Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives (HFHL) Institute
Spring 2016 Request for Proposals
Graduate and Professional Student Research Grant Program

The University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives (HFHL) Institute is an all-university Institute supported by funds from the University of Minnesota. The mission of the HFHL Institute is to increase and sustain the University’s impact in the interdisciplinary arena of food, agriculture, and health by building the University’s capacity in research, learning, and community engagement. The priority areas for focus are food protection, prevention of obesity and diet-related disease, food policy and food security. Within these priority areas, of special importance is the integration of agriculture and health sciences.

Focus of this Request for Proposals
The HFHL Institute is requesting applications for small research grants to fund student research and/or other activities related to broadening interdisciplinary learning in the areas of food, agriculture, and human health. Funds will be distributed through a competitive review process. The grants to be funded through this program must utilize novel and innovative approaches to answer potentially high impact research questions. The request should seek to establish cross-disciplinary learning and engagement.

Funding
For this grant cycle, HFHL plans to award a total of up to $20,000. Applicants may seek grant funds ranging from $2,000-$10,000.

Appropriate uses of the funds may include, but are not restricted to:
- Non-recurring salary funds to support the student’s independent study project (For students seeking salary support, priority will be given to those who are not supported as 12 month 50% RAs to perform their dissertation research. Students on assistantships or fellowships must describe the support and provide an explanation of the work they are performing for it.)
- Project related research materials or supplies
- Research related travel expenses
- Student initiated programs or colloquia
- Purchase of support services for research

The funds should be designated for the direct support of research, but they may not be used to support a currently funded faculty-initiated research program. It is extremely important that the applicant makes clear that this is a new or complementary research project and not a continuation of ongoing research that is funded by other sources. The funds must be spent within the allotted time period, although no-cost extensions will be allowed with appropriate justification.

The most important criteria for funding will be innovation, significance (potential impact), utilization and expansion of existing research opportunities, quality of the research proposal, and for the integration of cross-disciplinary thinking and collaboration.

Expected outcomes could include building on competitive advantages, developing new synergies across disciplines, publications demonstrating interdisciplinarity, submission of a proposal for extramural funding, generation of significant preliminary data, integrating the research with engagement activities related to public impact, and development of graduate thesis and doctoral dissertations.

PLEASE NOTE: (1) PIs will be expected to attend one of HFHL’s Fall Research Symposia (a conference on Native American health and nutrition or a conference on the topic of Food, Microbes and Human Health—dates TBD) and

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include the costs for attendance in their budget. The total cost of attendance is approximately $150/person, plus any travel expenses incurred; (2) After the funding period, HFHL sends periodic requests to grantees to complete surveys that help keep up-to-date records about outcomes and accomplishments related to grantee research—grantees are expected to complete the surveys; (3) HFHL requests that all grantee publications, including research publications, press releases and other publications or documents about research that is funded by HFHL must include a specific acknowledgment of HFHL grant support, including a grant award number, if provided.

Who is Eligible:
Applicants must be current University of Minnesota students in good standing who are enrolled in post-baccalaureate programs and working towards a doctoral, master’s, or professional degree.

Proposal Requirements:
- Title Page: must include name, email, degree and graduate or professional program, start date of program, expected year of degree completion, faculty advisor name, e-mail address, and dept
- Abstract (not to exceed 300 words)
- Research Plan (not to exceed 3 pages, 11pt font)
  - Statement of Hypothesis and Specific Aims
  - Background and Rationale
  - Preliminary Results (if applicable)
  - Research Design and Methods
- Budget and budget justification
- Brief biography of the applicant and all co-investigators on the project
- Letter of support from faculty advisor showing cross-disciplinary learning and verifying that the project funds will not be used for ongoing research that is already funded
- Documentation of approvals necessary to conduct the proposed project or application date for required approvals
- The following questions must be addressed separately from the proposal, on one page
  - How is this project interdisciplinary and why is an interdisciplinary approach necessary?
  - How is this proposal highly innovative?
  - What is the potential impact of this proposal?
  - How will this research be useful to you as you advance in your studies here at the U and in your future work endeavors?

Criteria for evaluation of grant applications include:
- Interdisciplinarity
- Innovation
- Student engagement
- Potential impact
- Intellectual merit of the proposed research
- Leveraging of resources
- Appropriateness of budget

Review Process:
The HFHL Institute Director will select the reviewers with advice from the HFHL Advisory Board. The review panel will include faculty members from multiple colleges and disciplines, and may include external reviewers. Recommendations of the review panel will be submitted to the HFHL Director for final decision and approval.

Application Process:
1. The deadline for submission will be April 15, 2016. Grant applications should be emailed (PDF files) to hfhl@umn.edu.
2. Awards will be announced by May 31, 2016. Funding will commence June 1, 2016.