



16 January 2018

Dear CALS Colleagues,

Please consider submitting a proposal to the Experiment Station Strategic Research Investment Fund. This Fund is intended to increase faculty success when using the Arizona Experiment Station Units. To learn more about those Units visit <http://aes.cals.arizona.edu/>.

Specifically, we are seeking proposals that identify investments in infrastructure, equipment, and/or activities that increase the research capacity at Experiment Station Units. Possible investments might include but are not limited to sensor arrays that generate data sets and the accompanying hardware and software to store and provide access to that data, or the conversion of analog data sets to digital on-line data for broader distribution to the research community. This is not a call for a research proposal.

We have \$50,000 to fund proposals this year. Proposals seeking smaller amounts of money are strongly encouraged. The \$50,000 could go to a single project, or split among many smaller projects. There is also the possibility that no proposals will be funded. Our intention is for this to be an annual program. Financing for this program is from money generated by the Experiment Station Units.

For more information contact Mitch McClaran at [mcclaran@u.arizona.edu](mailto:mcclaran@u.arizona.edu).

Cheers,

Mitch McClaran

Professor of Range Management, School of Natural Resources and the Environment

Director for Research, Santa Rita Experimental Range

Associate Director for Strategy and Range, Arizona Experiment Station

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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## Strategic Research Investment Fund for AES

**Purpose:** Increase faculty success when using the Arizona Experiment Station Units.

**Investment:** Equipment and/or activity that benefits and attracts current and future users such as, but not limited to sensor arrays that generate data sets and the accompanying hardware and software to store and provide access to that data, or the conversion of analog data sets to digital on-line data for broader distribution to the research community. This is not a call for a research proposal.

**Award:** \$50,000 total annually. Proposals seeking smaller amounts of money are strongly encouraged. The \$50,000 could go to a single project, or split among many smaller projects. There is also the possibility that no proposals will be funded.

### **3-page Proposal must include:**

1. Benefits to new and improved activities such as more competitive for extramural funding, facilitates collaboration among groups, attracts additional users, or addresses needs identified by end-users,
2. How will the investment increase use from campus faculty,
3. How will broad access to equipment or other outcomes will be assured,
4. How the equipment or outcome will be maintained,
5. Budget and justification including equipment quotes and maintenance/operations, and matching funds if applicable,
6. List of expected users and affiliations,
7. Letter of Support and Commitment from AES Unit Resident Director/Superintendent

### **Applicant Qualifications:**

1. At least two CALS faculty must be Co-proposers
2. Include biographical sketch (max 3 pages each) for each Co-proposer

### **Review criteria:**

1. Alignment with AES Mission which is to *“Provide a diverse world-class infrastructure essential to generating and disseminating critical knowledge and technologies for Arizona and the world.”*
2. Extent of multiple beneficiaries
3. Likelihood of increasing use of facilities by campus faculty
4. Likelihood of generating external funding
5. Qualifications of Co-proposers

### **Review Process:**

Arizona Experiment Station Leadership Committee and CALS Assoc Dean for Research, with support of external reviewers.

### **Timeline: Announcement, Submission, Awards**

Submission deadline: 19 March 2018: Awards late May 2018

**Submit Proposal to:**

Jennifer Garner Smith: [jmgardne@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jmgardne@email.arizona.edu)

**Reporting Requirements:**

Immediately after receiving the award, submit a 200-word description of the project to be used in promotional materials about the award.

A report is required 12 months after the award. The report will describe equipment purchased, extent of users, new collaborations developed, and status of extramural funding proposals. Additional information regarding requirements will be outlined in the award letter.