2017-18 Connect and Collaborate Grants Program
Call for Letters of Intent

Purpose. The 2017-18 Program incentivizes faculty, staff, students and their respective public/private sector community partners to develop proposals with the potential to catalyze engaged, collaborative teaching, research, and service activities benefiting the community with impactful, sustainable programs while advancing the scholarly goals of the university.

Funding Focus Areas. The program is designed to bring together multiple, available resources and leverage existing partnerships at local, national, and international levels. Priority will be given to proposals aligning with one or more of the following focus areas:

- **General:** Community and Economic Development; Education and Workforce Development; Energy and Environment; Food Production and Security; Health and Wellness; Humanities and the Arts; and Research, Development and Commercialization.

- **Smart Communities:** "Smart" Communities use connected, data-rich technologies to enhance the quality of life for their residents. Proposals are sought for research that supports and extends the ways in which technology can be used in a Smart Community to address problems and improve lives. Projects that lead to solutions for movement of goods and people, sustainable energy, access to services, and other issues of importance to communities are encouraged.

- **Global One Health initiative (GOHi):** As part of the Office of International Affairs, this initiative seeks to establish and enrich sustainable research, training and implementation projects in the area of One Health (i.e. cross-cutting issues impacting human health via the interface of human, animal, plant, and environmental health). The GOHi builds regional capacity to address complex issues through applied research, training and grass-roots approaches. The scope of projects includes collaborative approaches to address complex global issues such as the prevention, detection and response to antimicrobial resistance; biocides, infectious diseases and more. GOHi emphasizes capacity building, innovation and holistic approaches in all their projects to ensure positive and sustained impacts.

- **China Gateway:** OSU opened the China Gateway, located in Shanghai, in 2010. The China Gateway helps the university maintain existing partnerships and explore new relationships with universities in the region by collaborating on research, initiating study abroad programs and establishing the potential for internships. For this competition, the funding will support international workshops and conferences that bring together experts from both the United States and the Greater China region to address at least one of the Discovery Themes and spawn opportunities for long-term international collaborative projects. Applications can come from professional, technical, and physical science programs, but there should also be a social and/or economic component to the proposal. Please note that expansion grants are generally not applicable.

Teams. Proposals must include at least one external public/private sector community partner. Partners are classified as follows: *For Profit* organizations, which exist primarily to make a profit; *Non-profit* organizations, which exist to provide a service to the community; and *Non-OSU Universities, Colleges, and Schools*. Teams should have the appropriate background and expertise to complete the full proposal. The Connect and Collaborate Grants Program will assist teams in full proposal development by providing a Steering Committee, including a project development mentor. Teams must be led by current Ohio State faculty or staff. Applications should include university and community partners as specified below:

- **General and Smart Communities:** Teams must include at least one external public/private sector community partner. Interdisciplinary teams including faculty, staff, and students from departments, colleges, or units other than the team lead are encouraged. Ohio State is engaged in all of the state's 88 counties through well-established programs. Programs are desirable that leverage OSU units outside of the Columbus campus such as: OSU regional campuses, OSU Extension offices, OARDC Research Centers, Urban Arts Space, Schoenbaum Family Center, and Stone Lab.

- **Global One Health initiative (GOHi):** Teams must be interdisciplinary and include professionals from the region of interest. Therefore, teams should include at least two faculty, staff and/or students from Ohio State University each associated with different colleges, academic units, schools or centers. In addition, each team must include at least one key regional partner representing the region where the project is located. Preference will be given to the following geographic areas of strategic interest: eastern or southern Africa, Brazil, China, Thailand, and Ohio (where global issues are addressed).

- **China Gateway**: Teams can include faculty, staff and students at Ohio State. The proposed seminars or workshops must involve at least one Chinese community partner. Cross-disciplinary approaches are required.

Program Overview

- **Process.** Eligible applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) that captures all the essentials of the proposal using the template provided. The Stewardship Partners will evaluate LOI applications for advancement to the Pre-proposal stage. Pre-proposals selected to move forward will be developed into full proposals by a Development Team consisting of applicant team members, a Steering Committee and a project development mentor. The Steering Committee and mentor will contribute targeted networking and program development expertise. This will enable a better perspective of the challenge and the capability to devise more effective and sustainable solutions. Working with a Steering Committee and mentor to deliver a final proposal is a required activity for all selected pre-proposals. Applicants will need to set aside sufficient staff time for full proposal completion. (see Award Timeline on p. 4 for information about expected time commitments). Full proposals require final approval from the Stewardship Partner(s) for funding to be released.

- **Eligibility.** Teams must be led by current Ohio State faculty or staff. One individual must be designated as the point of contact and will facilitate communication with team members.

- **Program Stage.** Program development is considered to occur in three basic stages – Design, Implementation, and Expansion. Programs at or between these stages are eligible. Funding requests should be for projects that are the next logical step in advancing a program and should be commensurate with the scope and scale of the project. Proposed activities should fall within the following program development stages:

  - Design: Programs that are beginning with a focus on proof that the program concept has merit both in terms of value to the community and scholarship. In this stage, the needs of target population groups and program requirements are identified, program goals consistent with the missions of the university and program partners are specified, and a program that can meet these goals is crafted and assessed for value creation.

  - Implementation: In this stage, the initial focus is on a successful launch, then running the program in a formal fashion, but with a continual focus on improvement. New opportunities and challenges will arise – often requiring the rethinking of the program model, which in turn will require a return to assessment activities such as feasibility and marketing studies. The outcome of implementation is an established program where products or services have come to fruition with their value reinforced through evidence of impact and demand.

