

Carnegie Mellon University
Scott Institute
for Energy Innovation

2015 Seed Grant Program

The Scott Institute announces its third annual call for seed grant proposals. As in previous years, funding will be available from the Scott Institute for seed funding of projects generally related to energy technology, policy and education. In addition, the Scott Institute is coordinating with the ProSEED program to provide an additional \$200K in funding from the EQT Foundation aimed at seeding new research in the natural gas arena, including exploration and extraction as well as related water, environmental and policy issues. (See <http://www.cmu.edu/proseed/proseed-seed-grants/eqt.html> for further details.) This brings the total available to ~\$500K. We expect to make small awards in the range \$10 – 75K to individuals or small groups. These awards are expected to seed research and other projects that are related to energy technology, policy, and education and have the capacity to evolve into externally funded research activities.

Interested faculty should prepare a brief proposal (< 2 pages, 12 point type) following the format:

- **Project Summary** - Brief summary of the proposed activity that outlines the problem to be addressed, explains why it is important, and who will be involved in the work.
- **Leverage** - Discussion of how a modest seed grant can lay the foundation for an expanded activity, preferably including specific suggestions for sources of future support and some indication of the long term potential for growth of this activity. Please give some indication of the closest related work currently underway at Carnegie Mellon and any prospects for matching or in-kind support that can amplify the impact of the grant.
- **Impact** - The Scott Institute's external Advisory Board has urged us to focus on projects that hold the potential to have significant impact in the next few years. While we will consider all activities, they have suggested that we focus on activities that combine technical, behavioral and policy dimensions and may be most likely to play to Carnegie Mellon's strengths.
- **Budget** - Budget will be provided preferentially for support of PhD students, equipment, and salary of non-tenure track faculty or staff. Overhead will not be charged.

Applications should be submitted electronically to Julianne (Metzger) Fehrenbach (metzgerj@cmu.edu) by 11/10/14.

The Scott Institute desires to promote new collaborations and therefore, preference will be given to proposals that involve multiple faculty and new interdisciplinary interactions (inter-departmental or inter-center). Priority will be given to those proposals with the capacity to nucleate entirely new activities that can ultimately engage multiple faculty members. Proposals that look like they are simply requesting funding to continue an existing line of work will receive low priority. Proposals relevant to natural gas will be considered for support from the ProSEED/EQT Energy Seed Funds.

While we will treat all proposals as moderately confidential so as to protect faculty ideas, we reserve the right to be proactive. For example, depending on the ideas we receive we may explore possible collaborations among separate investigators when it appears that might be beneficial or might add valuable new perspectives to a project.

Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee comprised of the executive committee of the Scott Institute faculty advisory committee. Reviewers that are party to a proposal will not be asked to rank their own submission. Final selection of grant winners will be made by Scott Institute Directors Jerry Cohon and Andy Gellman. Proposals considered for ProSEED/EQT Seed funds are subject to the approval of President Suresh and a representative from EQT.