



SPRING 2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

VentureWell awards faculty grants to colleges and universities for the purpose of strengthening existing curricular programs and/or building new courses and programs in invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Through these grant funds, VentureWell supports educational courses or programs at the intersection of invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship that lead to the creation and support of student teams working on technology solutions to real-world problems. Focus areas include, but are not limited to:

- General (technology-based) entrepreneurship
- New materials
- Clean tech/renewable energy innovation
- Technologies that address poverty alleviation and basic human needs (including, but not limited to water, sanitation, healthcare, energy, agriculture, shelter)
- Tech-based entrepreneurship led by women and other underrepresented populations
- Biomedical and healthcare innovation

For this special Spring 2017 opportunity, VentureWell is seeking proposals with innovative ideas related to the development of courses/programs or strengthening existing courses/programs in two focus areas:

Focus 1: Innovation and invention education for the first year student (planning grants):

A multi step process to develop courses/programs for early stage inventor and innovator education with a particular emphasis on first year student experiences.

Focus 2: Faculty fellowship for student venture development (faculty enrichment grants):

For courses/programs that lead to the formation of advanced student teams who can apply to directly to Stage 2 of VentureWell's E-Team program.

Please note: For this Spring 2017 cycle, VentureWell is currently accepting proposals for ONLY these two topic areas. If you would like to submit a proposal on another topic, please submit to the Fall 2017 cycle (deadline November 8).

FOCUS 1: Innovation and invention education for the first year student

Phase 1: 10 Planning Grants of \$5,000 w/ Planning Workshop

Research shows that all too often, undergraduate students are not exposed to innovation and entrepreneurship until their final year, in a capstone design class, for example. We can better prepare students for these culminating experiences and increase the pipeline of student innovators through early exposure to innovation and invention education.

We are seeking proposals for planning grants from institutions that share our goal of integrating innovation and entrepreneurship across the entire first year experience. Strategies might include the integration of innovation and entrepreneurship into new student orientation, first year design courses or introductory engineering classes.

Up to 10 institutions will be selected to receive a planning grant of \$5,000. Teams of 2 or more faculty from each institution will then attend a day-long planning workshop that will (1) expose them to best practices for integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience and (2) will engage them in an agile approach to strategic planning.

Teams can then use their plan as the basis of a full Faculty Grant proposal to be submitted in the Fall 2017 grant round (deadline November 8, 2017). Even if they decide not to apply or are not funded, teams will still have a plan they can execute on!

A note about the second round of funding: This second round of funding is only available to those schools that receive a Phase 1 planning grant and attend the planning workshop. Up to four grants of \$30,000 will be awarded.

WHO MAY APPLY

Faculty Grants are awarded to US-based colleges and universities. Faculty and staff from VentureWell-member colleges and universities are eligible to apply. Proposals may include non-member partners from education, nonprofits, industry, NGOs, governments and/or the investment community, etc. If you have questions about the status of your institution's VentureWell membership, please head here: <https://venturewell.org/venturewell-member-list/>

TIMELINE

May 24, 2017: Submission deadline (absolutely no extensions will be allowed)

By June 30, 2017: Funding decisions and notifications made

August 2017: Phase 1 funds disbursed and planning workshop

August 15, 2017: Fall Phase 2 Faculty Grant RFP opens

November 8, 2017: Fall Faculty Grant submission deadline

Within 90 days of deadline date: Funding decisions and notifications made

Early 2018: Phase 2 funds disbursed

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted using VentureWell's online tool. Anyone on the team may serve as the applicant. ALL proposal deadlines end at 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the specified due date. To start, you'll need to have a VentureWell account. Creating an account is easy, and anyone can do it. To access an existing account or to create a new one, [click here](#). You may start, save, stop, and return to your online proposal at anytime before submitting.

Successful grant proposals include these elements:

Primary Criteria

- A focus on technology entrepreneurship.
- Experiential learning by doing, and creative pedagogical approaches to solving real world problems.
- A supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem for the most promising student teams to pursue projects beyond the proposed course/program.
- A plan for continuation (and financial sustainability) of the course or program post-VentureWell funding.

Secondary Criteria

- The formation of student teams focused on technology invention, innovation and entrepreneurship with a positive social/environmental impact.
- If the program focus is outside the campus community or outside the US, a local partner that allows students to engage with that community must be identified.

VentureWell welcomes proposals that are multidisciplinary in nature (this is not required as we understand that each campus is different).

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS: Please combine the following proposal components into a single PDF:

1. Title page. Title of your proposal and Principal Investigators
2. Narrative. In three pages maximum please describe:
 - a. Why it is important to you and your institution to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience.
 - b. I&E experiences currently available (if any) to first year students.
 - c. Your proposed approach e.g. new student orientation, design classes etc.
 - d. What are your outcomes and how you propose to measure them

VERIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

VentureWell requires proof of institutional support of your proposal. The following institutional representatives must verify their support of your proposal by responding to an automated email

request from the grants system and entering their initials online. (This process is triggered within the online proposal process). Faculty grant proposals CANNOT be submitted until these required advisors have verified their support. If you have any questions or concerns about this sign-off process, please contact us.

Principal Investigator (PI) The Principal Investigator takes primary responsibility for the proposal and will have overall responsibility for the grant and reporting. Ideally, a tenured or tenure-track faculty and/or staff member serves as the Principal Investigator. Co-PIs are allowed, but one lead PI must be identified. Students may not serve as Principal Investigators.

