**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

**Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources**

[This document provides information about resources, programs, and other institutional supports available to UNL faculty, staff, and/or administrators to support their research and scholarly and creative activity. Including relevant information about these resources in grant proposals may be helpful when it is necessary to describe the institutional environment or provide evidence of institutional investment in the success of principal investigators or teams. Please note that only institutional supports directly relevant to a proposed project should be included in the Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources document of a grant proposal. Investigators are encouraged to modify and/or condense the below descriptions to highlight key points most relevant to a specific proposal. Contact the [Office of Proposal Development](mailto:%20tgilreathmullen2@unl.edu) with requests for the inclusion of additional resources or with updates to existing information.]

**Institutional Environment**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Nebraska’s comprehensive research institution, is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation within its “Research Universities (highest research activity)” category and is a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance. As a land-grant university, a wide array of academic, research, and outreach programs are available at UNL, including those in agriculture, architecture, business, education, engineering, fine and performing arts, humanities, human resources and family sciences, journalism and mass communications, law, life and physical sciences, and natural resources. In 2023-2024, UNL granted 4,021 undergraduate degrees, 854 master’s degrees, and 261 doctoral degrees. In fall 2024, UNL’s total enrollment was 23,992 students, including 19,305 undergraduate students and 4,064 graduate students.

In FY2023, UNL and the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s combined research expenditures exceeded $617 million, and UNL faculty are managing an impressive number of large grants. These include “EQUATE: Emergent Quantum Materials and Technologies,” a $20 million effort funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that advances scientific discoveries and innovation in the design, synthesis, growth, and use of materials and hybrid systems with large-scale quantum properties; “B5: Bigger Better Brassicaceae Biofuels and Bioproducts,” a $12 million award from the Department of Energy to address the need for sustainable liquid fuels and oils of defined structures for the bioenergy and oleochemical sectors; the Midwest/Central Plains Regional Food Business Center, a $25 million award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to amplify and accelerate the delivery of services to producers and food businesses; and three National Institutes of Health-funded Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence: the Nebraska Center for the Prevention of Obesity Diseases through Dietary Molecules; the Rural Drug Addition Research Center; and the Nebraska Center for Integrated Biomolecular Communication. Furthermore, with a $51 million investment from NSF, UNL leads the NSF-funded portion of the U.S. Compact Muon Solenoid Operations Program at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider, the world’s largest, most powerful particle accelerator, located in Switzerland.

UNL also participates in the National Strategic Research Institute—a long-term collaboration between the University of Nebraska and U.S. Strategic Command that supports missions related to national security—and the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, which strives to address the most urgent political, environmental, social, and economic challenges of the 21st century related to food and water security. As a complement to education and research projects, UNL faculty collaborate with K-12 schools; museums; Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) affiliates; the national 4-H network and individual 4-H clubs; and other individuals from around the world to reach the most diverse audiences possible, making UNL a global leader in broadening knowledge in the sciences and humanities.

**General Institutional Supports for Faculty**

**Events and Programming**

***Nebraska Research Days.*** Every fall, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Office of Research and Innovation hosts Nebraska Research Days – a multi-day celebration of the research and creative activity of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and staff. The celebration features faculty recognition events, science slams, and various networking opportunities for scholars to meet, share ideas, and form collaborations.

***Research Administration Essentials.*** Research Administration Essentials is a comprehensive education program offered by the Office of Research and Innovation, bringing together existing and new instructional components to meet the research administration needs of faculty, staff, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students. The mission of Research Administration Essentials is to ensure that important research at the University of Nebraska continues to move forward in compliance with funding requirements and in support of the principles of institutional integrity and credibility. The program provides the research community with an improved understanding of research regulations, policies, and procedures and access to vital resources and contacts for further assistance in managing research projects and programs.

***Research Development Fellows Program.*** The Research Development Fellows Program (RDFP) is an Office of Research and Innovation initiative designed to provide full-time, pre-tenure faculty with the information, resources, and approaches necessary to prepare competitive grant proposals. The year-long program is composed of three primary components.

