supporting applicants from Schools where the need to enhance diversity is most acute. Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Scholarly excellence of the applicant
- Quality of the proposed project
- Potential for this award to have a notable impact on a candidate’s career success
- Potential for the proposed work to contribute to the diversity mission of the University, by advancing the career success of a faculty member in a department where the composition of the faculty is not reflective of the composition of the national pool of qualified applicants
- Mentoring and support efforts the School/Department is undertaking to advance the professional career development of the applicant

Reporting Requirements for Awardees

A report should be submitted to the Provost’s Office 12 months after the award is made. The report should include a summary of accomplishments (activities and outcomes); final budget report summarizing how funds were expended; and additional supporting materials (for example, publications, reports or conference presentations). Further details on reporting requirements will be provided at the time awards are made. Acceptance of the award indicates a willingness to be listed on our website and in other Columbia University publications. Departments and Schools are asked to inform the Provost’s Office of newsworthy announcements related to work supported by the Provost’s Grants Program for Junior Faculty.

Submission

Please submit the complete application to diversity-smallgrants@columbia.edu with the subject line “Application for Provost’s Grants Program for Junior Faculty” by October 28, 2016, with a copy to Dennis A. Mitchell (dmitchell@columbia.edu) and Adina Brooks (adina@columbia.edu).

Timeline

August 2016: Call for proposals
October 28, 2016: Deadline for submission of proposals
By early December: Notification

Contacts

Dennis A. Mitchell, DDS, MPH
Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion
dmitchell@columbia.edu
212-854-7161

Adina Brooks
Director for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion
adina@columbia.edu
212-854-7285
Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion

Request for Proposals for
Columbia University
Provost’s Grants Program For Junior Faculty
Who Contribute to the Diversity Goals of the University
(Awards up to $25,000)

Proposal Cover Page

Applying Academic Unit
School:
Department/Division (if applicable):
Contact Name:
Contact Title:
Email:
Phone:

Applicant
Name:
Title:
Department/Division (if applicable):
Email:
Phone:

Anticipated Tenure Review Date (Month / Year):

Proposed Project
Title:
Total Amount of Funds Requested:

Application Checklist

NOTE: The entire application must be submitted as one PDF file, in the order of the application requirements noted above.

- Cover page with all the necessary signatures
- Letter of support from the Dean (and Department Chair, if applicable) that includes the following (each section denoted with a separate header):
  - the qualifications, accomplishments, and future promise of the applicant
  - the School’s/Department’s long-term commitment to the applicant
  - how the proposed project will further the career goals of the applicant
  - how the applicant contributes to the diversity mission of the University/School/Department
  - the mentoring and support efforts the hiring unit is undertaking to advance the professional career development of the applicant
  - the applicant’s commitment to diversity as demonstrated in their research, teaching, or mentoring activities
- Applicant’s proposal (NOTE: The proposal should be written in such a way that it is understandable to an interdisciplinary review panel)
- Budget and budget narrative
- Applicant’s curriculum vitae

NAME/DEAN SIGNATURE DATE
NAME/DEPARTMENTCHAIR SIGNATURE DATE
Provost’s Grants Program For Junior Faculty
Who Contribute to the Diversity Goals of the University

Budget Request

Applicant Name: _____________________________________

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<tr>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel, including salary and fringe (research assistance)(^1)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies and materials</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Meetings and travel (airfare, hotel)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other costs (please specify)(^2)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 0.00</strong></td>
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</table>

\(^1\) The funds may not be used as salary support for the applicant, support for an unpaid leave of absence, summer salary, or housing supplement.

\(^2\) Provost’s Office funds should not be assessed administrative fees.