2014 / 2015 ANNOUNCEMENT AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Center for Innovation in Construction Safety, Health and Well-Being (IC-SAFE)

Kevin P. Granata Pilot Research Program

Description: The mission of the Center for Innovation in Construction Safety Health and Well Being (IC-SAFE) is to improve construction worker safety, health, and well-being by improving, connecting and integrating industry, education, and research. Pilot project funding is made possible through the Myers-Lawson School of Construction (MLSOC) support of IC-SAFE’s mission. For the 2014/2015 academic year, a total of $15,000 is available to support pilot research by qualified investigators, which will be used to fund 3 to 5 projects of ≤ 1 year duration at $3,000 to $5,000 each. Applications for research, prevention, intervention or translational projects focusing on important occupational safety, health and well-being problems related to the construction sector are welcome. We specifically seek to support pilot work that will lead to a formal R03, R21, or R01 type proposal submitted through IC-SAFE during the 2015 funding cycle.

Eligibility: Applications are welcomed from any research faculty at Virginia Tech. External partners wishing to submit an application should work with a faculty member at Virginia Tech. Applications are due by COB October 22, 2014 with awards made in November. Release of funds will be contingent on investigators obtaining approval from the Institutional Review Board, if human subjects are involved.

Use of Funds: Budgets are allocated to the faculty Primary Investigator. This “seed” funding is intended to facilitate the development of new occupational safety and health research directions in the construction sector, especially to support development of a subsequent formal proposal (as noted above). Acceptable research expenses include, but are not limited to: participant compensation, domestic travel, supplies, equipment, and research assistants. Faculty AY or summer time pay may not be charged, and indirect costs (overhead) are not applied.

Application Format: A brief proposal should be submitted, for a project up to 1 year in duration. Applications should use 11-point Arial font, left justification and 1” margins.

1. Title Page: Project Title, Investigator(s), Affiliation(s)
2. Description of Research (3-5 pages long)
   a. Pilot Study Specific Aim
   b. Significance (to construction health and safety)
   c. Innovation
d. Approach (including expected outcomes and deliverables)

3. Pilot Budget
   a. Line item list of amounts
   b. Justification of each line item

4. Schedule or Timeline (Note: NIOSH submissions are February, June and October)

**Evaluation of Applications:** Applications will be evaluated by the IC-SAFE leadership team and other experts as needed. Evaluation criteria will include 1) Support of IC-SAFE mission (http://www.mlsoc.vt.edu/articles/faculty/center-innovation-construction); 2) Potential impact on construction occupational health, safety and well-being; 3) Relevance to NIOSH-NORA priorities of the National Construction Agenda (http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/comment/agendas/construction/pdfs/ConstOct2008.pdf). Investigators should also indicate which priorities in the National Construction Agenda are relevant to their application; 4) Likelihood of successful subsequent formal proposal; 5) Scientific merit of the research. Review criteria will follow similar guidelines to NIH/NIOSH guidelines for Significance, Innovation and Approach (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm#rpg_02).

**Deliverables:** Investigators will be required to submit a 6-9 page final report following the PHS 398 Research Strategy format (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_General_VerC.pdf). Investigators may also be invited to present their research at IC-SAFE / MLSOC events. Short quarterly progress summaries may be requested quarterly. Investigators are strongly encouraged to develop a formal proposal for further funding in conjunction with IC-SAFE.

**Submissions:** Submit applications electronically (PDF) to Ms. Lucinda Shewchuk (231-8096; lucindas@vt.edu) by COB October 22, 2014. Please direct any questions to Ms. Shewchuk or Dr. Daniel Hindman (dhindman@vt.edu).