



DATA and DECISIONS DESTINATION AREA

Request for Concepts (RFC) 2018

The Data and Decisions destination area is soliciting requests for concepts for a second year. Successful RFC awardees will identify and make impactful changes highlighting VT as a destination for Data and Decisions research. Emphasis placed on external impact to raise awareness of Data and Decisions outside of the university will receive strong consideration. Three awards (up to \$30,000 each) are expected to be funded. Applications are due 10/31/18.

Data and Decisions Vision: Advance the human condition and society with better decisions through data.

Data and Decisions Mission: 1) Providing data and decision infrastructure to support a systems approach to transdisciplinary problems. 2) Empowering students, faculty and alumni to translate data into actionable knowledge to improve the human condition. 3) Providing an intellectually enriched environment to achieve excellence in data-driven decision sciences. 4) Attracting the global community to join Virginia Tech in tackling the world's data analytics and decision science problems. 5) Transforming pedagogy with inclusive, human-centered, data-powered approach to learning and engagement for all students.

RFC DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

The Data and Decisions DA is interested in supporting transdisciplinary teams of faculty from across departments, colleges and DAs/SGAs whose research or scholarship addresses key issues aligned with our vision and mission.

Applications should be tailored to address one the following categories:

- 1) Research ideas to generate external impact, *for example* proposals for the development of large centers like NSF centers
- 2) Seed funding to catalyze internal research *for example* development of a seminar or workshop series to include a hands-on training event for research faculty, or proposing a research project with the intent to capture additional, external funding
- 3) Addition of a data expert or data component to an already existing project that would elevate the project for impactful change and increase the potential for additional external funding

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Applications are welcome from faculty members in all departments, centers, and programs at Virginia Tech.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications must include: a) cover sheet listing the project title and investigators, b) a 200 word abstract describing the broader implications of the research topic/project in language suitable for the general public c) project narrative of up to three pages, d) simple itemized budget outline with justification



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Required information for the project narrative portion of the application includes:

1. Overview and significance of the proposed research.
2. Specific aims and analytic design of the proposed investigation.
3. Timeline with list of key project activities and milestones.
4. Primary team members, including identification of the team leader and roles/expertise of other members and consultants (do not submit curriculum vitae).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Data and Decisions content: Does the project identify distinct content that will advance the Data and Decisions mission and be externally impactful?
2. Coherence: Does the project describe and set reasonable and attainable goals?
3. Deliverables: Are there specified deliverables with potential impact? Can they be delivered?
4. Fundability: Does the project offer the potential for securing external funds?

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

In anticipation of outcomes and contributions to the development of the Data and Decisions destination area, the teams are expected to:

1. Produce the deliverable(s) specified in the application.
2. Recognize Data and Decisions support on any presentation or publication resulting from the award.
3. Present the results at a Data and Decisions event (TBD).
4. A brief final report must be submitted following the funding period using a provided template.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS/DEADLINE

Applications are to be prepared using 1-inch margins, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font. Submit an e-copy of the complete application (.pdf) to Chris Tysor (ctysor@vt.edu) by 5 PM, October 31, 2018.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD/AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Notification of the awards will be made by December 7th, 2018. Funds will be available not later than mid-January 2019 and must be fully spent by June 30, 2019 or returned to the Data and Decisions destination area.



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BUDGET GUIDELINES

Examples of appropriate use of funds include, but are not limited to, faculty summer stipends, course buy-out, graduate assistantships/tuition, student wages, travel for data collection or interaction with funding agencies. Summer stipends may not exceed \$8,000 inclusive of fringe benefits (<http://www.policies.vt.edu/4296.pdf>). Course buy-outs may not exceed \$7,500. Buy-out policies vary by college; ask department head for specific requirements. Matching funds can be noted if available to increase the research impact, but they are not required.

QUESTIONS: Please contact the Data and Decisions Program Manager Chris Tysor (ctysor@vt.edu).