DATA and DECISIONS DESTINATION AREA
Request for Concepts (RFC) 2020

The Data and Decisions Destination Area is committed to transdisciplinary solutions that advance the human condition and society with better decisions through data. Data and Decisions brings together and supports teams of faculty and students from across academic disciplines to translate data into actionable knowledge. We invite proposals for projects that identify and make impactful changes, highlighting VT as a destination for Data and Decisions research.

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.

Two awards (up to $15,000 each) are expected to be funded. Applications are due 3/31/20.

RFC DESCRIPTION
Applications should address one the following categories:
1. Interdisciplinary collaboration: Proposals for funding should address the proposed team/network and the team’s collaborative approach.
2. Establish research areas and capacities that are leading-edge and prominent on the national stage.
3. Seed funding to generate external interest and further development through national or international grants.
4. Seed funding to catalyze internal research such as development of a seminar or workshop series to include a hands-on training event for research faculty.
5. Initiatives that connect with curricular and/or outreach opportunities.

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, d) simple itemized budget outline with justification.

APPLICATION CONTENTS:
Please include the following information in the project narrative:
1. Overview and significance of the proposed project.
2. Specific aims and 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?

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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. A two- to three-page report that describes project outcomes and how the funds were spent will be submitted to Data and Decisions no more than 30 days after project completion. A final report describing results will be submitted to Data & Decisions by December 1, 2020.

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).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS & DEADLINE
Applications should be submitted no later than **Mar 31, 2020**.

Submit an e-copy of the complete application (.pdf) to Megan Hicks (hmegan@vt.edu).

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD/AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
Notification of the awards will be made by April 30, 2020. Funds must be fully spent by June 30, 2020 or returned to the Data and Decisions Destination Area.

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. 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.

All university policies and procedures must be observed.

QUESTIONS: Please contact the Data and Decisions Program Manager Megan Hicks (hmegan@vt.edu).