*Learning Activities:* At the core of RDFP is a combination of formal and informal learning sessions designed to help fellows conceptualize project plans, interact effectively with program officers, identify funding opportunities, plan and draft effective grant proposals, and develop an understanding of the proposal review process.

*Consultation:* RDFP learning activities are complemented by one-on-one consultations with University of Nebraska-Lincoln administrators, faculty colleagues, and Office of Research and Innovation staff who provide advice to fellows regarding the proposal development process, including the creation of a concept paper and elevator pitch.

*Sponsor Engagement:* A group trip to Washington, D.C. provides fellows an opportunity to network with program officers about their research ideas.

***Research Leaders Program.*** The Research Leaders Program is a new initiative designed to identify and develop the next generation of research leaders among faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is sponsored by the Office of Research and Innovation and delivered in partnership with the Center for Professional and Executive Development in the College of Business. The goal of the program is to propel emerging research leaders – those individuals with the interest, vision, and motivation to take their research programs to a higher and more collaborative level. The objectives of the Research Leaders Program are for participants to: 1) develop the skills necessary to effectively build and manage large teams and projects; 2) produce actionable roadmaps to secure major external funding; and 3) network with like-minded colleagues, university leaders, and public/private partners who can help advocate for and support the development of large, innovative, and impactful research programs.

***Write Winning Grant Proposals Seminar.*** The Office of Research and Innovation offers a free Write Winning Grant Proposals seminar each year for University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty, staff, and students. The seminar comprehensively addresses both practical and conceptual aspects important to the proposal writing process, emphasizing idea development, identification of appropriate granting agencies, how to write for reviewers, and proven tips and strategies for presenting an applicant’s case to reviewers. All participants receive a workbook focused on writing grant proposals to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Internal Seed Grant Programs**

***Agricultural Research Division***

*Agricultural Research Division Bridge and Revision Funding* supports Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty whose recent extramural grant applications were favorably reviewed but did not receive funding. Specifically, Bridge Funding supports faculty who are in-between extramural funding periods to enable the continuation of research projects while investigators prepare to reapply for external funding. Revision Funding is also available to help investigators revise and resubmit external grant proposals that were favorably reviewed but not funded.

*Agricultural Research Division Strategic (Miscellaneous) Funding* provides support for Agricultural Research Division investigators with unique and temporary needs that cannot be supported through state allocations, grants, or other internal funding mechanisms. Funding can be requested for travel to research sites, temporary operating and/or personnel salary shortfalls, equipment and equipment repair, cash-flow loans, facility upgrades, and miscellaneous items.

*Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Travel Grants* are available to support all full-time Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty to present their research findings and scholarly activity at one domestic or international professional meeting per fiscal year.

***College of Arts and Sciences***

*Enhance CAS grants* support the research, scholarship, and creative activity of College of Arts and Sciences faculty from fields with limited start-up funds and extramural funding opportunities, such as the social sciences and humanities.

*The Instructional Improvement Fund* incentivizes faculty to plan and implement significant undergraduate instructional improvement projects that address needs specified by the College of Arts and Sciences.

*International Research Collaboration Awards* help University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences develop and enhance international collaborations with arts and sciences faculty at universities abroad.

*International Travel Awards* provide travel support for faculty speaking and presenting at conferences, workshops, and other events outside the United States.

*The Partnerships Seed Funding Program* seeks to facilitate partnerships between College of Arts and Sciences faculty and industry, non-profit, and/or community partners by providing seed funding that enables faculty to establish and/or enhance these external collaborations.

***Office of Research and Innovation***

*The Arts & Humanities Research Enhancement Program* is designed to foster research, scholarship, and creative activity in the arts and humanities to support excellence in these disciplines. This program provides seed money to help faculty achieve short-term goals that, in turn, increases their competitiveness for external grants and/or increases the societal impact of their work to ultimately set the stage for larger projects. Arts & Humanities awards may be used to initiate new projects, develop new areas of faculty research/creative activity, and/or further the development of an on-going project. Funding can support pilot projects and prototype development, as well as performances, recordings, exhibitions, and publication subvention. Funding can also support the demonstration of societal impact such as educational/public service programs/activities and travel relevant to the proposed project or activity.

