February 27, 2012

To: Faculty and Research Scientists/Fellows

From: Luis Cifuentes, AVP for Research & Scholarly Activity and Dean of Graduate Studies
Ron George, Research Development Officer

Subject: Texas Research Development and Research Enhancement Funds – Call for 2012-2013 Proposals

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the call for Texas Research Development Fund (TRDF) and Research Enhancement (RE) proposals. The primary objective of TRDF and RE funds is to increase grant proposal submission and research and scholarly production at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC). The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) administers these funds and has designed five programs to provide incentives for writing more proposals, to help faculty and research scientists/fellows write better and more successful proposals, to increase the presence of post-doctoral fellows on campus, to seed new and exciting research and scholarly activity that will lead to funding opportunities, and to seek new areas of interdisciplinary research funding.

Owing to a significant reduction in TRDF funding in the 2011-2013 biennium, there will be only one such call during this biennium. For most TRDF funded programs, moneys will be available on June 1, 2012. All program moneys must be expended by May 31, 2013. Both tenured and tenure-track faculty and research scientists/fellows are eligible for TRDF funding.

The university receives funding for the RE program through the State research enhancement program. The allocation for the 2011-2012 academic year was $110,000. We are planning for the same budget for the 2012-2013 time period; however, the funding program will be contingent upon budget allowance. University rule (15.01.01.C1.01, section 4.1) sets aside 40% of the funds to be awarded at the college level; the University Research Enhancement Committee awards the remaining 60% ($66,000).

Only tenured or tenure-track faculty members are eligible from RE grants. Faculty members may apply for both college level and university level grants, but the same or substantially the same proposal cannot be funded at both levels. An eligible faculty member may submit only one research proposal per year for consideration at the university level. In order to support the research efforts of as many faculty members as possible, faculty members who have been awarded a university level grant for the 2011-2012 academic year are not eligible to submit a proposal for university level funding in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Here are the five programs and their respective point of contact (POC):

1. TRDF new PI proposal submission incentive (Ron George, ron.george@tamucc.edu)
2. TRDF proposal resubmission incentive (Ron George, ron.george@tamucc.edu)
3. TRDF post-doctoral support (Luis Cifuentes, luis.cifuentes@tamucc.edu)
4. TRDF program development funding (Linda Villarreal, linda.villarreal@tamucc.edu)
5. Research Enhancement Program funding (Linda Villarreal, linda.villarreal@tamucc.edu)

The first two programs do not require a proposal. The last three programs require a notice of intent (NOI) and proposal (see below).
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (POC: Ron George)

Available funds: $25,000
Number of awards: 20
NOI or proposal not required

The objective of this program is to encourage faculty and research scientists/fellows who have not submitted a proposal from TAMU-CC since September 1, 2010, to write and submit a proposal. Faculty and research scientists/fellows who submit a proposal between March 1, 2012, and February 28, 2013, will be awarded $1,250. The proposal must be for more than $5,000, and the sponsor must be identifiable by the In4Grants search engine (see Ron George for more information). The funds can be used by the faculty and research scientists/fellows for “research-related” expenditures; for example, travel to a workshop or conference (international travel is not allowed), or supporting a student-worker to assist with research and scholarship. These funds will be allotted in a first-come, first-served basis.

PROPOSAL RESUBMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (POC: Ron George)

Available funds: $25,000
Number of awards: 10
NOI or proposal not required

The objective of this program is to encourage faculty and research scientists/fellows to resubmit a proposal rejected within that last 18 months. This program will provide $2,500 to support activities leading to a stronger resubmission. Those eligible for the program are faculty and research scientists/fellows who have recently been denied an external grant proposal of at least $100,000, with a strong possibility of funding if resubmitted to the same agency. Under special circumstances, we will consider proposals of less than $100,000. Requests for these funds should be combined with appropriate support from department heads and deans. The PI must meet with Ron George to create a plan for revision that meets a submission deadline of July 15, 2013. Only expenses that directly impact the development of an improved resubmission will be considered, such as professional grant writers, travel to meet with program managers, or salary for the assistance of a graduate student. These funds will be allotted in a first-come, first-served basis.

