

Call for Proposals: CEAS Summer 2026 *Catalyzing Research Teaming* (CRT) Awards

The College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS) invites proposals from interdisciplinary teams of CEAS faculty to develop bold, convergent research thrusts over Summer 2026 that position the team for large-scale external funding (e.g., NSF, DOE, NIH) and transformational discovery.

Awards will support team-based research development activities focused on advancing engineering-driven discoveries while building deep integration across disciplines and exploring the potential for innovation.

Program Overview

The goal of this program is to catalyze **three research teams of 5 CEAS faculty** (or equivalent effort distribution) in developing high-impact, convergent research thrusts during summer 2026. Funded teams will articulate a compelling research vision, implementation plan, and pathway toward competitive external proposals.

Participation Expectations

Faculty members funded by CRT awards are expected to be present and actively engaged in structured professional development and teaming activities throughout Summer 2026. This includes monthly two-day in-person workshops led by nationally recognized consultants and researchers.

Current Confirmed Dates:

1. May 18 and 19
2. June 17 and 18
3. July 7 and 8
4. July 28 and 29

Faculty are expected to organize their summer travel to ensure they are on campus during these activities.

Faculty members who elect not to charge summer salary to CRT funds (e.g., directing funds to graduate students or project support) are still expected to participate in all CRT activities and engagements.

Each awarded team may request up to up to \$100,000 (total per team) for Summer 2026

Funds may support:

- Summer salary for CEAS faculty (within campus policy), graduate, or postdoctoral fellows
- Research planning activities
- Workshops or structured teaming sessions
- Industry/community engagement
- Limited travel associated with research planning

Unallowable expenses may include:

- General administrative expenses not tied to the project
 - Routine equipment purchases unrelated to the research vision
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Eligibility

- Teams may include up to five CEAS faculty members or equivalent effort across multiple CEAS faculty members.
 - Interdisciplinary participation across CEAS departments is encouraged.
 - Teams are encouraged to include all ranks of faculty (assistant, associate, etc)
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Proposal Requirements

Proposals must follow NSF-style formatting and include the following sections:

1. Overview Page (1 page maximum)

Modeled on NSF requirements and including:

- Project Summary (1 paragraph)
- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impacts

Each section must be clearly labeled.

2. Project Narrative (up to 3 pages)

The narrative should address the following:

A. Research Vision

Describe the compelling research questions or engineering challenges that motivate the team's work, including the convergence of disciplines required to meaningfully advance knowledge and technology.

B. Interdisciplinary & Convergence Dimensions

Explain:

- How engineering, science, and other disciplines integrate in this work
- Why convergence — not single-discipline work — is essential
- How this team is uniquely positioned to conduct this research

C. Implementation Plan – Summer 2026

Describe how the team will develop the research thrusts over the summer, including:

- Planned teaming activities, in addition to CRT team development with consultants
- Milestones and outputs
- Engagement with internal and external partners
- Plans for proposal development
- Roles of participating faculty

D. Future Impact & Academic Innovation

Discuss how research discoveries may:

- Shape workforce development needs
- Integrate research with education at scale
- Lead to new learning pathways or new degree or certificate programs

E. External Funding Pathways

Identify relevant sponsor programs and anticipated proposal submissions.

3. Budget & Budget Justification (1 page justification and completed Excel budget template)

Fill out this [budget template](#) (you can transfer this to an excel file in adobe reader) and a justification for the allocated in each category.

4. Team Bios (2 pages total)

Brief bios for key personnel focused on:

- Prior collaborations
 - Research relevance
 - Convergence experience
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Review Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the following dimensions:

1. Intellectual Merit

- Quality and significance of the research vision
- Potential for leadership in the field

2. Broader Impacts

- Potential societal, economic, workforce, or educational benefits
- Pathways to new academic programs

3. Convergence & Interdisciplinarity

- Depth of integration across disciplines
- Evidence that convergence is essential

4. Implementation Quality

- Clear and achievable Summer 2026 plan
- Strong milestones and deliverables

5. External Funding Readiness

- Clear pathway to competitive proposals

Deliverables

Awarded teams will be expected to:

- Participate in CEAS-supported teaming and strategy activities
 - Submit a short final report summarizing progress, milestones, and next steps
 - Present outcomes at a CEAS research event
 - Notify RSO of external funding submissions resulting from the effort
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Key Dates

- **Call Release:** 1/15/2026
 - **Proposals Due:** 2/6/2026
 - **Award Notification:** 2/13/2026
 - **Funding Period:** Summer 2026
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Submission Instructions

Please email Bill Doe with your submission to William.doe@colorado.edu with the subject line reading “ATTN CRT SUBMISSION”

Formatting requirements:

- 11-point font minimum
- 1-inch margins
- Single-spaced

Questions may be directed to: Bill Doe