*The Biomedical Research Seed Grants Program* seeks to enhance the competitiveness of University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty submitting grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health. This program provides expert feedback from a panel of external reviewers as well as seed funding to facilitate preliminary study or data collection, which is intended to improve the competitiveness of National Institutes of Health proposals submitted by UNL Principal Investigators. Investigators are expected to leverage seed funding to accumulate evidence in support of a working hypothesis; demonstrate the feasibility of a new approach; or build reviewers’ confidence in the project team’s ability to handle cutting-edge technologies, understand methods, and interpret results.

*Faculty Seed Grants* are designed for projects that encourage and enhance research, creative, and scholarly activities and enhance the prospects of obtaining outside, competitive support. Funding can support any aspect of a project deemed necessary by the applicant, including but not limited to pilot projects, prototype development, demonstration of educational/public service programs, and international travel.

*Interdisciplinary Research Grants* are designed for projects that encourage and enhance research, creative, and scholarly activities with faculty from other “non-alike” UNL Departments and Colleges. The goal is to enhance the competitiveness of applications for external funding and to foster innovative, collaborative, and timely ideas that inform existing and nascent strategic initiatives specified by the institution and/or funding agencies.

*The Layman Awards* provide funding for projects that will enhance the grantee’s ability to obtain external funding to support prominent scholarly work. There are two types of Layman Awards: 1) the Layman Seed Program provides funding for research projects by non-tenured early career faculty and 2) the New Directions Program provides funding for tenured faculty who are branching into new research directions or need funding to support pilot/development work toward the next step in a funded research program.

*The Revision Awards Program* seeks to enhance the competitiveness of UNL faculty revising and resubmitting proposals for federal funding by providing developmental and/or financial support to help improve highly meritorious but previously unfunded proposals that are eligible for resubmission to the same funding program. Revision Awards provide a framework for dedicated technical and research administration assistance as well as funding to support further preliminary study, if needed.

***Industry Relations.*** The Industry Relations unit within the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Office of Research and Innovation works to advance public-private partnerships that involve the university, focusing largely on collaborations with industry. Industry Relations supports industry partners by connecting them with the university’s unique capabilities and services to help them achieve their business goals. The unit also assists UNL faculty and staff by connecting them with industry collaborators and helping to establish and maintain these partnerships.

***Nebraska Innovation Campus.***  Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) connects the talents of the University of Nebraska with experts and companies to create a unique culture of innovation and facilitate new and in-depth partnerships between the university and private sector businesses. Located adjacent to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NIC is home to a combination of private sector businesses and university research centers, laboratories, and office space. NIC welcomes companies of all sizes and offers office, lab, and greenhouse space for lease. NIC also houses Nebraska Innovation Studio, a makerspace where creators of all sorts can share ideas, tools, and knowledge. It features collaborative workspace and areas for woodworking, fine arts, and rapid prototyping and electronics. University faculty, students, staff, and community members can join the studio for a monthly fee. Members can take part in workshops, be trained on available machines, and ultimately, make things.

***NUtech Ventures.*** NUtech Ventures, the nonprofit technology commercialization affiliate of the University of Nebraska, evaluates, protects, markets, and licenses the intellectual property of faculty, staff, and students to promote economic development and improve quality of life. The NUtech Ventures team licenses to a wide variety of companies, ranging from small start-ups to large, well-established companies. NUtech Ventures connects university researchers who have innovative, state-of-the-art technologies with commercialization potential to industry partners, entrepreneurs, and investors. In facilitating these partnerships, NUtech Ventures strives to ensure that University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers have the connections and resources needed to commercialize their innovations while also helping companies solve research challenges and create new and innovative technologies. The NUtech Ventures team also promotes entrepreneurship through programming, sponsored events, and other resources.

