

RI-INBRE Request for Curriculum Development Proposals: Enhanced Virtual Education, REsearch, and Training (EVEREST) Pilot Award – 2021

Submission Date: Monday, January 11th, 2021
Awards Announced: Monday, January 25th, 2021
Grant Award Period: mid-March 2021 to August 31, 2021

BACKGROUND: The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically impacted how we deliver experiential/hands-on education and biomedical and health sciences training. This is a significant challenge for professors, instructors, and students who struggle to cope with new realities. In the current pandemic environment, in-person interactions with students are not always advised or possible, but student training must continue. The Rhode Island IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (RI-INBRE) is pleased to announce a request for pilot proposals on innovative curriculum development: The Enhanced Virtual Education, REsearch and Training (EVEREST) pilot award.

EVEREST's primary goal is to identify and develop novel virtual/remote education methods, laboratory and research pedagogy, and hybrid training that lessens the need for in-person interactions with students. Ideas may encompass self-directed or instructor-directed or combined methodologies and may be either synchronous (live interaction) or asynchronous (own time).

Methods and approaches that can be funded under this mechanism include but are not limited to:

- Remote synchronous, asynchronous, or hybrid learning modules to be incorporated into existing didactic and laboratory curricula
- Synchronous, asynchronous, or mixed training modules for software-based methods
- Virtual, augmented, or mixed reality applications for teaching or training using either self-directed or group (e.g., virtual room) methodologies
- Purchase of software or equipment to improve virtual teaching/training infrastructure (e.g., recording equipment, cloud computing resources, visualization or analysis software, VR/AR equipment, etc.)
- Proposals that utilize remote-learning approaches to support virtual group activities. Proposed modules can be a short term (e.g., weeks) or long-term (e.g., summer, semester). Favorable considerations will be given to proposals that involve collaborations within the RI-INBRE network, including other RI-INBRE researchers and/or Core Facilities.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be full-time faculty and instructors/lecturers at a RI-INBRE network campus at the time of application. Postdoc and graduate students are also eligible but must include a full-time faculty member as a multi-PI (MPI). The proposed curriculum development may apply to any courses or programs for which the inclusion of biomedical and health topics is appropriate.

REVIEW CRITERIA: The degree to which the proposal:

- 1) Articulates the appropriateness of the topic(s) chosen for the virtual learning project and the expected learning outcomes
- 2) Demonstrates that the proposed methods and activities are doable
- 3) Provides evidence that the proposed methods constitute an innovative approach

AMOUNT & DURATION OF AWARD: EVEREST Awards will provide a modular budget of up to \$5,000 "direct" during the development period (mid-March to August 30, 2021), which will pay the time and effort spent on curriculum development, services, and supplies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: All applications must be assembled in the following sequence in an all-in-one pdf file. Format a single-column page and use a 0.6-inch margin all around the proposal. Use Arial font size 11 for text and font size 9 for figures, diagrams, and tables. Scan only letters of support or other signed documents.

**** Please note:** This is a streamlined proposal that requires EVEREST Plan, Budget, Resources, References, and Support Letters. Once selected for funding, you must provide additional items: Face Page (NIH PHS398 form), NIH Biosketch, and other supplemental material for a final NIH approval**

Proposal	Page Limits
EVEREST Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • Introduction • Description of your project • Rationale, Innovation, and Impact 	3 pages
Budget and Justification	1 page
Resources	1 page
Bibliography	No page limit
Letters of Support	No page limit

The EVEREST Plan (3-page limit) is comprised of the following: Title, Introduction, Description of your Curricular Development Project, and Rationale, Innovation, and Impact.

Title: Your project's descriptive title is limited to **81 characters** (including spaces between words and punctuation).

Introduction & Description of your Project: Give an intro and details of the proposed curriculum development. What will the biomedical topic(s) be covered? Will it be the module's subject within an existing course (indicate course designator, number, title) or a new class? What are the expected learning outcomes?

Rationale, Innovation, and Impact: Give a brief explanation of why your project particularly warrants the virtual curriculum development effort. How will achieving the intended learning outcomes benefit the students (e.g., enhanced subject competency, greater preparedness for future coursework, etc.). What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed virtual module compared to the traditional in-person course settings? How many students are likely to be impacted by the proposed curriculum development? Will the program be available to individuals outside of the RI-INBRE network (e.g., publicly available online resources)?

Budget and Justification: Itemize and justify time and effort, services, and supplies.

Resources Page: Describe any facilities and resources (yours and shared) available and necessary for you to perform the proposed research.

Bibliography (no page limit): Provide a bibliography of references cited. Each reference must include all authors' names (in the publication sequence), the article and journal-title, book title/volume number, page numbers, and publication year. Be concise and select only literature references pertinent to the proposed research.

Letters of Support (no page limit): The collaborators should provide letters of support and indicate their enthusiasm for the project.

Submit the all-in-one PDF proposal to Bongsup Cho (bcho@uri.edu) and Laura Arrighi (larrighi@uri.edu) by 5 pm Monday, January 11th, 2021.

For questions regarding grant application preparation, please contact: Laura Arrighi, RI-INBRE Coordinator (401-874-9288, larrighi@uri.edu)