

Office of the Vice President for Research

Program of Research & Scholarly Excellence RFP

SYNOPSIS

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is pleased to announce an internal request for proposals for the FY17 Programs of Research & Scholarly Excellence (PRSE) designation. The PRSE designation at Colorado State University was initiated in 1991 and this call builds on that 25 year history of recognition. Programs are awarded this designation because they have achieved great distinction and set a standard for excellence in research, teaching and service that may serve as a model for programs throughout the institution and externally. Thus, the PRSE designation will provide enhanced visibility and enable advocacy in the context of the larger research and training missions of CSU. An annual graduate fellowship allocation from the Graduate School will accompany the PRSE designation. Additional funds will be made available to PRSE-designated programs through an annual OVPR competition mechanism.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are two assumptions underpinning the PRSE designation at Colorado State University. The first is that this designation sets a very high standard for earned qualification, and therefore, only a limited number of programs at Colorado State University will be selected. The second assumption is that PRSE designation is not given in perpetuity, but that there will be a review process whereby even established programs will have an opportunity to requalify for the designation. Each new PRSE designation will be for a four-year duration. Recognized PRSE programs will be listed on the OVPR website. Please see “Applicatin Format” section below for details on application procedures.

OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION AND TIMELINE

The PRSE designation will be for a four-year period (FY17-20). Programs that are granted PRSE designation will then be eligible to compete annually for ~\$500K in PRSE funds to enhance the impact of the PRSEs. More details and guidelines on this aspect of the program will be provided to those programs achieving PRSE designation.

DATE	EVENT
January 15, 2016	PRSE designation RFP announcement released
<i>February 2016</i>	<i>Open Forum (Date TBD)</i>
March 15, 2016	Deadline for receipt
June 1, 2016	Awardees notified
July 15, 2016	PRSE annual funding competition announcement released
September 1, 2016	Deadline for receipt of funding requests
October 1, 2016	Awardees notified

APPLICATION FORMAT

The application process has been streamlined from past competitions and will be limited to a maximum of five (5) pages of narrative including tabular material; appendices are limited to five additional (5) pages of supporting information. To the extent possible, application material is to be presented in tabular form to facilitate ease and expediency of evaluation and comparison between nominations. An electronic (PDF) file is to be submitted to the OVPR by close of business on the date designated as the nomination deadline. The term “program” means a concentration, center, institute, special academic unit, department, etc. It is expected that to achieve PRSE designation, academic units will need to demonstrate the integrated "programmatic" value of their scholarly activities, as detailed below.

Application materials should be submitted as a single pdf file comprising the following:

1. **Cover sheet.** The cover sheet for applications should include the following information:
 - Name of PRSE and statement of current PRSE status (i.e. currently a PRSE or not)
 - Name of director/lead of PRSE and other key personnel (e.g. associate director)
 - List of contributing departments/colleges/units
 - Information on external advisory board (if applicable)
 - Names and contact information of three potential external reviewers
2. **Narrative** [maximum of 5 pages (excluding references), single spaced, 11 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins”].

Application narratives must make a compelling argument for the designation of PRSE, supported by appropriate, qualitative and quantitative data that demonstrate the scholarly and educational impact of the program. Specifically, it is expected that applications will comprise information about membership [faculty, research associates, collaborators and trainees (students, postdocs)], organizational structure and demonstrated synergy of program (i.e. evidence of elevation because of PRSE-quality efforts), 4-year strategic vision as a PRSE and how the PRSE designation will advance the program, and evidence of achieved excellence. It may be useful to provide peer comparisons; describe the impact of the program on its fields, CSU’s missions and broader society; and demonstrate internal and external collaboration and partnerships, relationship-building, and/or capacity strengthening. The names and contact information of individuals capable of providing objective external evaluation of the PRSE should be included on the coversheet of the proposal. [OVPR may contact these or others for additional information.]

3. **Appendix with supporting material** [maximum of 5 pages (excluding references), single spaced, 11 point Times New Roman font with 1” margins”]. Content should be focused on additional evidence supporting potential designation as PRSE.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Nominations for PRSE-designation will be reviewed using the following criteria

- Overall quality and longevity of scholarship, research and educational experiences as evidenced by program awards/honors; student-faculty collaborative activity; accreditation and/or ranking of program nationally and internationally; and exemplary leadership and reputation among similar programs at peer institutions.
- Quality of faculty and students as evidenced by faculty and student awards/honors; qualifications of faculty; research, creativity, and publication activity; involvement in academic or professional societies, diversity of faculty and students; retention and persistence of students; workplace demand for and placement of students; availability of internships and other experiential learning opportunities for students.
- Contribution to strategic goals and mission of the university and OVPR as evidenced by alignment with current institutional, college, and departmental strategic plans; historical and potential impact of the program on CSU's missions.
- Contributions to strengthening and expanding the reputation, reach, and impact of the PRSE and CSU as a whole, as evidenced by internal and external collaborations and partnerships, commercialization metrics, relationship building, and capacity strengthening (e.g. research expansion; graduate enrollment increases; faculty development and productivity, etc.). Note that "impact" will be interpreted broadly with respect to creativity, scholarship, education, and outreach and not necessarily measured in financial returns on investments.
- Quality of proposal and 4-year strategic vision as a PRSE, including how PRSE designation will advance the program.

REVIEW PROCESS

PRSE proposals will be reviewed by a team of highly qualified scholars, including University Distinguished Professors and Teaching Scholars, the Council of Research Associate Deans, and the Faculty Council Committee on Scholarship, Research & Graduate Education. OVPR may seek additional external reviews from individuals having appropriate expertise. The final decision on PRSE designation and competitive funding will be made by the Vice President for Research, in consultation with the Council of Deans.

Each proposal should be submitted as a PDF file to Restricted@Research.colostate.edu by 5:00 p.m. mountain time on the due date noted in the timeline. No late submissions will be accepted. Questions should be directed to vpr_office@Mail.Colostate.edu or visit <https://vprnet.research.colostate.edu/VPR/funding-opportunities/>