

The Corridor Undergraduate Research Initiative

**the
florida
high tech
corridor**



undergraduate research initiative

The Florida High Tech Corridor and USF Research & Innovation are launching a new program to support meaningful research experiences for our Undergraduate students. Through the Corridor Undergraduate Research Initiative, each USF College may request **up to \$10,000** (total for 2022-2023 school year) from the Florida High Tech Corridor to provide new and expanded research opportunities for Undergraduate students and to fuel future innovations.

This program is intentionally flexible to allow each College to design a program that best serves participating students and existing administrative structures. Possible structures include, but are not limited to:

- Launching an Undergraduate Research Scholarship fund focused on community engaged research
- Launching a paid summer research experience opportunity for USF students – similar to the NSF’s REU program
- Expanding the College’s existing Undergraduate Research support programs to support more students
- Piloting new models for expanding student participation in Undergraduate research opportunities

Key Considerations:

- Funds will be provided as a lump sum to the College to administer to students according to the approved proposal.
- Funds can be awarded as tuition waiver, stipend or hourly payment based on the discretion of the College and/or preference of the participating student.
- Funds must support USF Undergraduate students. REU students from other universities are not eligible for support.
- All funds must go to student support. Program administrative expenses and associated faculty time must be covered by other sources.
- Funds must be expended by the end of summer session 2023.

To request these funds, Colleges are asked to submit a proposal via email addressing the following points to Elizabeth Nelson, Program Director, Florida High Tech Corridor (ernelson1@usf.edu) **by 5pm on Friday October 14, 2022**. Proposals must be a PDF, no more than two pages, double spaced, 11 pt font. The review committee expects to notify applicants of the funding decision within six weeks of the due date.

- **Funding Request Amount**
- **Program Period**
- **Program Title**
- **Program Design:** Please outline the structure of the College’s proposed program. How will funds be administered to students? How will the program be marketed and how will participating

students be selected? What types of experiences will students engage in? How will students be mentored and advised by faculty?

- **Historic Numbers:** Approximately how many students annually participate in Undergraduate Research in the College? How many of these students receive compensation or support from the College? What is the average level and structure of compensation?
- **Proposed Numbers:** How many additional students do you plan to support with these funds? How much funding will each student receive and in what form (stipend, salary, hybrid)?
- **College Programmatic Point of Contact:** Responsible for programmatic administration
- **College Fiscal Point of Contact:** Responsible for financial administration
- Proposals must be signed by the Dean of the College

When composing your plan, please consider the Corridor's strategic pillars. Proposals that reflect these pillars will be viewed most favorably.

- **Drive Boundary-Breaking Collaboration:** Capitalize on every opportunity to reach beyond the invisible boundaries that too often impede progress and actively facilitate collaboration between unlikely partners.
- **Serve the Underserved:** Expand access to resources for people and geographies that have historically been underrepresented in Florida's high-tech economy.
- **Cultivate Community-Driven Innovation:** Support a bottom-up approach to innovation that begins with listening and learning, and engages community members in the process of economic development.

Colleges are required to publicize funded opportunities with the [Office of High Impact Practices & Undergraduate Research](#) in addition to internal marketing efforts and encourage students to participate in the Undergraduate Research Showcase.

This is a pilot program and funding is not committed beyond one year. We will identify ways to refine and improve our support of Undergraduate Research moving forward, as well as share identified best practices between the participating Colleges.

Reporting Requirements:

To capture impact and ensure that funds are spent in full towards the intended purpose, Colleges are required to submit the following information within 30 days of the project period end date. Additional follow-on reports may also be requested to capture the long-term impacts of this support.

- Summary of the program's successes, challenges, and lessons learned. This information will help to refine and improve the program's efforts going forward. (Max 1-page)
- Reconciliation of funds expended
- Number of students supported
 - Names, Dept, Year, Demographic Data
 - Indicate which students participated in the Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Amount of support received per student
- Contact information for participating students

- Written testimonial from each student at the end of the engagement (max 250 words)
 - What did this experience mean to you?
 - If any, what was the outcome of this research? i.e. conference participation, publication, future scholarship, etc. Please provide supporting links, if available.
 - How did it help you understand or prepare for your future after graduation?
 - Does the Corridor and/or USF Research & Innovation have permission to include your response (in whole or part) in future marketing or social media efforts (i.e. blog post, social media post, e-newsletter, etc.)? [Yes | No]
-