AY 2018-19 Faculty Research Initiative
Instructions

The Faculty Research Initiative (FRI) is intended to encourage and facilitate faculty scholarship/research/creative activity. FRI proposals are reviewed in a competitive process by the University Research Committee and successful proposals receive up to $2,000 funding through Research and Economic Development Affairs. The intent of this competitive program is to foster and reward scholarly activities among DSU faculty. The FRI is not intended for use on projects currently funded by other sources. Special funding consideration and encouragement is given to new faculty who need assistance establishing a research agenda. However, all faculty are eligible and encouraged to submit proposals.

**Project Narrative (Parts A-D)**

A proposal narrative not exceeding 3 pages (single-spaced, pt.12 font) addressing parts A-D as described below should be submitted.

**Part A: Project Goals and Outcomes**
- Describe the project and its goals and outcomes/deliverables (defined broadly to include manuscripts for publication; works of visual, performing, or literary art; artifacts or other products for dissemination or use in future research).
- Summarize the expected findings/outcomes and a plan for dissemination of the project results. For the arts, this would include the title and explanation of the art piece and the venue in which the work may be shown or published.
- If appropriate, provide background information or context needed by reviewers to fully understand the scope of work. This could include:
  - A discussion of the limitations or faultiness of any scholarship/research/creative activity that has preceded this project (done by yourself or someone else), thereby justifying additional activity in this area.
  - A brief literature (or some other, similar) review or summation of other creativity works that impact this work that demonstrates exposure to and understanding of other work in the field and an explanation of how that work informs this project.
  - A summary of the expected processes and methodologies or creative processes that will be used to accomplish the project, if appropriate.
  - Other evidence that will help the reviewers better understand the scope of the proposed project.

**Part B: Project Significance**
- Explain the merit of the project, particularly the significance, value and/or benefit of the scholarship/research/creative activity to yourself, to DSU and to the discipline.

**Part C: Timeline and Budget**
- Provide a timeline for accomplishing various phases of the project.
- Summarize project costs (Stipend, materials and supplies, equipment, and/or facilities needed and any other expected costs that will be incurred in the process of completing the project) and provide an explanation of how those costs will be covered.
Projects requiring the purchase of materials to complete the proposed scope of work can make those acquisitions pre-award. Those materials and estimates must appear in the budget. Otherwise, research awards are disbursed at the completion of the project.

Part D: Relationship to PDP

- Summarize the scholarship/research/creative activity goals from your Professional Development Plan and explain the relationship between this project and those goals.
- Provide date of PDP submission, as appropriate.

Proposal Evaluation

Each project proposal will be evaluated (blind) using a scoring rubric based on these criteria:

- Project goals and outcomes/deliverables/created works.
- Significance, value and/or benefit to the faculty member, DSU and others in the discipline
- Feasibility and ability to deliver project goals within the stated timeline and budget
- Expected findings and plans for dissemination. For creativity activities, the work must be completed and plans for showing/publishing must be demonstrated.
- Clear link to the faculty member’s PDP
- Funding consideration for new faculty or faculty establishing a research agenda.

Projects will be evaluated under the auspices of the University Research Committee with coordinating and funding support from Research and Economic Development Affairs. Successful applicants will be required to present their work at DSU's annual Research Symposium on March 27-28, 2018 via poster (22” x 28”) session (other formats for presentation are available for creative projects). A poster template will be provided to aid with the process. Additionally, successful applicants will be required to provide the Research Office with a written summary of their project and findings at the conclusion of the project. This written summary may also include (as appropriate for the project), additional content, such as software or hardware, photographs, manuscripts, etc., as outlined in the proposed deliverables.

DOs and DON'Ts:

- **DO** carefully proofread and refine your proposal. Ensure that it is representative of your very best work, since this proposal is the only thing reviewers have to judge your project.
- **DO** explain your proposal in enough detail that a reviewer from outside the field can understand your project. If you need to use a discipline-specific term, explain it so that reviewers understand its context.
- **DON'T** propose a project that is solely intended to teach you a new skill or process. The outcome of this project should have significance for both yourself and DSU, should benefit your discipline and should inform the work of others.

All proposals must be submitted electronically in MS Word to sarah.olson@dsu.edu by the submission deadline, October 15, 2018. Late proposals and those without a signature from a supervisor/dean, will not be considered for funding.