Research Momentum Accelerator (RMA) Program

Program Description

The College of Built Environments provides a shared service level of support for all CBE PIs who conduct research. The goal of this RMA Program is to go beyond that shared service to provide an additional level of support for PIs who aim to build research momentum. This support is available to PIs hoping to expand their research project portfolio, establish a new Research Center (Organized Research Unit), and/or provide bridge support for PIs who have hired research staff in the past or intend to hire research staff in the future. This program includes up to a 3-year period of staff support, assuming eligibility criteria and alignment with program expectations continue to be met throughout that time. Specific types of support are expanded below.

Types of program membership

1) Bridging support: for PIs who have previously demonstrated momentum but are in need of staff bridging support to re-gain that momentum
   a. These PIs likely have a future intention to hire their own staff as part of regaining their research momentum
   b. PIs at this level may be asked to provide peer mentorship to other PIs in the program that are following a similar trajectory or have similar research interests
2) New Center Startup
   a. 3 years of support for all center startup operations
   b. Intention to hire staff to support their center after the 3-year period. PIs would automatically graduate out of this program after 3 years and would need to reapply to get additional support
3) Funded project portfolio-based support
   a. PIs with multiple active projects. Funding can be from any type of funder/project type.
   b. PIs in this category continue to demonstrate desire to increase momentum by applying for additional funding throughout their tenure in this program (an average of 3 proposals per calendar year). These proposals would ideally include staff time in their budgets to start this as a best practice.
   c. These PIs may have the intent of creating a new Center as part of their momentum building; however, this is not a requirement to be in this program.

Types of program support available

Tasks can be agreed upon between PI and staff member. Examples include:

Communications (websites, announcements, news, technical reports)

- Website content writing and updates
- Announcement writing and posting
- News writing and posting
- Technical report preparation and publication
- Coordinating news and announcements with Marcom team when appropriate

Events (logistics, announcements)

- Working in collaboration with the marcom team to manage external-facing events
- Event planning and day-of support
- Event publicity and announcements

Administrative (travel, scheduling, meetings)

- Travel reimbursement support
- Large meeting scheduling and day-of support

Financial/portfolio Management (Case-by-case basis)

- Grant application preparation support in coordination with BE-Grants team.
- Post-award portfolio management support

Eligibility criteria for application

- Intention to build research portfolio momentum
- An existing portfolio of research and a consistent demonstrated momentum in pursuing new funding. (Examples could include combinations of: consistent, periodic submission of grant proposals, ongoing gift solicitation in partnership with Advancement, or pursuit of new service agreements)
- Active PI in CBE with all UW and CBE PI trainings in good standing

Eligibility criteria to remain in good standing and receive staffing support

- Timely communication and email responses
- PIs remain in compliance with all UW and CBE policies and procedures and trainings
- PIs meet program expectations outlined in this document and the MOU

This program is not for

- PIs who already have strong research support in other communities of research (e.g., CSDE, TRAC, EarthLab, Population Health)

- PIs who do not intend to build an increased portfolio of research or build rapid research momentum
- PIs whose research is already self-sustaining or who have sufficient support through their own research labs and can build momentum without CBE staff bridging.

Application Process

- Rolling application process, submit as needs arise
- Pre-application meeting required with Associate Dean for Research (email be-research@uw.edu to schedule)
- Application submitted to be-research@uw.edu including:
  - Write up-to 3-page describing:
  - Existing and desired trajectory of research momentum.
    - Include information about the frequency, strength, and success rate of funding and proposal writing in past 1-2 years.
  - How an up-to 3-year staffing bridge could support you building your research momentum.
- Applications reviewed quarterly by college leadership