2016 AY Request for Proposals

Connect Grants are offered through funding from AdvanceRIT and the Office of the Provost with advisory support from The Wallace Center’s Faculty Career Development Services, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, and Sponsored Research Services to support leadership and career development for all tenured and pre-tenured faculty at RIT.

The NSF AdvanceRIT project (http://nsfadvance.rit.edu/) incorporates a multi-faceted strategic approach designed to enhance recruitment, retention and advancement opportunities for women faculty from diverse ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines which include social and behavioral science (SBS). The program combines research with programming and policy/practice enhancements to drive long-term changes that will transform RIT’s culture, promote innovation, and expand the representation of women on our faculty and among our campus leadership.

AdvanceRIT project goals include:

1. Refine and strengthen institutional structures and install practices that promote representation and advancement of women faculty.
2. Enhance the working environment and support career advancement of women faculty through empowerment, inclusion, and other symbolic aspects of women’s professional quality of life.
3. Align institutional, administrative, and informal systems of power and resources to support and sustain progress shaping the political frameworks that impact representation and advancement of women faculty.

The Connect Grants Overview

The Connect Grants drive discovery and learning within an environment that supports the development of project proposals and the process of peer review. These mini-grants encourage leadership and career development, mentoring, networking and research collaboration, while enhancing and advancing the university’s multifaceted initiatives and scholarship infrastructure.

The Connect Grants Program is available to individuals or faculty groups (formal or ad hoc). Successful grant proposals will support one or more of the AdvanceRIT project goals. The Connect Grants are designed to broaden faculty opportunities and enhance plans of work associated with tenure and promotion preparation and overall career advancement. Creative department level efforts to guide and manage faculty through various career stages and project-oriented work to facilitate institutional transformation will also be considered. Approximately $65,000 is available for the overall Connect Grants program with the number of awards depending upon the review and evaluation of the proposals in relation to the selection criteria. Please refer to the AdvanceRIT website for information on past Connect Grant awards.

1. 15 February, 2016
### Faculty Connect Grants

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| - Successful Connect Grants support one or more of the AdvanceRIT project goals (see page 1) and Grant Rationale (see Connect Grant Program Rationale attachment) | - Social Resources/Social Networking  
  - Strengthen faculty’s professional visibility in national/international networks  
  - Utilize social resources including the development of professional websites to support new networks among RIT faculty and within professional disciplines |
| - Successful Connect Grants are related to career advancement and/or leadership development opportunities associated with a faculty members’ ability to advance and achieve her/his career and professional goals | - Research  
  - Support successful research proposal development or re-submission efforts for external funding  
  - Expand research and/or writing capabilities to enhance competitive proposal development and submissions  
  - Promote interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and teaching collaborations among faculty peers external to RIT. RIT faculty may identify a mentoring relationship with a prominent female or male scholar from outside RIT to support their professional development. This may include formal peer-to-peer reciprocal visits to mutual institutions |
| - Each proposal for funding shall list a project mentor with a clear summary of the role the project mentor will serve over the project’s duration (department heads shall not serve as mentors) | - Professional Development  
  - Sponsor and coordinate a women’s visiting scholars colloquium series  
  - Present research at national/regional conferences  
  - Specialized training to support research and teaching (i.e. computer software)  
  - Engage the assistance of an external career/leadership coach |
| - Support creative department/unit level led efforts to guide and manage faculty through various career stages and project oriented work to facilitate institutional transformation | - Community Development/Engagement  
  - Department/College -level creation, implementation and dissemination of Best Practices and Professional Development Models  
  - Leadership-in-Action type grants designed to support grass-roots efforts, organizational development, website construction, research to inform change or other self-identified areas of need  
  - Sponsorship of keynote speakers and workshops on topics such as building transparency, negotiating dual career hires, the changing funding environment, establishing career goals, network development, unconscious bias, recruiting best practices, and broader impact issues |
| - Funds cannot be used for faculty or staff salary expenses or capital equipment purchases. | |
| - Approximately $65,000 is available for the overall Connect Grants program | |
Eligibility: All current tenured and pre-tenure RIT faculty are eligible to apply for a Connect Grant. The AdvanceRIT project supports the funding of awards for eligible women faculty within STEM/SBS disciplines. The Office of the Provost has provided support to expand the Request for Proposals to all full-time, tenured and pre-tenure faculty in all disciplines.

Grant Schedule for AY 2016

Call for Proposals: February 17, 2016
Proposals Due: March 11, 2016
Decisions Announced: April 15, 2016
Funding Available: June 1, 2016

Award Obligations

- Awardees must be willing to disseminate project outcomes and experiences through participation in university-wide workshops, panel discussions, and presentations.
- Awardees must attend a project initiation meeting with grant sponsors and Sponsored Programs Accounting.
- Awardees must submit event or activity evaluation materials as appropriate to the project and required for NSF reporting.
- Awardees must complete a final online report summarizing activities and impacts. A final report (with unique identifiers removed) may be disseminated through the AdvanceRIT website and included within NSF reporting requirements.

Connect Grant Application Submission

Connect to http://nsfadvance.rit.edu/application-login.php to download the application template and complete the application form. Please direct questions regarding proposals to ADVANCEwomen@rit.edu. You will be asked for the following information and documents:

A. Proposal form downloaded when you login to the application form and submitted as a .pdf (maximum four pages)
   1. Proposal
      a. Executive summary,
      b. Detailed project description,
      c. Detailed, clear implementation plan (For faculty grants, identify a mentor. For broader unit-oriented grants, this is not required.),
      d. Timeline for proposed activities,
      e. Evaluation plan including intended/desired goals and outcomes as well as measures,
      f. Description of project participant roles,
      g. Description of relevance to faculty members’ plan of work, faculty group scope of work, or the department’s mission and goals,
      h. Detailed budget justification,
      i. Description of project relevance to the goals of AdvanceRIT (see the AdvanceRIT website at nsfadvance.rit.edu.edu)
      j. Description of the broader impact of the proposed work (see the NSF ADVANCE Merit Review Criteria on the program solicitation site for more information on broader impacts),
      k. Description of the intellectual merit of the proposed work (see the NSF ADVANCE Merit Review Criteria on the program solicitation site for more information on intellectual merit),
      l. List of references using APA format.

B. Two page (max.) CV or NSF style biosketch for PI including current rank, department, and contact information.

C. Recommendation Letter from unit head: For Faculty/Faculty Group grants, the letter is from the Department Head of the PI. For unit-oriented grants, the letters are from the College Dean and from constituents/department faculty indicating department support. Letters should concisely
describe the potential impact of the proposed effort on the proposer(s) and on their department, college, and the university.