Fearless Ideation Workshops
(new in FY19)

Purpose:

Fearless Ideation Workshop awards support organized events with each of the following goals:

- Identify complementary research strengths and explore potential collaborations.
- Develop high potential, innovative research ideas that require the involvement of multiple disciplines and leverage unique strengths within UMD.
- Facilitate new and enhance existing collaborations among faculty.
- Generate "competitive intelligence" analyses to identify gaps in the current body of research, assess future funding opportunities, and generate insights on next steps.

Fearless Ideation Workshop Awards are **not** intended to fund convening events designed only for information exchange among scholars but rather exploratory events that seed new ideas and large initiatives for future research collaborations.

Submission Cycle:

- Applications are accepted four times a year: February 1, May 1, August 1, and Nov. 1
- Notification to applicants/awardees is anticipated within 2-3 weeks following the submission deadline.
- Meeting with the Research Development Office is recommended prior to submission.

Support Provided:

Up to $15,000 per award. We anticipate funding 6–8 events per year. Awarded funds are distributed up-front. All funds must be used within 12 months of award.

Cost Share:

- VPR will fund 50% of the requested amount;
- The benefiting Unit(s) contribute the remaining 50% of requested funds.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Events must be organized by faculty champions from **at least two distinct disciplines that do not typically partner together**.
- Both tenured/tenure-track and professional track faculty (assistant research scientist or higher) whose full-time, home position is at UMD are eligible to apply.
- Eligible ideation events may include faculty from other institutions (especially University of Maryland in Baltimore), but a **majority** of expected attendees must be from UMD.
- Faculty may serve as champion for a maximum of one Fearless Ideation Workshop award per academic year.

Award Fund Use:

Award funds may be applied to a range of cost categories, including but not limited to:

- Event space;
- Participant travel (in adherence to UMD travel policies);
- Professional facilitators;
- Logistics/conference services;
- External consultation for graphics or editing support;
- Small follow-up seed funding;

Fearless Workshop champions may also request the support of a *proposal development manager*, to attend the ideation and support development of follow-on proposal writing. (Learn more at https://research.umd.edu/proposal-development-services.)

Review Criteria and Process:

All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- **Technical Vision**: Is the proposed ideation theme a high potential area for exploration? Is the timing right to explore this opportunity? Are the proposing faculty champions appropriately trained and well-suited to lead this work? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the ideation effort?
- **Societal Relevance**: What are the potential implications of this research for society? Does this ideation proposal address a problem area with potential regional, national, or global significance? Does the proposed effort align with strategic goals of the department, college, or the University of Maryland?
- **Ideation Plan:** Do proposing faculty champions offer a solid vision, including plans to follow up with participants afterward and make sure the discussion does not end with the conclusion of the event? Does the proposal describe strategies for promoting the workshop to all interested participants and for ensuring demographically diverse representation? Are the proposed timeline and budget reasonable?
  - Ideation proposals that integrate social science or humanities disciplines with STEM disciplines, and that incorporate both junior and senior faculty, are encouraged.
  - Inclusion of faculty champions or attendees from University of Maryland at Baltimore is encouraged where appropriate.
- **Prospects for New Funding:** Is the workshop bringing researchers together to help identify collaborations that could lead to the pursuit of new funding opportunities?

Application Process and Materials:

In addition to completing the electronic submission form, all application materials must be uploaded in one PDF file and must be submitted electronically by 11:59pm ET on the deadline date. The electronic submission form can be found at https://umd.infoready4.com/.

Application materials include:

- **Universal Funding Form** with department/college signatures affirming willingness to support **50%** of the request.
- **Project description:** not to exceed three single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and at least 11-point font. The description should clearly provide:
  - Why the topics and timing are right for Fearless Ideation exploration.
  - Objectives for the proposed ideation event(s).
  - Strategies for promoting the ideation effort to all interested participants.
  - A summary timeline for implementation.
- **Budget and Justification:** Budget and justification should demonstrate that you have thought through all aspects of your project and the costs associated with them. Please include any other sources of funding that will be supporting the project (if applicable) and whether those funds are committed or pending.
  - Include details of unspent start-up, gift, or retention funding
- **Biosketch or CV** for the submitting champion faculty and for other lead co-investigators if applicable (up to two pages each)

The InfoReady online submission form will also request: Title; co-champion information (names, titles, affiliations and emails); and a project summary **including the purpose of the Fearless Ideation effort, the intended audience, collaborators, and a summary timeline for implementation**. (suggested length: 150 words max)

Expectations of Applicants and Awardees:

The expected products of Fearless Ideation Workshop award program include:

- A white paper within three months of ideation effort end summarizing:
  - Core themes that emerged from the workshop discussions
  - UMD-internal assets (faculty, research programs, infrastructure) and unique capabilities
  - Potential funders and funding programs to support this work
  - "Competitive intelligence" analysis such as: What research groups are the current leaders (or likely competitors) in this problem space? Who has converging/competing interests? Who are your institutional peers?
- Within two years of award, at least one relevant multidisciplinary research proposal should be submitted to an external funding agency.

If these expectations are not met, the faculty member's department may not be eligible for Fearless Ideation Workshop funds for one year.

NOTE: All Maryland Catalyst Fund Awards are subject to availability of funds.