ASCEND: A new internal seed program

Two components serving one long-term vision

To accelerate research preeminence and solve global challenges by:

1. Growing new interdisciplinary research team leaders via Research Leadership Fellowships (RFL)

2. Expanding and supporting existing interdisciplinary teams via Targeted Proposal Teams (TPT)
Research Leadership Fellowships (RLF)

**What:** $1,000,000 annually to develop and diversify tomorrow’s research leaders today

**Who:** TAMU tenure track faculty at the Assistant levels

Targeted Proposal Team (TPT)

**What:** $5,000,000 annually to build and facilitate teams for the purpose of submitting a large interdisciplinary proposal with strong potential to make an indelible mark on knowledge that can address a societal challenge.

**Who:** Tenured/PI-eligible faculty at the Associate or Full levels
Program Components

In addition to program-specific Research Career Development Goals (i.e., developing future research leaders or enhancing new or existing interdisciplinary team success), the RLF and TPT share the following four general components that are tailored to meet the different objectives of each program:

• Program-specific Awardee Criteria
• Program-specific DOR Services
• Program-specific Levels of Financial Support
• Program-specific Proposal Submission Process

Program-Specific Awardee Criteria

Research Leadership Fellowship
• Demonstrated leadership potential of the nominee
• An interdisciplinary proposal concept* that must achieve an impact to Texas A&M
• Future leadership opportunities

Targeted Proposal Teams
• Demonstrated success leading interdisciplinary teams
• A large >$5M interdisciplinary proposal target and targeted global challenge/societal problem/strategic priority

*research related/external funder/alignment with objectives
Program-Specific Division of Research Support

Research Leadership Fellowship
- Informational components (i.e., workshops*)
- Experiential components (i.e., fellowship community events, DO support of interdisciplinary proposal submission)

Targeted Proposal Team
- Team facilitation
- Broad proposal development support (e.g., document organization, templates, proposal review(s), graphic support)
- Coordinated SRS support (e.g., budget development, compliance review)

* e.g., Institutional Structure and Mission; Challenges to Interdisciplinary Research (co-creations of research projects, dissemination of IDR findings); Leadership Theories/Concepts; Effective Communication, Disciplinary and Institutional Cultures, Compliance

Program-Specific Funding Support

Research Leadership Fellowship
- Typically, 1-year
- $75,000
  - Salary (up to 2 months across 11 months)
  - Graduate student
  - Materials and Supplies
  - Coordinated meetings
  - Travel

Targeted Proposal Team
- Typically, 2-years
- Proposal dependent - up to $250,000 annually
  - Salary (up to 2 months across 11 months)
  - Graduate student
  - Materials and Supplies
  - Coordinated meetings
  - Travel
Program-Specific Submission Requirements and Selection Process

Research Leadership Fellowship
- Applicant Letter of Interest
- Dean Level Review and Ranking
- Dean Nomination Letter
  - Developmental preparation
  - Future leadership opportunities
- OVPR review and final selection

Targeted Proposal Team
- Letter of Intent
  - Basis for researcher profiles, topical interests, selection of peer review team expertise
- Proposal
  - Peer review team review/evaluation
- Finalist Presentations (if required)
  - Peer review team review/selection

Comparing current and past internal programs

RLF/TPT
- Focus on interdisciplinary teams
- Internal funding matched to team project needs
- Proposal submission requirement
- DOR commitment of proposal and career development support

T3/X-grants
- Focus on interdisciplinary teams
- Internal funding at small, fixed amount (T3) or elevated amount (X-grant)
- No proposal submission requirement
- No DOR commitment of other resources