**2021 BLAIS Challenge Awards**

**Request for Proposals**

**Closing Date: August 1, 2021**

The Claremont Graduate University Faculty Research Committee invites core faculty at the Claremont Colleges to develop proposals for the 2021 BLAIS challenge awards. The initiative must be led by one or more CGU core faculty member(s) and include active participation by core faculty at one or more of the undergraduate Claremont Colleges and/or Keck Graduate Institute. BLAIS proposals must be submitted by a CGU core faculty member. Awards are in the range of $10,000-$25,000.

The BLAIS Foundation is a CGU endowment devoted to the promotion and support of academic cooperation between CGU and the undergraduate Claremont Colleges and Keck Graduate Institute. New BLAIS challenge awards will be available on or about September 1, 2021with funds to be spent over a period of up to 21 months (through June 30, 2023).

A proposed BLAIS initiative must have *at least one* of the following features:

* A service and/or applied research program designed to help local communities outside of the Claremont Colleges and to create/strengthen firm linkages. Communities may be defined by geography, interests, or affiliations. Proposals focused on the following are especially encouraged: communities in immediate proximity to the Claremont Colleges, communities/organizations that can provide internship/work experiences for graduate and undergraduate students beyond the life of the project, and projects leading to external funding applications in collaboration with community partners.
* Innovative academic program development, such as a new course/curriculum, new or enhanced instructional technology, or a thematic series of creative learning experiences outside of traditional coursework (BLAIS challenge awards will not pay for faculty to teach courses). Proposals building on current broad 7Cs initiatives and shared resources (e.g. data science, social justice, library) are especially encouraged.
* Collaborative research meant to result in joint series of publications and/or external funding applications. Proposals focused on the following are especially encouraged: development of research labs/teams integrating faculty and students and programs (e.g. multiple studies) of research amenable to extramural funding.

BLAIS Challenge Awards may involve a challenge condition (such as matched funding) to be met before all funds are released. Challenge conditions may be proposed by applicants; however, any challenge conditions will be determined and finalized by the committee and definitively stated in the notice of award.

Projects will be judged on the following points: embracing the letter and spirit of the BLAIS mission to strengthen intercollegiate cooperation; clear and ambitious goals; thoughtful, sound, feasible implementation plans; persuasive evidence of interest or support beyond CGU; provisions to develop a new line/lines of internal or external support to for the proposed initiative; reportable measures or milestones to evaluate progress toward the project’s goals; overall benefit to the University.

*Proposals should include all of the following components*, preferably in docx format:

* + A publishable summary of the project, not to exceed 100 words.
  + A clear description of the aims, methods, schedule, and expected products/results of the project, explaining how the project would satisfy each of the eligibility requirements and points stated above. *Maximum* length is 1,500 words, not including references or any of the items below.
  + A detailed budget (see attached template)
  + A list of up to five lead participants, including a clear explanation of what each lead participant will contribute to the project and how the leaders will manage the project.
  + A brief biosketch or CV (2 page maximum) for each lead participant.
  + *If applicable*, letters of interest or support from pertinent community agencies or representatives

Proposed projects may be entirely new or may build on activities already underway, including activities that may have received previous BLAIS Challenge support—however, any earlier BLAIS funding must have been completed and a final report submitted by the date of submission of the new proposal.

All proposals received by August 1, 2021, will be reviewed and responded to by August 31, 2021.

Submit all proposals electronically to [Carrie.Herr@cgu.edu](mailto:Carrie.Herr@cgu.edu)

Budget Template for BLAIS Challenge

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Object Code** |  | **Amount** |
| SO150 | Regular Faculty Salaries |  |
| S0012 | Adjunct or Extended Faculty |  |
| SO179 | Graduate Student Wages |  |
| SO173 | Staff Salaries and Wages |  |
| SO540 | Fringe Benefits: Student = 5%, Regular Faculty & Staff = 28%, Adjunct/Extended = 13% |  |
| SO272 | Postage |  |
| SO297 | Telephone |  |
| SO228 | Duplicating |  |
| SO238 | Travel- Mileage |  |
| SO243 | Travel- Airfare |  |
| SO245 | Travel- Lodging |  |
| SO248 | Travel- International Travel |  |
| SO264 | Honoraria |  |
| SO400 | Office Supplies |  |
| SO229 | Books and Periodicals |  |
| SO508 | Other Current Expenses |  |
|  | TOTAL: |  |