

Mineral Resources Research and Innovation Initiatives – Request for Proposals

Award Period: begins November 15, 2021 (primarily for FY 22)

Rolling Submission Date: Proposals should be submitted on or before the last day of the month starting October 29, 2021, and will be reviewed on a monthly basis subject to availability of funds

Eligibility: University of Arizona faculty and staff; students must have faculty co-PIs

Description: The Mineral Resources Research and Innovation Initiative is a new program from the School of Mining and Mineral Resources that provides both **seed funding and strategic investments** toward fundamental and/or collaborative, interdisciplinary team **research and education related to significant or interdisciplinary problems in mineral resources**. A total of up to \$0.5 million may be available and is anticipated to be committed to 10-20 projects.

The program seeks to support initiatives that align with the School mission to “transform the way students, professionals, and communities work across boundaries to meet the complex challenges of economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable mineral resources.” Successful proposals will align with the School’s scope to “use education, training, research, and community outreach and engagement to encompass responsible and sustainable production and use of mineral resources including one or more of the following:

- the entire scope of mineral resources from their natural occurrence to primary production to circular economy, including the life cycle of mining from exploration and discovery through development and production, to closure, reclamation, and repurposing,
- and the associated technical, economic, social, and environmental aspects including public health, policy, law, supply security, and sustainability throughout the entire mining and mineral resources lifecycles.”

Initiatives proposed may be to support research, university or K-12 educational programs, or outreach activities, or a combination of these.

Award Amount: Funding varies depending on duration and needs of seed funding or strategic initiative.

- Seed funding – up to \$25,000 for one year – *near-term impact, ideally has longer term impact*
- Strategic initiative >\$25,000 – for one or more years – *building/sustaining long-term capacity*

Application Process: Proposals must follow these guidelines:

- **Cover sheet (provided)** with title, contact information, and the amount being requested
- Brief statement of the proposed activity and how it aligns with the School mission and scope
- Summaries with headers of (1) the **challenge** being addressed, (2) what will be done (**plan**), and (3) what is expected to be achieved (**outcome**). Also, explain if the activity leverages other sources, builds longer-term relationships, etc.
- List of participants/beneficiaries (internal ± partners); multidisciplinary approaches are encouraged
- Provide a simple budget. Identify matching funds, other leverage obtained, and/or possibility for future funding (e.g., other proposals, teaching revenues)
- Text beyond the cover sheet is limited to two pages for seed funding and four pages for strategic initiatives (≥ 11 pt font). Figures and budgets count toward page limits

To Submit: Please email a PDF document containing your proposal including the cover sheet to minerals@email.arizona.edu. Submissions will be acknowledged within 2 business days.

Evaluation Process: Awards will be determined following faculty committee review (multiple college representation) and recommendations through the School. Evaluation will follow a rubric noting relevance, intellectual merit, feasibility, criticality, urgency, future funding and research, interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic partnership development, community impact, and sustainability. Generating quick results this fiscal year is a priority.

Reporting: All funded projects will submit a written report (annually in the case of multiple years) including a summary of products (e.g., publications, presentations, new educational content, proposals, meetings, etc.), a simple accounting of expenditures including names of those supported, and a synopsis of partnerships, matching/leveraged funds, etc. where applicable. All participants are encouraged to participate in/contribute to relevant School seminars, presentations, and annual meetings. School support will be acknowledged appropriately in all products.

For more information: See the [School of Mining and Mineral Resources website](#). For questions contact Mark Barton, Director Lowell Institute/Interim Director School of Mining and Mineral Resources by email: mdbarton@arizona.edu