ADVANCED COAL AND ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER
ENERGY BOOST SEED GRANT PROGRAM

2021

- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4:30 pm, Wednesday, January 31, 2021
- PROJECT START DATE: July 1, 2021 (unless otherwise specified\(^1\)).

Note: Beginning in 2020, significant changes have been made to the Energy Boost Seed Grant Program. Proposers need to be aware of these changes and to plan and budget accordingly.
For further information and updates see https://energy.siu.edu/about/energyboost/grants/energy-boost-seed/

Overview:

1. Proposals from all disciplines are welcome, but the effort proposed must focus on problems associated with energy.

2. Eligibility: The primary principle investigator (PI) must be a full-time SIU faculty member on continuing appointment.

3. All proposals must identify a PI who will be responsible for overall management of the proposed effort. Additional faculty and/or staff may serve as co-investigators as appropriate. Priority will be given to proposals led by early career investigators, but investigators of any rank are welcome to apply. Participants other than the PI can be at other institutions. At least half of funds awarded must be expended at SIU. Graduate and undergraduate student assistants are strongly encouraged.

4. Only one proposal can be submitted per faculty researcher. Consecutive year applications by the same researcher will not be allowed.

5. Interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

6. Successful proposals may be awarded up to $50,000, in two tranches:
   a. $25,000 for preliminary investigations
   b. $25,000 to be available as matching funds to be applied to a proposal submitted to an external funding agency

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\(^1\) Requires written justification and prior approval from the Director of ACERC
Expectations:

1. ACERC seed grants may support pilot studies, generate supporting data, or provide background information, but are ultimately not intended to be an end in themselves. Awardees are expected to submit a proposal related to their grant topic to an external funding source/agency no more than twelve months after the award period begins. **Seed grant proposals should clearly identify potential external funding agencies and/or programs that might provide continued support for the proposed line of investigation after completion of the grant.** Examples include NSF, NIH, NEA, NEH, USDA, DOD, DOE, etc.

2. Initial budget requests for seed grant funds should not exceed $25,000. For successful proposals, a further $25,000 will be encumbered to be used as matching funds available for association with a proposal submitted to an external funding agency.

3. Proposals may request materials and supplies, contractual services (with justification), graduate assistantships, and student worker wages. Seed grant funds may not be used for faculty or regular staff salary, including summer salary, or consulting fees.

4. Project duration should not exceed twelve months. Extensions are not allowed.

5. All seed grant recipients are expected to submit a final report no more than three months after completion of the project. See additional information below.

Application Process:

1. Complete application cover sheet and attach proposal following these instructions and **information from the ACERC website**.

2. Prepare a budget follow [OSPA budgetary guidelines](#), using the ACERC Energy Boost Seed Grant Proposal Budget Template.

3. Meet all compliance requirements. Applications that do not meet ALL the criteria and requirements as set forth below will be returned without review.

4. Peer-review will occur early in 2021.

5. Awards will be announced April 2021.

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2 This applies to the initial tranche of $25,000 only. Matching funds up to $25,000 may be budgeted in any way acceptable to the funding agency to which the seed grant recipients apply.
GENERAL GUIDELINES
PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Proposals and Electronic Copy must be received by ACERC by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, January 31, 2021.

Submit one (1) hard copy of your application with verified digital signature or original ink signatures to the offices of the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center (ACERC), and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format to acerc@siu.edu.

The format below is required for the preparation of proposals:

1. Proposals should be prepared in a professional manner using Calibri, Arial or Times Roman font, not less than 11 point
2. Completed cover page, using the template provided, with all required signatures
3. Table of contents, with page numbers
4. Abstract: 300 words maximum
   A clearly written, succinct description of the goals, methods, and anticipated outcomes of the proposed project, written in a style understandable to non-experts Remember: an abstract is a summary of essential ideas drawn from a larger text, it is not an introduction to that text.
5. Proposal narrative, maximum of 10 pages, single-spaced, including the following sections:
   a. Introduction
   b. Intellectual merit and broader impacts (see NSF guidelines)
   c. Proposed research and methods
   d. Expected results and plan for proposal submission
   e. Timeline
   f. Data management plan, or plan for publication or other dissemination
6. References cited
7. Budget and budget justification
8. Appendices and supporting information as necessary, including for example:
   a. Facilities and equipment available
   b. Letters of support