



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

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Office of the Provost

# Innovation in Research: Research Engagement Collaboratives

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# Research & Scholarship at USC

- We are a Carnegie “very high research activity” research university. So what?
- General Questions
  - Who in the world would be interested in \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What real-world problems are you trying to solve?
  - Doesn’t your emphasis on research detract from teaching?
  - How does your research benefit...
    - ...[me, my child, our state, society, employers, ...]?



# Research & Scholarship at USC

- Strategic Questions
  - Do our focus areas reflect the breadth and diversity of USC’s academic interests and expertise?
  - What should be our focal points in three to five years?
  - How do we more effectively “synergize” research with teaching, creative activity, community engagement?
- Answers?
  - As a research university, we must be able to articulate good answers to these questions.



# Research Engagement Collaboratives

- Begin to invest now...
  - in people and ideas...
  - in future focal areas...
  - in ways that synergize our missions...
  
- Vision
  - Academic focal points
    - Research, teaching, service, creative activity
  - Address societal “grand challenge” problems
    - Local, national or global in scale



# Research Engagement Collaboratives

- Goals
  - Form new interdisciplinary faculty teams
    - Focus on local, national or global “grand challenge” problems
  - Expand knowledge base, experience in grand challenge areas
    - Especially focused on student engagement
  - Build workforce expertise in key areas
    - Serve needs of private, public sector employers in the state
  - Prepare faculty teams to compete for external funding
    - Sustain REC activities for long-term impact



# One Possible Example

- Unifying Theme: “Twenty-first Century Voting”
  - Interdisciplinary faculty team
    - Computer Science & Engineering, Information Technology
    - Political Science, Sociology, History, Philosophy, ...
  - Expand knowledge base, experience
    - Cyber-security and cyber-infrastructure
    - Voting rights, politics of voter IDs, fair and free elections...
  - Build workforce expertise in key areas
    - Interdisciplinary courses, UG & grad internships, research, ...
  - Prepare faculty teams to compete for external funding
    - National Science Foundation? Dept. of Justice? Companies?



# Research Engagement Collaboratives

- Project Stages and Timeframes
  - Stage #1: Seed Projects
    - One year, up to \$25K, one-time
    - Four to eight projects anticipated
  - Stage #2: Implementation Projects
    - Up to five years, \$100K to \$300K per year
    - Selected from among seed project teams



# Research Engagement Collaboratives

- Eligibility
  - Principal Investigators
    - Tenured USC-Columbia faculty members
  - Participants
    - All USC system faculty members
- Proposal Deadline
  - September 15, 2014, 5:00 pm
  - Submit via USCeRA





# Research Engagement Collaboratives

- For more information:
  - Request for Proposals (instructions, review criteria)
    - [http://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/researchcollaboratives/index.php](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/researchcollaboratives/index.php)
  - Frequently Asked Questions (updated frequently)
    - [http://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/researchcollaboratives/recfaqs.php](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/researchcollaboratives/recfaqs.php)
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