***Office of Proposal Development.*** The Office of Proposal Development (OPD) partners with faculty, staff, and administrators to develop competitive external grant proposals. The OPD team of proposal development professionals enhances overall proposal quality by ensuring applicants meet sponsor guidelines and by improving the content, organization, and visual appeal of proposal packages. OPD services include:

*Idea Development and Proposal Planning:* OPD staff are available to help investigators lead brainstorming sessions with other faculty, staff, and administrators to conceptualize and refine project plans; initiate or extend collaborations and capitalize upon appropriate institutional resources; and prepare for meetings with funding agency representatives.

*Proposal Preparation:* OPD staff are available to review grant proposals to help individual investigators or large project teams meet sponsor guidelines and to improve the content, organization, and visual appeal of proposal packages; manage large-scale, multi-institutional, interdisciplinary projects; advise on the development of supplementary documentation to maximize effectiveness and continuity and to ensure compliance with sponsor guidelines; and coordinate expert review of grant proposals to provide investigators with subject matter review and to provide an experience similar to that of a proposal review panel.

***Office of Sponsored Programs.*** The Office of Sponsored Programs supports the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community in obtaining and managing external funding to support research, creative, and scholarly activities. The Office provides pre-award and post-award services throughout the award life cycle. Pre-award grant coordinators assist in the preparation of proposal budget details, facilitate the administrative review and approval process, and review and negotiate contracts and agreements. Post-award project specialists provide a variety of financial and administrative services once UNL has been awarded a grant or a contract, assisting faculty with everything from budget setup to managing the entire award.

***Research Compliance Services.*** Research Compliance Services manages human subjects research, conflicts of interest in research, export controls, and all research misconduct. Research Compliance Services also provides responsible conduct of research training for all faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and other institutional collaborators and affiliates involved in research and scholarly activities. The responsible conduct of research training program is designed to meet the requirements specified by federal funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the National Science Foundation. Programming is offered in person and online and covers a wide variety of topics, including authorship, mentoring, collaborative science, conflict of interest, ethics and regulations of research with humans and animals, and export controls, as well as data security, management, sharing, and ownership.

***Research Impacts Support.*** The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) is committed to increasing the impact of the research and creative activity led by its faculty, students, and staff. As Nebraska’s comprehensive, land-grant institution, the university’s mission-driven work includes generating new knowledge; solving real-world problems; and enhancing lives through transformational innovation. Staff in the Office of Research and Innovation work with the campus community to cultivate meaningful partnerships and develop plans to maximize the broader societal impacts of their work. In particular, a dedicated research impact coordinator collaborates with UNL faculty, staff, students, and external partners to extend impact opportunities within and beyond campus. The research impact coordinator also supports individual faculty and teams designing or implementing research impact activities as part of grant proposals or externally-funded work.

During 2020-2021, UNL was chosen as one of five institutions to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Program to Enhance Research Impact Capacity (ORIC) offered by the Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) Center (NSF Award #1810732). The other institutions selected were Michigan State University; Purdue University; University of California, Berkeley; and University of Idaho. Through ORIC, ARIS provides institutions with research impact training, resources, and mentorship, fostering a research impact community of practice to help participating organizations increase their internal capacity to support impact activities. Participation in ORIC has enhanced institutional knowledge of and leadership in key competencies that will foster a sustainable research impacts infrastructure at UNL. Examples of these competencies include: facilitating transformative research impacts partnerships; building the capacity of community partners to participate in research impacts work; assisting faculty in developing a strong research impacts identity to inform project development, administration, and evaluation; and creating an equitable and inclusive research culture.

***University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries.*** The vision of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries is to be recognized as a national leader in creativity and knowledge development, offering access to data, information, and knowledge in an environment supporting discovery, reflection, and application. The Libraries support the intellectual discovery and research needs of faculty and students through a wide range of services, including one-on-one research consultations; workshops and consultations on data management and writing data management plans for grant proposals; consultations with Foundation Directory Certified Trainers who are available to assist with funding opportunity searches; assistance using citation management tools, including RefWorks, Mendeley, Zotero, and EndNote; and continuous 24/7 access to librarians through email, instant messaging, phone, or text services.