KIND - Research Alliance Seed Grant - FAQ

Q: What is the purpose of the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?
A: KIND Research Alliance is an initiative of the NSF-funded ADVANCE-Partnership grant. It is available to any engineering faculty in the CSU system. The purpose of the KIND Research Alliance seed grant is to develop a collaborative research network across the CSU system and as such, it will **NOT** fund the 'research' directly.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the KIND Research Alliance Seed Grant?
A: The eligibility criteria are as follows:
- KIND-seed grants are available to ONLY CSU faculty - They can collaborate with non-CSU collaborators, but non-CSU faculty are not eligible for KIND-seed grant funding.
- Lead faculty for KIND-seed grant - Either a Tenure-track (Assistant Prof) or Tenured (Associate Prof only) faculty who have not yet received significant external grants. Full Professors can be a part of the KIND-seed grant team as well as external funding application but may not lead the KIND Research Alliance seed grant.
- Applications that have the following people included will be given KIND extra credit points. Please refer to the rubric for additional information:
    - Team with two or more faculty from the registered faculty cohort
    - Team with a tenure track female engineering faculty as a project leader
    - Team with one or more faculty who identify as URM (Underrepresented Minority-Black, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan, Pacific Islander)
    - Whether or not the project leader has received any significant (> $10,000) external grant

Q: How many proposals are expected to be funded through the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?
A: 4 - 5 proposals

Q: How much amount is offered through the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?
A: We have a total budget of $20,000 and we expect to be able to fund $4,000 to $5,000 per team.

Q: How many faculty can serve on one team? Or is there any limit on the number of faculty serving on each team?
A: This seed grant is for collaboration and **NOT** for individual (one person) grant proposals (for example NSF CAREER grant). Please refer to the eligibility criteria. We expect a minimum of TWO faculty on a team.

Q: Is there any limit on the number of teams one faculty can serve?
A: Yes. One faculty can serve on a maximum of TWO teams.

Q: Can I continue to be on the faculty cohort even if my seed grant didn't get funded?
A: YES! The cohort is for everyone who is interested in collaboration irrespective of whether one gets seed funding

Q: Can I apply for the KIND Research Alliance seed grant next year?
A: Yes, only if you didn't get funding this year. Our goal is to maximize participation from diverse faculty groups. Current NSF funding is expected to be available for 3 years (AY 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24). Beyond the grant period, we expect continued effort by collaborating with the STEM-NET program at the CSU Chancellor's Office.

Q: What are the selection criteria for the KIND Research Alliance seed grant?
A: Need-based and Merit-based. Please refer to the eligibility criteria and rubric for additional information.

Q: What are the expected activities from the seed grant awardees apart from research collaboration?
A: Apart from research collaboration (aimed at writing an external grant proposal), the teams are expected to participate in surveys to assess the research needs and evaluate the outcomes.

Q: Can Non-Engineering faculty apply for this grant?
A: Non-Engineering faculty can be a part of a team, but the **lead faculty** must be from the college of engineering. Computer science or construction management faculty can lead the team as long as they are a part of the college of engineering (or college of engineering and sciences when they are together) at CSU campus

Q: Can we use the KIND Research Alliance seed grant to supplement our existing research?
A: No. The seed grants are provided to launch new collaborative projects and cannot be used to supplement ongoing funded projects.