

Ciocca Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Research in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Mindset

Call for Proposals

Ciocca Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is an interdisciplinary university hub with a mission to enhance opportunities to experience, research and advance innovation and entrepreneurial thinking. The Center supports an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment to prepare students in the application of the Jesuit perspective and responsible entrepreneurship principles to developing innovative ideas, establishing new ventures, and creating value to enhance society.

To advance these interests, the Center supports research and promotes thought leadership opportunities relevant to the trends, methods and challenges relating to innovation and entrepreneurial practices. We invite faculty to submit proposals for significant projects that address a compelling topic in this area. While this is an open call for proposals, we are particularly interested in topics that address the intersection of innovation and entrepreneurship with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Possible themes in this regard include but certainly are not limited to how AI can provide new opportunities to create value and address the needs of people, how it can spark creativity that leads to innovative solutions to real-world problems, how it can contribute to new business models, how it may alter the future of various industries, and so on.

To be clear, research proposals MUST address the intersection of a particular focus area with respect to topics/themes/challenges in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship/entrepreneurial mindset - simply performing research in an area that is considered “innovative” is not sufficient.¹ Faculty interested in discussing the applicability of their proposal scope, typical budget expectations, etc. are encouraged to contact the Center prior to submitting a proposal.

Proposals must be led by a faculty with an SCU academic year appointment, unless explicitly approved by the Center prior to submission. Expected outputs of funded projects will include a publication in the academic literature or works presented in an appropriate professional or creative venue. Additional outputs may include a thought leadership article/posting in the popular press or on the Ciocca Center web site, a project-related web site or data repository, and so on. Awardees may be asked to present their work to the Santa Clara community, and periodic summary reports to Ciocca Center will be required. Awardees will also provide an abstract and a final report to be posted on the Ciocca Center website. Previous grant recipients are ordinarily not eligible to receive a new grant until the earlier grant has been completed and a final report has been submitted; any exceptions should be accompanied by an explanation and an interim report.

Significant projects in the range of \$10,000-\$20,000 for up to 18 months of effort will be considered. Funds may be used for up to \$7,500 of faculty summer salary/benefits per engaged faculty member, and lead faculty members are encouraged to request that level of personal support. Funds may also be used for student support (wages and benefits), travel, supplies, and publication fees. Funds are generally not

¹ For example, proposing novel, fundamental work in data analytics, while “innovative,” is not within the scope of this Call. However, an ideal proposal might involve applying new data analytic approaches to DEI challenges in new entrepreneurial ventures, and so on.

awarded for tuition remission, equipment, general use computing resources, or office furniture. Proposals may include interaction with non-SCU personnel from industry or other academic institutions if such involvement fundamentally improves the quality of the proposed work; cost-sharing from other organizations is encouraged in such cases.

Proposals should be submitted as a single .pdf file via email to CioccaCenter@scu.edu, no later than 5 pm on April 23, 2024. Proposals should be limited to 5 pages and are expected to include a title and contact information for the research team as well as sections that motivate the topic, review current literature/practice, describe the methodology/approach to be used, summarize expected results/contributions, and highlight the qualifications of the research team. A separate page (apart from the 5 page proposal) should provide a project budget, itemizing wages and benefits, travel costs, funds for supplies, etc.

Proposals will be evaluated by a broad faculty/staff review committee and will be judged on criteria to include:

- Appropriateness of the proposed topic to the mission of the Center;
- Quality of the research plan;
- Anticipated impact of the completed work;
- The research team's experience in the topic area.

Recommendations by this committee will be reviewed by the Center's Faculty Advisory Board, with final award decisions made by the Provost. A document describing details of the proposal review and evaluation process is available on the Ciocca Center website in order to provide further insight into how proposals are reviewed and evaluated.