Call for Proposals: Food For Thought

Basic Information:
Title: Food For Thought
Purpose: To provide seed funding for GWU’s community for collaborative research and scholarly activity pertaining to food and nutrition
Proposal Deadline: Wednesday November 14, 2012
Eligibility: All active-status University faculty who are continuing service at the University the following academic year are eligible for this competition. Projects must be collaborative and interdisciplinary with at least two PIs from different Schools or diverse departments within the same school.
Amounts: Awards are typically between $20,000-40,000 for the total project.
Award Period: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013
Administrative Contact: Laura Walker, Information Specialist askovpr@gwu.edu

Program Description
The goal of the Food for Thought Fund is to foster the creation of new research projects and scholarly activities pertaining to food and nutrition, including:

- Sciences of Food — Examples: effects of cooking & food processing
- Human Nutrition — Examples: nutrition in health and disease; food allergies and sensitivities; sports nutrition; vegetarianism; fad diets
- Food Safety — Examples: chemical or biologic contaminants & food supplements; agribusiness and use of antibiotics and other animal supplements
- Behavioral Issues & Food — Examples: eating disorders
- Sociology & Food — Examples: food’s relationship to culture and politics
- Economics & Food — Examples: food production, distribution, & marketing; food availability and security
- History & Food — Examples: the origins of the human diet; the spread of agriculture and food’s role in historical events; diets of other countries
- Education — Examples: food and nutrition studies in schools and for the general public

Projects that will be funded will be ones that exhibit great potential for externally funded grants.

Eligibility Criteria
All active-status University faculty who are continuing service at the University the following academic year are eligible for this competition. Projects must be collaborative and interdisciplinary with at least two PIs from different Schools or diverse departments within the same school. A faculty member may submit only one proposal as the PI.
Budget

Typically, grants range from $20,000-40,000. Allowable costs include:

- **Salary** for faculty is based on the monthly rate of the PI plus appropriate fringe benefits and only for time not covered by teaching responsibilities (e.g., during the summer months of June, July and/or August for faculty with 9 month appointments).
- **Student Support** for one or more hourly research assistants can be requested using the 6.0% fringe rate. Proposals that request funds for student support must explain the student’s role in the overall research plan. They may work throughout the project year, not only during the summer months.
- **Service costs** can be requested so long as they are essential to the project.
- **Travel** that is essential to the research project is allowed so long as it is well justified.
- **F&A** will not be provided and should not be included in the budget.

Application Procedures

**Application – Due Wednesday November 14, 2012**

The application will consist of the following components (please note page limits):

- **Abstract/Summary** – 1 page
- **Narrative** – 4 page limit that includes the following four parts:
  - Background/Significance
  - Objective
  - Research Plan/Methods
  - Outcomes
- **Budget Form** – [http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought](http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought) (on the right side of the page).
- **Budget Justification** – (narrative explanation of budget)
- **Biosketch** for each PI – Current NIH style or similar – 3 page limit per PI for a total of 6.

For a sample of an NIH-style biosketch, visit: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc)

- **Letters of Support from faculty collaborators from other schools**

Application guidelines can be found here: [http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought](http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought) (on the right side of the page). Paper copies **will not** be accepted.

Letter of Support (One page or less)

The department chairs of both the PIs must provide a short (one-page) statement on departmental letterhead indicating the relevance of the project to departmental objectives and any other pertinent information in support of the proposal. The chair must acknowledge that if this proposal is awarded, faculty members will be given the protected time needed to complete the work. If the submitting faculty member is a department chair, then a dean should complete this statement. Proposals may only have one letter of support for each PI. Letters of support are to be a PDF file and be submitted by the department chair to askovpr@gwu.edu with “Letter of Support – PI Name” in the subject line. Paper copies will **not** be accepted.

Proposal Submission

Applicants must submit their proposals through Cayuse. More information concerning:

- Setting up your account
- Creating a proposal
- Submitting your proposal

Can be found here: [http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought](http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought) (on the right side of the page).
Review Process

Awards will be based on the merits and design of the project and on the *clarity of the written proposal*. Proposers should address each item in the Application Procedures, bearing in mind that the reviewers may not have extensive knowledge of the field of inquiry being described. Using language appropriate for the educated lay reader is critical to the success of a proposal, regardless of the discipline or the technical nature of the research.

The proposals will be ranked and the Office of the Vice President for Research will finalize awardees. Notification of winning proposals will be sent to PIs in early to mid-December.

Award Administration

OVPR will transfer the award fund to the PI’s department. All award expenses, including salaries, should be charged to the PI’s department. The PI is expected to expend the award funds in a manner consistent with the approved budget. At the conclusion of the award, the PI will submit a status report detailing the outcomes of the study and how the award funds were spent, along with a copy of reports or any other publications (if relevant).

FUNDED PROPOSALS INVOLVING HUMAN RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS, USE OF ANIMALS, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND RADIATION SOURCES must be approved through the Office of Health Research, Compliance, and Technology Transfer before the actual research begins. For more information, consult http://www.gwumc.edu/research.

PATENTS AND INVENTIONS may arise from work performed with committee support and should be disclosed to the University. For more information, consult http://www.gwu.edu/discover/discoveriesinnovations/technologytransfer.

A FINAL REPORT - recipients are required to submit a brief grant report no later than 30 days after the end of your award. Progress Reports for the funding cycle beginning January 2013 will be due January 2014.

Submission Requirement Checklist

- Adherence to the “Application Guidelines” listed here: http://research.gwu.edu/food-thought (on the right side of the page).
- All parts of the application listed under “Application Procedures”
- Letter of Support (to be emailed by the department chair to askovpr@gwu.edu)