

## DeCastro Research Award

The DeCastro Research Award supports and enhances the research and creative work of faculty in the College of Media, Communication and Information. The award is made possible through funding provided to the college by Jimmy DeCastro, a media industry pioneer and 1974 business and marketing graduate of CU Boulder.

The award is intended to support the research and creative work of faculty whose appointments have a required research/creative work component. This generally means tenured and tenure-track faculty, although full-time instructors or visiting faculty members whose terms of appointment include weighting for research or creative work are also eligible to apply. CMCI instructors may participate in a larger research or creative work team funded by the DeCastro award, but only tenure track/tenured faculty members may apply for the funds and must serve as project leaders.

The DeCastro Research Award is designed to align with the core goals of CMCI's strategic plan (academic and inclusive excellence, creativity and innovation, and public scholarship and global citizenship), which in turn are linked to the strategic imperatives of the CU Boulder campus (shaping tomorrow's leaders, top university for innovation, and positive impact to humanity).

In keeping with these principles, the DeCastro Research Award is intended to support research and creative projects by CMCI faculty that:

- engage in *original* work (research, creative work or a combination) of *high quality*
- are oriented toward issues of central *societal significance* (e.g., social, environmental or economic justice) or focused on issues related to supporting and enhancing *global citizenship*
- include some aspect of a *public face* (e.g., work that can be shared or presented beyond a strictly-limited academic audience through a variety of forms, means and venues—it is up to applicants to articulate the public-facing or outreach implications of their projects)
- support and demonstrate CMCI's commitment to *interdisciplinarity* and *collaboration*—both scholarly and practical

The emphasis on interdisciplinarity and collaboration can include work that involves collaboration among faculty (and graduate students or advanced undergraduate students working with faculty) within a single unit, among faculty and students from

two or more units within CMCI, and among faculty and students from one or more CMCI units in cooperation with units in other CU Boulder colleges and schools. It also includes community-based research projects, as outlined by the Office of University Outreach and endorsed by the Council of Deans. Community-based research projects are centered on collaborative efforts between academic researchers and non-academy-based community members who work to generate social action and social change.

The DeCastro award is also intended to serve as an internal seed grant to help faculty launch projects that might be successful in winning external funding in the future.

**Size/scope/terms of awards:**

Approximately \$35,000 in total funds is available in a given academic year. Annual awards may range from a large grant (up to \$20,000-\$25,000) for the top-ranked extensive collaborative project; mid-size awards (\$10,000-\$15,000) for collaborative projects of lesser scope; and smaller awards (up to \$5,000) to support the work of individual faculty members, who might request funding for such things as travel to conduct research and field work and/or present that work, paying for professional or technical services (e.g., book indexing, video/film editing, summer income that does not involve teaching, etc.). *Note:* If no projects submitted in a given year meet the selection criteria, that year's funds will remain in the funding pool and increase possible funding for the following year.

Awardees may reapply for subsequent awards/additional money in the following year to continue a DeCastro-funded project. Awardees may also roll over unspent funds from one fiscal year to the next—particularly for projects where applicants have laid out a multi-year timeline and projected budget. *Note:* Money not spent within two to three years from the date of receiving the award will return to the fund, and awardees who leave the University of Colorado without having used all of a DeCastro award will not take that funding with them.

**Award evaluation committee:**

The evaluation committee will be comprised of the CMCI associate dean of graduate studies and research as ex-officio chair, and three faculty members from three different units: one from each rank of assistant, associate and full professor. Committee membership will rotate to new faculty every year, always representing no fewer than three different departments from CMCI and rotating through the college. Department/program chairs will submit recommendations of their faculty to serve on the committee to the CMCI associate dean of graduate studies, who will then select the committee members in consultation with the CMCI dean. The committee will submit its ranked recommendations to the CMCI dean, who will make the final decision regarding awardees. *Note:* Faculty may not apply for the award during a year they serve on the award evaluation committee.

**Application guidelines and timeline:**

Faculty are invited to submit a three-page proposal that concisely explains the nature and scope of the project, *directly addresses how it meets the criteria outlined above*, notes the projected goals or outcomes, and provides a budget indicating the needed and expected use of funds and a timeline for completing the project. Also required are CV(s) for all faculty applicants and for graduate students, if the latter are included in the project.

Applications for this first year of funding are due Jan. 19, 2018 and should be submitted to the DeCastro Research Award Evaluation Committee via the CMCI Dean's Office. Awardees will be announced no later than Feb. 16, 2018 and the funds will be made available shortly thereafter.