A. Purpose:
The Interdisciplinary Research Initiative Award is a College of Arts and Sciences award designed to promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research at Western Michigan University. Its purpose is to nurture and develop collaborative interdisciplinary endeavors that culminate in the submission of competitive interdisciplinary extramural\(^1\) grant proposals. First-time collaborators are welcome.

B. Award Amount:
Up to $5,000 per award may be provided. This amount may be used for research supplies, travel to research meetings, student stipend supplementation and/or for any other purposes that support the project goals. Funds may not be used for faculty salary.

Funds will be disbursed on the first business day after July 1 for the fiscal year for which the award is made. Failure of any member of the project team to submit required reports will result in ineligibility for any future award.

C. Applications:
Applications will be reviewed by faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (RSCA) Committee and the CAS Dean’s Office. They should be typed, single-spaced.

Part 1 (no more than three pages) should include:
- A list of the members of the research group, including names and roles on the project. The member who submits the application must be a board-appointed faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences at WMU and will serve as the point of contact person responsible for maintaining communication about fund disbursement, receipt documentation, and other logistical matters with the CAS Budget Office.
- The main objective(s) and significance of the proposed study
- An explanation of the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of the research
- A clear explanation of how the project will support a successful grant application
- Proposed timeline or work plan for research project and team members
- A list of funding sources to which the resulting interdisciplinary research proposal could be submitted (including associated awarding amounts or bounds, and deadlines)

\(^1\) The term “external grants” is most commonly used to refer to grants or awards for which WMU receives and processes the funding (that is, the funding agency contracts with WMU, and then faculty or other WMU members receive this funding through WMU). This award program also acknowledges extramural grants for which there is not a direct contractual and funding administrative relationship with WMU, e.g., the funding agency pays an individual directly.
Part 2: (1-2 additional pages) should include a budget including the following categories:

i. Student stipends
ii. Travel
iii. Supplies
iv. Equipment
v. Other

Part 3: should include a brief (1-2 page) curriculum vitae for each team member

D. Deadlines for 2018:

- Application Due Date is March 31, 2018
- Funds must be spent between July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

D1. Condition for Future Eligibility:

In order for any team member to be eligible for future funding, each team must provide a final report that briefly describes how the project activities were accomplished and where the submission of an extramural grant was made. The extramural funding proposal must be submitted to an appropriate funding source within 6 months following the end of the award period. The final report must also be submitted to the CAS Dean’s Office within 6 months of completion.

F. Evaluation Criteria:

- Proposals will be assessed based on the quality and clarity of ideas presented in the application, the quality of the collaborative and interdisciplinary interactions and the potential for obtaining extramural funding.
- Preference will be given to groups that are likely to result in ongoing collaborations and that have the potential to expand and involve a larger group of faculty. For example, the formation of a working group that is open to a larger group of researchers.

_The evaluation committee is composed of faculty from a variety of disciplines. Proposals should be written in a style that is understood by experts in fields other than those of the applicants._

G. Submission:

Queries should be directed to College of Arts and Sciences Dean's office. Applications should be submitted using the web-based form (https://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/about/awards/interdisciplinary-research-initiative-award).