



## **INTELLECTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM: 2021**

The University of Delaware College of Engineering (COE) invites applications for the new Intellectual Neighborhood Accelerator (INAccelerator) Program. Through this program, the college aims to foster new collaborative projects that cross departmental boundaries by providing financial support for activities related to COE's Intellectual Neighborhoods. The INAccelerator Program supports the college's strategic plan, which outlines our strategy to be the economic and innovation engine that provides the talent, solutions and expertise that benefit the state of Delaware, the region and communities all over the world.

### **BACKGROUND**

Intellectual Neighborhoods represent areas of research and educational excellence that cross departmental boundaries and facilitate efforts to address society's most vexing challenges and exciting opportunities. These neighborhoods are inclusive enough to bring together diverse contributors and stakeholders, yet focused enough for significant impact. They will guide strategic collaborations that address key global and local challenges. Intellectual Neighborhoods present a framework for enhancing our educational excellence and delineating activities with maximum impact on the communities we serve. The Intellectual Neighborhoods will also inform but not limit the COE's strategic financial investments, faculty hiring, space allocation, fundraising and philanthropic endeavors. Finally, the Intellectual Neighborhoods provide opportunities for us to differentiate ourselves from peers and competitors.

Our Intellectual Neighborhoods are:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
- Coastal and Environmental Engineering
- Engineered Therapeutics
- Translational Biomechanics
- Scholarship of Engineering Education

These will be periodically reevaluated to ensure alignment with our state's and nation's challenges.

### **INTELLECTUAL NEIGHBORHOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM**

The INAccelerator Program provides funding for projects that promote scholarship related to the Intellectual Neighborhoods, promote interdepartmental collaborations, promote a welcoming and belonging climate and culture, and improve our infrastructure.

Through the program, COE researchers can apply for one year of support with total budget of up to \$100k per year. Some projects may be renewed for an additional year, but renewal is not guaranteed. We anticipate funding one project per intellectual neighborhood. Project teams must include at least two PIs, representing primary appointments in more than one COE department. Submissions must demonstrate the vision/potential to attract larger, external follow-on funding for an expanded group of investigators. Examples could include but are not limited to NIH program grants, NSF center grants (ERC, STC, etc.), DoD and DoE centers, or other large-scale grant mechanisms.

## **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Each project must involve at least two faculty participants, representing primary appointments in different COE departments. CT faculty are specifically encouraged to apply.
- PIs and co-PIs must be COE faculty only. Collaborations with faculty, students or staff from other colleges are allowed, but any funding required must be provided by those units.
- Support should primarily be used for supporting personnel salaries, either graduate students or post-doctoral scholars.
- Support is also allowed for items necessary to pursue the proposed research activity, such as chemical reagents, laboratory supplies and instrument use time. Equipment purchases are allowed with appropriate justification.
- Tuition costs for graduate students must be included in the budget.
- No F&A costs should be included.

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & TIMELINE**

- The application template and guidelines are available for download through this link: <https://enr.udel.edu/research/intellectual-neighborhoods/>.
- Applications must be emailed to the COE Associate Dean for Research and Entrepreneurship, David C. Martin (milty@udel.edu) with a copy to anorvell@udel.edu by 5 PM on April 15th, 2021.
- Proposals will be evaluated in consultation with the COE Department Chairs, with awards to be announced on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Funding for the awards will be available starting June 1, 2021 and will run for one year (until May 31, 2022).
- Proposals must be submitted as a single file in PDF format. Specifically:
  - Project proposals must not exceed five (5) pages in length, inclusive of all text and figures, using a minimum of 11 point font size.
  - References should also be included but will not be counted as part of the five-page limit.
  - Other supplementary information, such as equipment quotes, may also be enclosed; these should not exceed three (3) pages and will not count toward the five-page limit.

## **EVALUATION**

### **Review Criteria**

The Intellectual Neighborhood Accelerator Proposals will be reviewed by COE Department Chairs and the Associate Dean for Research and Entrepreneurship according to the following criteria:

#### *Impact and Outcome*

Does the proposed project address an important problem or critical barrier within the Intellectual Neighborhood's focus area? Will the project create new collaborations and shift the paradigm in the field? Will the project improve the climate and culture between departments in the college? Will the research lead to a more substantial funding opportunity later, in the form of a center grant or similar mechanism? Will there be the potential for commercialization of technology associated with the research?

#### *Investigators*

Are the PIs well suited to pursue the research program? Do they have complementary expertise that will lead to synergistic interactions?

#### *Novelty, Innovation, and Originality*

Does the application adequately address the significance of the challenge being confronted and how the proposed project will contribute to a solution? Have the applicants demonstrated that this research has not been done elsewhere, or that the approach proposed is new and innovative?

#### *Technical Merit and Feasibility*

Are the goals and objectives of the proposed research project clear? Is the overall scientific approach reasonable and appropriate? Did the applicants identify potential risks and provide possible solutions to address them? Will the data and results be easily and readily shared with the community?

## **FINAL REPORTING**

Awardees will submit a summary of impact of no longer than three (3) pages at the end of the project (May 31, 2022). Summaries must be submitted as a PDF file by email to the Associate Dean of Research and Entrepreneurship (milty@udel.edu). Awardees also will be expected to present their INAccelerator research ideas and results at the Spring COE faculty meetings.