Administrative Contact (AC) VentureWell defines the Administrative Contact as a grants administrator or fiscal officer authorized to commit the institution to the terms of the grant. Often, the AC is someone in your institution's Office of Sponsored Programs/Research or an administrator able to manage grant funding within a department or school. Principal Investigators, other faculty, and students may not serve as the AC. Applicants should contact their Office of Sponsored Research or the equivalent well ahead of the grant deadline to inform them their intention to submit a proposal. Most universities require a full proposal for administrative review and approval before it can be submitted to VentureWell.

Department Chair (DC) The Department Chair (or equivalent) will need to indicate his/her awareness of and support for your proposal as a demonstration of institutional commitment to the proposal.

Dean of Faculty (DF) The Dean of Faculty (or equivalent) will need to indicate his/her awareness of and support for your proposal as a demonstration of institutional commitment to the proposal.

Review and Notification Process: Proposals will be reviewed by a group of external reviewers against structured criteria. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals at the end of June. If your proposal is successful, you and team comprised of at least 2 people, will agree to participate in a planning workshop in August to (1) learn about best practices for integrating innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience and (2) develop a plan for the integration of innovation.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions feel free to contact Patricia Boynton, Grants Manager, 413-587-2172 x115 or grants@venturewell.org.

Phase 2: 4 Implementation Grants of up to \$30,000 (DEADLINE November 8)

As recipients of planning grants for the integration of innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience, you are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$30,000 to implement your plan for the Fall 2017 Faculty Grant round.

In order to apply, please provide a copy of your plan. Given the breadth of your plans and goals, as part of this proposal we also require you to list the team that will help you execute on this plan, along with an explanation of why the team members listed were chosen. We require the participation of teams of at least 4 people and are ideally seeking engagement of team members from across the campus i.e. from across different disciplines as well as administrators and staff members that might be critical to implementation.

If your proposal is successful, you and your team, will commit to meet online, periodically, to provide updates on the execution of your plan and receive guidance from your peers. We will celebrate and disseminate your outcomes through a white paper and social media, as well by having you lead a webinar and a session at Open showcasing your best practices.

WHO MAY APPLY

This invitation-only opportunity is open to institutions that received a Spring 2017 planning grant to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience.

Timeline

August 15, 2017: Fall Faculty Grant RFP opens

November 8, 2017 Fall Faculty Grant submission deadline

Within 90 days of deadline date: Funding decisions and notifications made

Early 2018: Phase 2 funds disbursed

HOW TO APPLY

Please combine all proposal components into a single PDF and submit it by email to grants@venturewell.org by 11:59 pm ET on the deadline date.

You will not be required to obtain verifications of support again from an Administrative Contact and Dean of Faculty; however, please let us know if any of these people have changed since your Phase 1 submission.

Successful grant proposals include these elements:

Primary Criteria

- A focus on technology entrepreneurship.
- Experiential learning by doing, and creative pedagogical approaches to solving real world problems.

- A supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem for the most promising student teams to pursue projects beyond the proposed course/program.
- A plan for continuation (and financial sustainability) of the course or program post-VentureWell funding.

Secondary Criteria

- The formation of student teams focused on technology invention, innovation and entrepreneurship with a positive social/environmental impact.
- If the program focus is outside the campus community or outside the US, a local partner that allows students to engage with that community must be identified.

VentureWell welcomes proposals that are multidisciplinary in nature (this is not required as we understand that each campus is different).

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS: Please combine all proposal components into a single PDF: Title page. Title of your proposal, Principal Investigators and additional team members (teams of at least 4 are required, including PIs)

1. Narrative. In five pages maximum please describe:
 - a. Your Phase 1 plan to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into the first year experience
 - b. Your team members and why they were chosen to assist you with this process
 - c. Additional stakeholders you plan to engage in the process.
 - d. Perceived barriers, and levers you might use to overcome them
 - e. How you propose to measure your outcomes
2. Budget for up to \$30,000. See Faculty Grant Guidelines for budget template and list of eligible and ineligible expenses.
3. Resumes of PI and additional team members
4. Letter(s) of Support. Letters of support should demonstrate to reviewers that there is ongoing institutional support for your project and/or technical competence and market opportunity in the proposed work. Letters can also serve to verify partnerships discussed in your proposal narrative or verify additional funding to complement the proposed budget.

Review and Notification Process: Proposals will be reviewed by a group of external reviewers against structured criteria. Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals within 90 days of the deadline. If your proposal is successful, you and your team, comprised of at least 4 people, will execute your plan and will commit to meet online periodically to provide updates and seek guidance from your peers.

Sharing and Dissemination

We are looking forward to not only hearing about your creative plans, but also sharing your outcomes. As part of the grant we will therefore engage you in dissemination, which will include (1) completing the final report, which will then form part of white paper of best practices for

scaling and institutionalization; (2) sharing your best practices with VentureWell members via webinar as well as at the annual Open conference.

Reporting for Grantees

Reporting requirements will be outlined in the award letter. Principal Investigators for VentureWell grants are prompted via email (once each year) to complete reports online. Failure to submit reports may jeopardize your institution's eligibility for future grants and pending payments. If you receive a grant, reporting deadlines will be detailed in your award letter.

Questions

If you have any questions feel free to contact Patricia Boynton, Grants Manager, at 413-587-2172 x115 or grants@venturewell.org.