



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of
Academic Affairs

Office of Academic Affairs

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Calls for Academic Year 2021-22 Provost's Strategic Investment Fund Proposals for "Collaboratories"

The Office of Academic Affairs, thanks to the collaboration of the Colleges, is pleased to announce that the Provost's Strategic Investment Fund has around \$300,000 to reinvest into strategic academic initiatives. A call for proposals for using these funds is now open, and we welcome funding requests of all sizes from teams of faculty, teams of units, and teams of colleges. These are one-time funds and should be treated accordingly.

UW has the intellectual resources and organizational nimbleness to convene scientific, cultural, technical, legal, socioeconomic, and historical investigations of grand transdisciplinary challenges. By drawing on interdisciplinary thinking and approaches, and UW's commitment to engagement and inclusiveness, we have the capacity to make crucial academic contributions in these vital areas and to serve as an important node for convening stakeholders.

Successful proposals for Collaboratories will:

- (1) draw from multi-disciplinary teams across multiple colleges and demonstrate how they will use design thinking to harness UW's existing human capital and institutional capacities to advance understanding of, and provide tangible solutions to, targeted problems.
- (2) provide undergraduate and graduate students with a platform for learning how to engage with societal challenges and how to translate knowledge into action.
- (3) where appropriate, incorporate deep and sustained two-way engagement with external communities and organizations, including Wyoming NGO's, nonprofits, businesses, governmental entities and international partners.

Areas of focus for this year's Collaboratories include:

- *Accelerating Rural Futures and Resilience – solutions that will help rural areas to survive and thrive in the coming years by tapping into their economic and cultural potential; leveraging local assets and amenities; and harnessing diverse, entrepreneurial, innovative, and multifaceted viewpoints and talents to envision and get to a prosperous future.*
- *Digital, Computation, and Data Acceleration - effective and innovative approaches to solving grand challenges of Wyoming and the region using computational and data science, AI, and big data*

Collaboratory Proposals should include:

- Clear connection to the focus areas above.

- A demonstration of the breadth and scope of impact on faculty, student or research success; community engagement; or fiscal return.
- Demonstrated opportunities for collaboration and scaling across campus and statewide, as appropriate.
- A demonstration of the sustainability of commitment.
- Clear delineation of the possibilities for transformation and innovation.
- A detailed budget and clear measures of success. Clearly indicate whether your budget and the project timeline are for AY 2021-22 only, or for two-three years.

Submit your proposals: Send your proposal by January 29, 2021 to provost@uwyo.edu, with cc your department/unit heads **and** your Deans and/or Executive Director.

Review of Proposals: The review committee will include the President, Provost, VP of Research and Economic Development, and faculty nominated by Faculty Senate and Deans Council.

Timeline:

- October 21, 2020 - Call for Collaboratories is released
- January 29, 2021 – Proposals due to provost@uwyo.edu with cc to your department/unit heads and your Deans and/or Executive Director
- February 29, 2021 – Collaboratories for AY 2021-22 announced