  - Expansion: Expansion grants support scale-up or strengthening a proven program's infrastructure and capacity to produce greater impacts. The goal of expansion is to add new products or services for existing customers or expand existing offerings into new geographic regions or target populations. Because expansion 'breaks new ground' it requires planning, research, and validation of new features, which should be complementary to existing experiences and capabilities, while building on the tried and true foundation established during the implementation phase.

- **Awards and Funding.** The call for Connect and Collaborate Grants will be offered once a year with solicitations for letters of intent (LOIs) released in September. In 2016-17 the program awarded approximately $740,000 in grants and expects to award a similar amount again this year with a maximum grant award of up to $70,000. Grant funds will be made available on a competitive basis. Duration of funding can be up to two years from the date the project is funded. Teams must plan to spend all grant funds during the specified grant period. Funds will be available not later than May 2, 2018, but could be available earlier if full proposal/plan development is completed before the April 18, 2018 due date. The anticipated project timeline for grants awarded this year is May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2020.

- **Use of Funds.** Funds may not be used for capital improvements. Otherwise, there are no restrictions. Examples of fund use include, but are not limited to, operating costs, faculty, staff, student, and community partner support.

- **Required Cost Share.** Proposals must identify cost share equal to 50% of the award amount. At least half of the cost share must be cash (25% of award). Cash is defined as discretionary money that can be directly used to purchase goods and services in support of the grant project. The remainder of the cost share can be in-kind contributions, a form of giving assets to the project in which goods and services are donated instead of cash.

Selection and Timeline

- **Stewardship Partners.** Partners are composed of internal and external organizations whose representatives will select pre-proposals that address priority issues and have potential to become successful projects. Organizations participating in the 2017-18 Connect and Collaborate Grants Program include: The Columbus Foundation; the Greater Columbus Arts Council; the United Way of Central Ohio; Corporate Engagement Office; Office of Energy and Environment; Office of International Affairs – Global Gateways and Global One Health Initiative (GOHi); Office of Outreach and Engagement; Office of Research – Discovery Themes and Industry Liaison Office; Office of Undergraduate Education – Office of Service-Learning and Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry; OSU Extension; and OSU Wexner Medical Center.

- **Selection Process.** LOIs will be considered based on alignment with Funding Focus Areas and funding priorities of the Stewardship Partners. Teams whose LOIs are selected will be invited to submit a 3-page pre-proposal (due Dec. 1). Pre-proposals will be considered on merit in addition to funding priorities of the Stewardship Partners. The highest scoring Teams will be invited to present their pre-proposal to the Stewardship Partners (Jan. 31). Following presentations, the Stewardship Partners will select pre-proposals advance to the Development Stage based on merit and funding interests.

- **Award Timeline**

Date	Action
Sep. 5, 2017	Call for LOI opens
Sep. 12, 2017 11:00-noon	Information session at The Research Commons at 18th Avenue Library
Sep. 29, 2017 5:00 PM	LOI submissions due
Oct. 19, 2017	Teams selected based on LOIs are invited to submit pre-proposals
Oct. 25, 2017 1:00-2:30	Information session at The Research Commons at 18th Avenue Library
Dec. 1, 2017 5:00 PM	Pre-proposal submissions due
2018	
Jan. 19, 2018	Top tier pre-proposal teams invited to present to the Stewardship Partners
Jan. 31, 2018	Presentation of top tier pre-proposals to Stewardship Partners
Feb. 14, 2018	Applicants informed if their pre-proposal is selected to advance to full proposal development
Feb. 21, 2018 9:00-noon	Information session at The Research Commons at 18th Avenue Library
Week of Feb. 26, 2018	Meeting 1 – Development Team (Applicant Team & Steering Committee & Mentor)
Week of Mar. 5, 2018	Meeting 2 – Development Team
Week of Mar. 19, 2018	Meeting 3 – Development Team
Week of Mar. 26, 2018	Meeting 4 – Development Team
Week of Apr. 2, 2018	Meeting 5 – Development Team
Week of Apr. 9, 2018	Meeting 6 – Development Team
Apr. 18, 2018 5:00 PM	Full proposals due
May 2, 2018	Awards made
May 10, 2018	Funds available

Application Instructions.

A *complete* LOI application package consists of two sections: a Cover Page and a one-page Narrative using the [template provided](#).

- **Letter of Intent Application.** As specified in the 2017-18 Letters of Intent Template, the following information is required:

  Cover Page (Sections 1-7)
  1. Proposal Title
  2. Single Point of Contact Information
  3. Program Stage (Design, Implementation, or Expansion)
  4. Funding Focus Area Alignment
  5. Geographic Focus
  6. Type of Community Partner(s) (For Profit; Non-profit; non-OSU Universities, Colleges and Schools)
  7. Executive Summary (250-word limit)

  Narrative (Sections 8-12)
  8. Statement of Challenge/Opportunity.
  9. Approach.
  10. Outcomes and Impacts.
  11. Team Members.
  12. Budget.

The Cover Page and Narrative must be typed in 11-point Arial or Calibri font, single-line spacing with 1-inch page margins. Charts, tables, and graphics may be used in the narrative but *will* be included as part of the one-page limit. Do not use a table of contents page or divider pages.

NOTE: LOI submissions exceeding the page limits will *not* be reviewed.

The complete application package, consisting of the Cover Page and one-page Narrative, must be submitted as a single PDF document to **engage@osu.edu** **no later than** *5 p.m. on Fri., Sep. 29, 2017*.