

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONVERGENCE RESEARCH GROUPS**

Convergence brings together knowledge, ideas and tools from several disciplines to stimulate innovative research. It represents a significant cultural shift for institutions of higher learning, which have traditionally been organized around discipline-based departments. The College of Arts and Sciences has long recognized the need to foster and carefully nurture the creation of interdisciplinary faculty groups to test original research ideas that address some of the grand challenges facing humanity in this century. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to problems related to diversity, migration, social justice, disease spread, the increasing interdependence among nations, cultures and values, digital humanities, biodiversity, global change, ecological balance, renewable energy, water, sustainable communities and development, data science, networks, ecosystems, and human health. The College already funded three Convergence applications in the fall of 2014. At this time, as an early initiative within the College's Strategic Plan "Impact 2025," we will entertain proposals for a new round of funding.

The College is requesting proposals with the following specific characteristics:

- (1) The authors should include tenured or tenure-track faculty members from *at least two different departments* in the College. Faculty from other colleges/schools can be included, if required to complete the research team.
- (2) The proposed project should take a truly interdisciplinary approach, gaining an edge from sustained collaboration at the interfaces between academic disciplines.
- (3) The project should pursue the solution of a complex current problem.

Faculty teams who have received funding from either the College Convergence or the University U-LINK Initiatives are not eligible to apply in this round. Each proposal should consist of (i) a narrative section that will not exceed three single-space pages including references, (ii) biographical sketches (maximum of two pages each) of all investigators involved in the project, (iii) current and pending support for all the investigators, and (iv) budget.

The roles of all faculty involved in a project must be clearly delineated in the narrative. A faculty member can only participate in a single proposal. The budget cannot include any salary requests for participating faculty, but salaries for postdoctoral associates and/or graduate students are certainly allowed.

Proposals assembled in a single pdf file should be submitted electronically to kvoss@miami.edu by the end of business of Monday, November 4th.

A team of experts will review and evaluate all proposals received in response to this request. The College anticipates funding 2-3 projects, each up to \$60,000 in direct costs per year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year of funding. An award in this program is expected to result in the submission of a major grant application to a federal agency or foundation.