The Ignition Grant Initiative (IGI)

The Ignition Grant Initiative (IGI) was created by the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research to fund new and innovative ideas that will lead to large research proposals in the foundation pillar areas of our strategic plan: Health and Medicine, Sustainable Energy, Financial Systems, Defense and Security and STEM Education. These proposals will integrate multi-disciplinary ideas and ignite teamwork and collaboration that is highlighted as one of our strategic priority: Through Collaboration, Impact.

IGI grants will be awarded in the amount of up to $20,000 each. The funds will provide the equivalent of one month of summer compensation for a faculty member to be used to develop a full proposal for a large funding opportunity of >$1,000,000. Teams can decide to split up a summer month of compensation among themselves and support students with the goal of creating one well-developed proposal by the end of summer 2016.

Large proposals may be aimed at NSF, ONR, NIH, DOD, DoE, or any other government agency, or non-profit/private organization. They can be either directly targeted at public agency calls, or can be targeted to known government needs. Systems-related proposals that advance SERC’s mission in any areas highlighted on SERC’s website (http://www.sercurc.org) will be supported by SERC funding. SERC proposals include, but are not limited to, the following areas: Trusted Systems, Transforming System Development via Modeling (concept of the Digital Thread) and Prototyping, exploring the design trade space with implicit consideration of system properties pertaining to resilience and flexibility and affordability, transforming the development of engineers with systems thinking and critical thinking, and bridging the gap between complexity science and the engineering of complex systems. Domain-specific proposals include areas such as: biomedical engineering, materials science, mechanical engineering, mathematical sciences, systems engineering, technology management, financial engineering, and the arts, among others. A list of potential calls for $1M+ proposals can be found online at: http://www.stevens.edu/osp/ACT.html.

A faculty member might, for example, use an IGI award to develop a large proposal for NSF over the next year, intended for submission to a solicitation with a deadline in Fall 2016 (at the latest). The grantee will have a completed proposal, ready for submission, in a timely manner in order to take advantage of the usual Pre-Award services and obtain informal peer review from colleagues. These steps, we anticipate, will increase each investigator’s chance of success.

How to Apply

Each individual or team should complete and submit the attached Quad Chart, a brief budget using the attached budget template, and a two-page White Paper describing the vision and technical approach, including references to past relevant work by Friday, July 31, 2015. All materials related to this solicitation can be found on the ACT webpage - http://www.stevens.edu/osp/ACT.html.

Please take special note that if you anticipate that your project will involve any export controlled technology or materials, this should be reported and described in the attached Quad Chart. For information about export controls, please see the following webpage – http://www.stevens.edu/osp/export/index.html.

Applications should be sent to: IgnitionGrants@stevens.edu
Administrative questions should be directed to Jessica Adamo: jadamo@stevens.edu
Technical questions should be directed to your School or College’s ACT members (see the ACT webpage link above)

The Award Capture Team (ACT) will review all applications as they are submitted and will announce the grant recipients by Friday, August 14, 2015. The team will evaluate the proposals on several criteria, including clarity of vision, the intellectual merit, the past performance of the investigator(s), the strategic impact for Stevens, and the potential societal impacts.

Ignition Grant funds are for reimbursement of approved research expenses described in your budget and must be managed in accordance with standard Stevens policies, including documentation of expenditures.

Some of the expenses that will not be covered through this program are journal, book or membership expenses, travel costs not included in the approved budget, purchase of computers or other equipment, and purchase of routine office supplies. Materials for pilot experiments may be included.

IGI recipients will submit the completed proposal and give a 20-minute presentation to the Award Capture Team no later than one full month after the submission of the $1M+ proposal.