Ciocca Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Research in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Mindset
Focus Area: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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 develop innovative ideas, create new ventures, become dynamic leaders in an evolving workplace, and create 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. As the focus for this year’s research program, we invite proposals that explore the intersection between innovation and entrepreneurship and the challenges and opportunities relating to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This can include topics related to race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, ability and other aspects of diversity.

Possible research themes may include, but are not limited to, topics such as:

- The benefit and need of having diverse and inclusive innovation teams;
- Barriers to funding, mentorship and opportunities for BIPOC entrepreneurs;
- Approaches to educating, training, and providing support to entrepreneurs from under-represented and under-served populations;
- The role of innovation and entrepreneurial strategies in lifting up underserved communities and populations;
- Techniques to promote deeper empathy for, and to identify the needs of, people from diverse cultures and backgrounds;
- Policies to foster inclusive and diverse entrepreneurship.
- The understanding and fostering of an entrepreneurial mindset among communities of color.

To be clear, research proposals MUST address the intersection of DEI challenges with respect to topics in innovation and entrepreneurship/entrepreneurial mindset. 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 may be led by any faculty with an academic year appointment, unless explicitly approved by the Center prior to submission. 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.

Expected outputs of funded projects will include a publication in the academic literature or works presented in an appropriate professional or creative venue, a thought leadership article/posting in the popular press or on the Ciocca Center web site, a presentation to the Santa Clara community, and
periodic summary reports to Ciocca Center. Proposers will also provide an abstract and a final report to be posted on the Ciocca Center website.

Significant projects in the range of $10,000-$30,000 for up to 18 months of effort will be considered. Funds may be used for up to one month of faculty summer salary or an academic year course buyout if approved by the faculty member’s department; funds may also be used for student support, travel, supplies, and publication fees. Funds are generally not 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 January 31, 2021. 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, and summarize expected results/contributions. 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 committee and will be judged on criteria to include:
- Appropriateness of the proposed topic;
- The research team’s experience in the topic area;
- Quality of the research plan;
- Anticipated impact of the completed work.

Recommendations by the review 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.