

November 3, 2017

To All Faculty

Subject: Presidential Excellence Initiative–T3: Texas A&M Triads for Transformation

Sent on behalf of Dr. Carol Fierke, Provost & Executive Vice President and Dr. Karen Butler Purry, interim Vice President for Research

Today, we are pleased to announce the first year of the T3 seed-grant program designed to further interdisciplinary research and scholarship by supporting teams consisting of three tenured or tenure-track faculty members.

As we near the conclusion of *Vision 2020: Creating a Culture of Excellence*, President Michael K. Young has announced a series of *Presidential Excellence Initiatives* designed to further Texas A&M University's commitments to the three pillars: *advancing transformational learning; enhancing discovery and innovation; and expanding impact on our community, state, nation, and world.*

T3 is a multidisciplinary seed-grant program designed to foster new research and scholarship by moving your very best ideas from a mere vision to proof of concept. This program will enable interdisciplinary teams to develop long-term research and scholarship collaborations. T3 Round 1 will fund 100 uniquely identified projects at a total of \$30,000 each. The projects will be carried out by multidisciplinary teams of three faculty members. Additional funds will be available to support undergraduate and graduate student researchers participation in the selected projects.

Utilizing a web-based interface, project ideas are posted for all faculty to review. Tenured or tenure-track faculty from at least two different colleges/schools will be invited to form three-person interdisciplinary research groups, or Triads, to accomplish the proposed project in 12-24 months.

T3 is not intended to provide faculty salaries, nor is it intended for research and scholarship collaborations that are currently or previously funded. Each faculty member may sign on to only one Triad in Round 1.

Announced by President Young in his *State of the University Address*, T3 will be managed by the vice president for research and will launch formally with the project posting period from December 1, 2017, to January 31, 2018. Faculty members will then have from February 1, 2018, to February 28, 2018, to identify and invite other faculty members to form a Triad for their proposed project. After the Triads have been identified, project owners will provide short descriptions of the project and the role of each investigator, as well as a preliminary budget. Triads will report annually on outcomes such as extramural funding, recognition, and dissemination.

A semi-random drawing to fund the 100 Triads will be held, with preference for projects that have participation by at least one assistant professor, and funded Triads will be announced by March 9, 2018.

Triads will agree to present their project at the *Presidential Excellence Symposium* planned for late September 2018 and 2019.

We challenge you to prepare your ideas and projects for consideration now. Please plan to attend the T3 Informational Session on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, and a T3 Meet and Greet on Project Ideas on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018. Additional information is available at <http://T3.tamu.edu>.