2014 Request for Proposals

SSRI’s Education and Human Development Incubator (EHDi) seeks to nurture communities – internal and external to Duke – around the interconnecting aims of building an education and human development (EHD) data infrastructure, fostering cross-disciplinary communities and real-world engagement, and promoting, evaluating, and sharing innovative approaches to education and learning.

EHDi announces funding opportunities for new or existing faculty-led interdisciplinary teams to conduct research on education and on human development in its integral relationship to education. We are particularly interested in applied research—for example, background research that lays the groundwork for a particular program or approach, or research on developing, implementing, and/or evaluating specific program models or approaches—that responds to an identified need related to EHD. Successful proposals will combine the talents of interdisciplinary team members to advance the understanding of the interplay between education and human development. Priority will be given to proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria.

1. Emphasize applied research with the potential to inform policy or practice, including education-related program implementation and development.

2. Are submitted by interdisciplinary teams in which each member plays a clearly defined, integral part in the project.

3. Demonstrate innovative research methods, programs, or approaches to education and learning.

4. Aim to produce critical preliminary results likely to increase the odds of obtaining subsequent external funding.

5. Are submitted by Bass Connections EHD team leaders.

Proposals may be submitted for consideration at any time throughout the year (not later than December 31, 2014—see submission details below).

EHDi incorporates broad definitions of education and human development. “Education” includes all aspects of early care and education, K-12 schooling, and post-secondary education, and extends to learning outside the realm of formal education. “Human development” encompasses the full range of domains—mental and physical health; personal, social, and familial adjustment; economics; family income and employment; school adjustment and achievement; community factors; and the larger policy context—that influence children’s learning, educational experience, and outcomes.

Individual project awards will be up to $50,000, although awards will typically be smaller than this amount. EHDi welcomes proposals at any stage; both new and existing interdisciplinary collaborations are invited to apply. Project duration should be no more
than 12 months. We expect to fund several proposals over the year.

Projects must engage at least two faculty representing multiple fields or levels of analysis; proposals submitted by investigators from multiple schools within the University are encouraged. New or existing interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged to apply, as are research working groups that will connect faculty in new ways over an extended period.

Proposals will be reviewed based on the quality of the proposed research and incorporation of the criteria enumerated above.

Requirements

Eligible Applicants

The principal investigator must be a regular rank faculty member of Duke University (tenure track, PoP, or research professor); other team members may be non-regular rank at Duke or may be from institutions outside Duke, but funding will be restricted to Duke staff and expenses.

Budgets

The proposal budget can include supplies; salary support for research assistants, graduate students, and technicians; and other justifiable research expenses. Travel expenses are allowable only if essential to conducting the proposed research activities. Faculty salary and indirect costs are not allowable expenses. Applicants may apply for up to $50,000 for up to one year.

Application Content

Cover Page. Must include the following information:

• Proposal title
• Name, title, departmental affiliation, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of all proposed investigators
• Designation of a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator who will serve as the contact for this award

Abstract (250 words maximum)

Research plan (3-page maximum – single spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins all the way around). Must include the following:

• Statement of research objectives and their significance
• Work already completed related to the proposal, and any relevant preliminary results
• Description of the research team and research setting, including any external partnerships
• Description of the identified problem the research will address
• Proposed methods and plans for data analysis
• Potential for future grant support and any plans to obtain external funding
Appendix materials (1-page maximum each— single spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins all the way around). Must include the following:

- Research schedule and milestones
- Interdisciplinary nature of the project, including specific contributions from key researchers

Budget and justification (1 page maximum) in a spreadsheet

Curriculum vitae OR NSF/NIH biosketch including current grant support for each investigator (maximum 4 pages for each investigator)

Submission Format and Deadline

Please combine all required elements into a single pdf document and submit any time by December 31, 2014, via email to: Carol Ripple, Associate Director for Education Research and Engagement, SSRI, carol.ripple@duke.edu

Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc review committee consisting of faculty with expertise in pertinent fields. The reviewing committee’s goal is to identify proposals that represent high-quality scholarship submitted by investigators who will be part of a growing, interdisciplinary, and collaborative EHD community at Duke dedicated to identifying and implementing innovative approaches to education and learning. The review process will consider the:

1. significance and potential impact of the research program to inform EHD policy or practice;
2. scope of the interdisciplinary collaboration and relevance for the goals of the proposed research;
3. degree of innovation in research methods, programs, or approaches to education and learning; and
4. feasibility of the research project.

The review committee will not provide extensive written feedback on an application. Final selections will be made by the SSRI Director and Associate Director for Education Research and Engagement in consultation with the faculty review committee and other stakeholders.

Awards will be announced as proposals are reviewed with funding available immediately.

Inquiries

Please direct questions to: Carol Ripple, 919.613.9229, carol.ripple@duke.edu