

Results for FY18 Initiative Funding

September 22, 2017

The March 2017 call for proposals for FY18 initiative funding resulted in 40 submissions across all colleges. Requests could be for up to \$300K/program in permanent funding and/or \$500K in one-time funds. Matching funding from colleges was expected.

Proposals were reviewed through a four-part process:

1. Deans were asked to identify priorities among those submitted by their own college or those in which the college was a substantial participant.
2. Deans were also asked to review all proposals in which their college did not have a significant role.
3. The Provost's Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) ranked all proposals and then met to discuss each proposal and to create an approximate rank ordering with additional suggestions for modification of some proposals. This group had the benefit of both sets of rankings from the deans' reviews for their deliberations.
4. Finally, the Provost convened a small group of her senior staff and the Vice President for Research, the Assistant President, and the Chair of the University Senate to review proposals and the rank-ordered list and to discuss the actual funding decisions.

Priority was given to proposals that addressed one or more of the following:

- Major research initiatives related to UMCEED – the UM Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Development – as defined in SB 1052. Relevant research areas include cybersecurity, virtual/augmented reality, neuroscience, and data analytics.
- Proposals that address critical needs to manage undergraduate academic enrollments. These could include resources to support high enrollment majors, or proposals to develop new cross-unit (department or college) majors that will create alternate academic paths for students.
- Enhancement of a core area of research and scholarship excellence that has the potential to raise the profile of the university.
- New opportunities for interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research, scholarship, or creative endeavors that cross unit/college boundaries.
- Identification with an economic driver that benefits the state OR ties to the university's land-grant mission through engaged scholarship that serves the broader community.

The outcome of this process is that the following proposals were identified to receive funding—in two groups:

New or ongoing research and scholarship initiatives:

- Faculty Recruitment for the Brain and Behavior Initiative
- Smart Cities: This is a proposal to launch a two-year initiative to develop an institutional framework for research, education, and engagement in smart cities and urban analytics at UMD. It will use the Baltimore Avenue Corridor as a smart cities lab, defined by the extensive use of sensors, internet connectivity, and data analytics to enhance the quality of life in urban areas.
- Artificial Intelligence in Business and Society: This is a proposal to enable multi-disciplinary teams of scholars to advance understanding of AI and its impacts in three critical sectors of the economy: healthcare, financial services, and marketing. The effort, led by the Smith School of Business, will engage faculty from multiple campus units at UMCP and UMB with complementary skills and expertise to enable research.
- Center of Excellence in Satellite Remote Sensing: Proposal for three new faculty hires and a new research center in remote sensing over the next two years to build this core area of research and scholarship across several colleges.
- Shared Services for the Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security
- A Quantum Technology Center: Development of leading technologies that will combine aspects of science and engineering
- A Year of Data Science at UMD: Funding for a coordinated campus-wide effort anchored around a series of events organized by UMD units to leverage their strengths, showcase their accomplishments, and meet their data science needs, including conferences, workshops, symposia, guest speakers, etc.
- The Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices: Translational science/technology development. Taking basic research in biomedical devices into clinical and commercial applications.
- The Maryland Transportation Institute: Funding to establish a Maryland Transportation Institute that supports existing core areas of transportation research and scholarship excellence at UMD and creates new synergies across multiple colleges.
- Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education: Establishment of a center that will serve as a major think tank for diversity issues in higher education and will become the national center for professional standards in the field of diversity and inclusion.
- Strategic Cybersecurity Risk Assessment: Development and implementation of a framework for leaders and policymakers to define, assess, measure, and compare a variety of cyber events and to analyze risk within their organizations' critical infrastructure.

- Transforming Cybersecurity at Maryland: Recruitment of new leadership for MC²

New educational initiatives still in process of design or planning:

- Improving public health through a diverse public health workforce
- New undergraduate major in Neuroscience
- New undergraduate major in Immersive Media Design
- New undergraduate major in Real-Estate Development
- Joint Master's program in Media and Public Policy

Some of the proposals that were not directly funded through this FY18 initiative process have prompted additional discussions and have potential for future support.

These investments will result in expenditures of about \$1.5M in hard budget funds and about \$1.8M in one-time funds from the Provost's office matched by \$1.2M in hard funds and \$750,000 in soft funds from the colleges, about 15 faculty hires, and additional research, advising, and clerical staff hires.