

## **CEAS CATALYZING RESEARCH TEAMING (CRT)**

### **Background:**

One of the key Research & Innovation actions within the 2024 College Strategic Plan is to:

*Invest in interdisciplinary research initiatives across campus and with our external partners.*

Over the past several years the College has invested internal funding resources in support of research initiatives (e.g., Interdisciplinary Research Themes – IRT; Sandia National Labs Collaborative Fund) to incentivize faculty in the College to develop teams to advance collaborative, interdisciplinary research. These efforts have enhanced faculty collaborations across units and resulted in significant external research funding awards from federal agencies, including multi-million-dollar awards for Institutes, Centers and Industry-University collaborations.

To further the Strategic Plan's goals, the college has committed \$500K in Calendar Year 2025 to create a Catalyzing Research Teaming opportunity for collaborative, interdisciplinary research teams amongst our faculty. The overall intent is to provide seed-grant funding to research teams of interdisciplinary faculty to ideate new engineering and scientific advances and to plan for submission to specific, large-scale external funding opportunities forthcoming in 2025-26. Submitting teams will be required to identify downstream funding opportunities at the Center/Institute levels of funding that span multiple years (>\$1.5M/yr).

### **Implementation:**

The CRT program will commence in the Spring 2025 semester with an internal call to faculty (all tenured, tenure-track and research faculty eligible) in mid-February requesting submission by 07 March of a seed grant white paper (2-3 pages plus a notional budget for NTE \$100K). The proposal should detail the research topic, expected funding opportunity, anticipated submission date in CY 2025 or CY 2026, interdisciplinary components, budget overview, a timeline and list of proposed activities to facilitate the planning. Funds should primarily be used for one month of summer salary per CEAS faculty member.

Each team must include at least four faculty, representing a minimum of two Departments/Units within the College, and comprised of at least two junior (Assistant Professor) faculty. Maximum funding for a team is \$100K. The white papers will be reviewed and approved by the RSO based upon research potential and impact. If approved, an internal College account will be established for use of the funds. Use of funds will begin no later than 1 April. Funds must be expended by the end of October. Quarterly reporting of expenditures and accomplishments will be required. Additionally, a presentation by each team will be required at the end of the fall 2025 semester as part of a Research Blitz (possibly during Research Week in October).

Selected Teams will be required to complete skills development training in the summer 2025 in a timeframe tailored to each team's schedule and designed to be investigator friendly. The program is designed to promote teams' convergence through evidence-based, team science practices associated with high-impact science. The training program includes:

- Six, quick, web-based exercises to be completed by all team members and their students over a few weeks.
- Custom, one-on-one team coaching sessions with experienced consultants tailored to the teams' summer schedules.
- Pink and Red team proposal reviews coordinated by RSO.
- Nationally recognized Alan Alda Signature Science Communication session (2-days, on campus in August)

The skills development time commitment will be no more than 5 days (depending on requests/needs of the group).

**SUBMIT:**

For submissions, please email Bill Doe, Research Development Manager, at [William.doe@colorado.edu](mailto:William.doe@colorado.edu) with the subject "CRT Submission"

**CONTACT:**

Questions concerning the CRT should be addressed to Mike Gooseff, Associate Dean for Research or Bill Doe, Research Development Manager.