



## CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

### REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS

The Office of the Provost invites faculty to submit proposals for the establishment of “Centers of Excellence.” These Centers will be rooted in Seattle University’s (SU) mission, vision, and values, and will further one or more of its strategic goals. These inter-collegial and interdisciplinary centers will bring faculty together to address a common problem and address the needs of a variety of external stakeholders (e.g., federal and state funding agencies, corporations, foundations) by translating research/scholarship into specific outcomes such as technology transfer, education, outreach, etc. These centers will serve as catalysts for faculty scholarship/creative work, provide research opportunities for students, link faculty research and teaching, and have the potential to build a national and international reputation. The Centers will be established on existing SU faculty expertise and must be capable of garnering external funding.

**Process:** The Office of the Provost will use a two-step process to select the University’s first Center(s) of Excellence. The preliminary stage will focus primarily on design and concept of the Center. Promising preliminary proposals (no more than two or three proposals) will be selected to develop comprehensive business/implementation plans. From this second group of applicants, the first Center(s) of Excellence will be identified. The selected plan(s) will be supported with start-up funds and resources. Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee chaired by Dr. Nalini Iyer, Director of the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Projects.

#### **Guidelines for the Preliminary Proposal:**

The lead author of the proposal should be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member; full-time non tenure track faculty members on continuing appointments are welcome to be part of the team that puts forth a proposal.

Preliminary proposals should include information on the following:

1. Statement of Center’s vision, mission, and goals

2. Explanation of how the proposed Center expects to fulfill the following expectations:
  - Promotion of the university's mission, vision, and values
  - Promotion of interdisciplinary and inter-collegial research/scholarship
  - Potential to promote the national and international reputation of the university
  - Plans for financial sustainability, including identification of potential external funding sources. (Please include information regarding past funding or funding of similar initiatives by external agency.)
  
  - Building on existing SU faculty expertise
  - Promotion of undergraduate and/or graduate research opportunities
  - Outcomes for external stakeholders
3. Outline of Center implementation timelines, budget, and deliverables
4. Available resources, including department/college support, faculty expertise, equipment, facilities, etc.
5. Faculty CVs (abbreviated)

Proposals should be in at least 11-point font size with 1-inch margins and no more than 20 pages in length (including appendices).

**Timeline:**

December 1, 2011—Preliminary Proposals due in the Office of the Provost

February 1, 2012—Invitation to selected teams to develop detailed implementation plans

Please contact Dr. Nalini Iyer, Director ORSSP, if you have any questions.

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