POST-DOCTORAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (POC: Luis Cifuentes)

Available funds: $100,000
Number of awards: 4

NOI due by email: COB, Monday March 12
Full proposal due: COB, Monday April 16, 2012
Awards announced: May 14, 2012
Award period: June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013

The objective of this call for proposals is to increase the number of post-doctoral fellows on the TAMU-CC campus. The program will support up to three post-docs at a level of $25,000 each; these moneys can be used only for salary. As such, this requires that the faculty or research scientists/fellows writing the proposal have secured additional funds required to fully fund a post-doc for the award period. The requirements of this program are that the funded post-doc teach one three-credit course either in fall 2012 or in spring 2013. In turn, the post-
doc will also be required to work with Ron George and be actively involved in the preparation of a new proposal submission.

This call requires a NOI and full proposal; both must be submitted electronically. The NOI should include PI information and a brief statement indicating existing funding, and name of the individual who will receive the program salary. Full proposals must present a plan of action for timely submission to a federal or state agency, or to a foundation. The inclusion of the RFP will not count against page limitation. These projects will be funded at $25,000, no more, no less. Key points relevant to this call, evaluation mechanism, evaluation criteria and checklist are found below. Interested faculty and research scientists/fellows who are able to leverage existing post-doc salary should contact Luis Cifuentes as soon as possible.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM (POC: Linda Villarreal)

Available funds: $250,000
Number of awards: 10

NOI due by email: COB, Monday March 12
Full proposal due: COB, Monday April 16, 2012
Awards announced: May 14, 2012
Award period: June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013

The objective of this call for proposals is to provide faculty and research scientists/fellows members with funding to conduct preliminary research or scholarship that allows the PI to move into a new area of research and scholarship, particularly one that involves interdisciplinary research. The proposal must have a clearly stated plan for later submission of a proposal to a federal or state agency, or to a foundation that funds that area of research and scholarship. This call requires a letter of intent (NOI) and full proposal and both must be submitted electronically. The NOI should include PI information and a brief statement of work. These projects will be funded at $25,000, no more, no less. Key points relevant to this call, evaluation mechanism, evaluation criteria and checklist are found below. Support of graduate students in strongly encouraged.

RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT FUNDING PROGRAM (POC: Linda Villarreal)

Available funds: $60,000
Number of awards: 12

NOI due by email: COB, Monday March 12
Full proposal due: COB, Monday April 16, 2012
Awards announced: May 14, 2012
Award period: September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013

The objective of this call for proposals is to provide faculty and research scientists/fellows members with seed funding to jump-start research programs that have a clearly stated plan for later submission of a proposal to a federal or state agency or to a foundation. This call requires a NOI and full proposal; both must be submitted electronically. The NOI should include PI information and a brief statement of work. Full proposals must present a plan of action for timely submission to a federal or state agency, or to a foundation. The inclusion of the RFP will not count against page limitation. These projects will be funded at $5,000, no more, no less. Key points relevant to this call, evaluation mechanism, evaluation criteria and checklist are found below. Student support is strongly encouraged.
KEY POINTS RELEVANT TO THIS AWARD PROGRAM ARE:

1. Go to [http://research.tamucc.edu/fr/forms.html](http://research.tamucc.edu/fr/forms.html) for forms and information needed to prepare both TRDF and RE proposals.
2. All regular faculty and research scientists/fellows are encouraged to apply for TRDF funds.
3. Only tenured or tenure-track faculty can apply for RE funds.
4. TRDF or Research Enhancement funding will not provide funding for projects that are currently or have been recently supported.
5. Travel will normally be limited to travel necessary to conduct the research. International travel is not allowed with these funds.
6. An internally selected panel of RGS staff and selected associate deans from the colleges will review TRDF proposals; primary evaluation criteria are found below.
7. The University Research Enhancement Committee will review RE proposals. The University Research Enhancement Committee consists of two representatives elected by each of the colleges to serve for two years with staggered terms. The Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarly Activity chairs the University Research Enhancement Committee, serves as a non-voting member and provides administrative support to the Research Enhancement Program. Primary evaluation criteria are found below.

PRIMARY EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Clarity of proposal
2. Research merit
3. Potential for submitting research proposal to federal or other agency within 1.5 years
4. Qualifications of PI
5. Appropriateness of budget