

## Seeding Excellence: OVPR DEI Team Awards FY22/23 Request for Proposals

The Research Development Office (RDO) within the University of Iowa Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) seeks proposals for one-year OVPR diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) team awards. These awards are intended to support disciplinary teams consisting of multiple investigators working with a collection of undergraduates. Research teams will be awarded up to \$25k to introduce traditionally marginalized groups to research, build community among students and the investigators, and enhance retention of diverse students within their fields of study. The OVPR DEI Team Awards goals are to engage these students in mentored research and training experiences that prepare them to excel as next generation researchers and scholars. In FY22, it is anticipated that there will be up to 4 OVPR DEI Team Awards funded through the Seeding Excellence Initiative (SEI).

### Seeding Excellence Initiative – OVPR DEI Team Awards

SEI, a two-year initiative, aims to sustain the continued growth of the campus research enterprise by providing competitive pilot funding in four strategic areas. OVPR DEI Team Awards, one of SEI's four strategic areas, will invest in the success of the UI's faculty and students, with a preference for students from traditionally marginalized groups. SEI is made possible through funding to RDO from the [public-private partnership](#) (P3) Year 1 funding cycle.

### OVPR DEI Team Awards Overview

OVPR DEI Team Awards aim to provide inclusive research and scholarship experiences that attract and retain diverse student scholars, which in turn, diversifies the University research enterprise. PIs must design experiences that provide high quality interactions between faculty, staff, and students based around a unifying area of research. These experiences should promote unique student research and learning opportunities. This tailored experience will build skills that support the student's academic and career aspirations.

#### *Investigators*

- Applications must identify a small team of researchers (three to six) to lead the effort.
- Applications should have a common, unifying, theme of disciplinary research.

#### *Undergraduate Students*

- Applications must identify or include a plan to recruit a small team of three to six undergraduate researchers.
- Requests may be for summer and/or academic year research experiences.
- Preference will be given to students from underrepresented or underserved populations.

#### *Student Professional Development and Mentoring*

- Participate in research and scholarly activities.
- Participate in regular lab or other meetings, journal clubs, or skill-based workshops.
- Consistent, quality, interactions between individual investigators and the students they mentor.
- Occasional group meetings of all investigators and students.
- Mentoring on graduate and professional opportunities.
- Disseminating results via presentations and/or conferences.

### Eligible Investigators

- Investigators (University of Iowa faculty and staff) with an established research program are eligible to apply for an OVPR DEI Team Award.
- Only one application may be submitted by any team member this cycle.

### Eligible Student Candidates

Student researchers must be current degree-seeking UI undergraduates, with a preference for those who meet NIH's definition of [underrepresented populations](#) as described below, or identify as LGBTQ.

- a) Racial and ethnic groups: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders
- b) Individuals with disabilities
- c) Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (meet two or more criteria)
  - i) Were or currently are homeless
  - ii) Were or currently in the foster care system
  - iii) Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program for two or more years
  - iv) Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree
  - v) Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants
  - vi) Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children as a parent or child
  - vii) Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a US rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration [Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#), or b) [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas](#). Only one of the two possibilities in this category can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition
- d) Women from the above backgrounds (categories i, ii, iii)

### Required Award Outcomes

- Students gain a full understanding of research from developing questions to sharing results.
- Advancement of students toward achieving academic and career ambitions.
- It is anticipated that these efforts lead to future NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (or similar programs) proposals.

### Budget

This program provides up to \$25,000 in direct costs for a one-year period.

- Student stipends/wages/fringe are the predominant expense (at least 75%).
- Supplies for conduct of research and scholarship (not more than 25% of total budget).
- Travel is allowed if it directly relates to the conduct of research or for the students to present results at conferences.
- Faculty and staff salary is not allowed.
- Expenditures over budget are the responsibility of the awardee's home department.

### Proposal Guidelines

All documents should be Arial 11-point font and 1" margins.

- Executive Summary ( $\leq$ 250 words; non-technical abstract)
- Proposal Narrative ( $\leq$ 4.5 pages)

- Summary of unifying research theme ( $\leq 1/2$  page)
- Description of students' role in projects ( $\leq 1/2$  page per project)
  - What will the students do and what skills will they build?
  - Are the methods and overall approach viable?
  - How involved are the students in conducting research activities?
- Identification of student researchers ( $\leq 1$  page)
  - How are students identified for the project?
  - Identify any groups who will help recruit students.
- Career development and mentoring plan ( $\leq 1$  page)
  - What professional development and mentoring experiences will be provided in support of the student's academic and career aspirations?
  - With whom does the student interact with in meaningful ways?
  - What is the experience of the team in mentoring students?
  - How are diversity, equity and inclusion practices woven into the development and mentoring plan?
- Timeline of activities ( $\leq 1/2$  page)
  - Provide a timeline of anticipated activities and milestones.
- Budget Spreadsheet (use [budget template](#))
- Budget Justification ( $\leq 1$  page)
  - Line-item explanation of why the requested resources are needed.
- [NIH](#) or [NSF](#) biosketches for faculty team members.

### Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by representatives of OVPR using the following criteria:

- Approach
  - Are the data, methods, measures, and overall approach clearly articulated? Is there a clear plan for identifying students?
- Student Development
  - Will their knowledge and skills be enhanced by the experience? Does this prepare them to be successful in their chosen career path?
- Mentoring
  - Does the proposal articulate a mentoring plan that facilitates the students' career development? Do the students interact with other faculty, staff, or students?
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Do the mentors describe a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion? Are diversity, equity, and inclusion practices evident throughout the proposal and woven into the experience?

### Reporting Requirements

A final project report regarding the scholarly advances and a one-page, student-prepared outcomes report must be submitted through InfoReady by June 30, 2023. Further, brief ( $< 1$  page) annual reports for two years following the award are required, which will only ask about publications, presentations, and student follow-on education or workforce entry.

### P3 Symposium

Awardees of the SEI programs shall expect to participate in future P3 Symposiums, which will highlight the outcomes associated with the UI's P3 funding mechanism.

**Questions:** Contact Aaron Kline ([aaron-kline@uiowa.edu](mailto:aaron-kline@uiowa.edu), 319-335-4142)

Seeding Excellence: OVPR DEI Team Awards RFP  
Application Deadline: April 1, 2022  
Submission Portal: [OVPR DEI Team Awards](#)



Research Development  
Office

### **FY 22 Application Process and Timeline**

To apply, log in to the [OVPR DEI Team Awards](#) submission portal with your HawkID and password.  
Contact [brittany-ryan@uiowa.edu](mailto:brittany-ryan@uiowa.edu) or [cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu](mailto:cheryl-a-ridgeway@uiowa.edu) with submission portal questions.

<b>April 1, 2021</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>
<b>Week of April 11, 2021</b>	<b>Applicants Notified</b>
<b>June 1, 2022</b>	<b>Funds Available</b>
<b>June 30, 2023</b>	<b>Final Project Report Due</b>

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