EC³ Grant

Engineering and Computing Convergence Collaboration

The College of Engineering research office offers funding to promote new research collaborations, strengthen ongoing collaborations between the faculty in the three original schools in the College of Engineering and the Joint School of Computing.

Through this program, small grants in the range of $2,000 to $10,000 will be provided to help faculty groups to initiate research collaboration on convergence research topics, through grant proposal preparation for external funding, organize workshops or symposia to increase awareness, expand partnerships with industry etc. While not required, proposers are encouraged to seek matching support from their respective schools. The EC³ funds are not meant to perform research necessarily and therefore requesting support to solely fund graduate student(s) is not the right use of funds under this grant mechanism. The EC³ funds cannot also be used for faculty salaries. It is expected that this internal grant would lead to the growth and development of collaborative research that seeks external funding for sustainability. The EC³ funding will be available annually, until the program is canceled.

FY25 Cycle: While all areas of convergence will be considered for funding, proposers are encouraged to focus on synergies between engineering discipline(s) and computing or data science. Examples of some areas of synergy include but not limited to: Artificial intelligence in medical imaging and diagnosis, virtual reality in surgical training, wearable technologies for remote patient monitoring, big data analytics for precision medicine; robotics in rehabilitation, metabolic engineering, bioprocess optimization, digital twins for bioprocesses, farm automation, climate modelling, air and water quality monitoring, waste management, environmental impact assessment, structural health monitoring smart cities, geo information systems, advanced manufacturing, robotics and automation, predictive maintenance, power systems, signal processing, internet of things etc.

Eligibility: This funding is available only to teams that consist of at least one tenured/tenure track faculty each from the College of Engineering and the School of Computing. Larger teams will receive higher priority for funding. Courtesy or adjunct faculty members are not eligible to receive this grant. Submission is limited to one proposal per eligible faculty member per year.

Reports: At the end of the fiscal year by June 30, a one-page progress report must be submitted. The report must include a summary of activities performed, results to date, and proposal submission plans or sponsor results/reviews, (if known), status of the proposal if submitted to the external funding agency with UGA proposal ID number. Project team may also be asked to provide a progress update presentation to the Senior Associate Dean.

Review Process

The proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Strength of the collaboration plan proposed
- Feasibility of accomplishing the tasks and activities proposed within the project duration
- Potential impact of the proposed collaboration in creating new connections, enhancing visibility for the college, or/and future funding potential
- Itemized budget reasonable and adequate to accomplish goals

Applications Instructions:

- Deadlines: September 1, 2024. Only one review cycle per year.
- Proposals will be processed and reviewed as quickly as administratively possible.
- Applications must be submitted via email to Karina Soranz (Karina.Soranz@uga.edu) as a combined PDF document with "EC3 GRANT APPLICATION" as subject line. The application package must combine the following documents:
  1. Cover/Signature Page: The cover page should contain the proposal title, investigator names and affiliations, investigator e-mails and other contact information, budget, and signatures of investigators and respective school chairs.
  2. 1 to 2 Page Proposal: Description of the proposed idea and the expected impact. This is a broad collaboration program so innovative ideas to encourage collaboration are welcome. This could include organization of workshops, seminars, research ideas, etc. that are impactful. Include a description of how the funds will be spent. Please indicate the anticipated date and agencies of potential proposals submission. Include a detailed budget and justification that lists the projected expenses and other sources of funding.
- 3. (optional) Support letter from School Chair or Director if funding supplement is provided by the schools.