**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Research opportunity within NSF I-Corps Node Grant Proposal**

Colorado State University, together with University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, University of New Mexico, and University of Wyoming, is participating in a proposal to the NSF to become an I-Corps Node. The I-Corps Node program is focused on promoting entrepreneurship and technology commercialization in a geographic region, mainly through providing training and resources based on the Lean Start-Up methodology. Our goal is to land one of the Node grants to help the Rocky Mountain Region.

A key element of the grant is a research component, aimed at complementing the rest of the proposal in helping economic development the Rocky Mountain region through entrepreneurship.  One of the attributes of the I-Corps program is that early stage teams go through the I-Corps program and are tracked over time. This presents a unique opportunity for researchers interested in early stage teams and companies to track these teams from before they start the program, during their participation, and after participation. We are seeking proposals from researchers interested in gathering data and conducting research from this component of the grant.

***One-page preliminary requests to participate in research from these data are due on April 7, 2016.***

The one page proposal should include:

a) Information on the topic you propose to study and why it is of interest to entrepreneurship and commercialization specifically in the Rocky Mountain region (i.e., addresses an issue that is important here). We are particularly interested in proposals for research looking at:

--Engagement in entrepreneurship by underrepresented populations;

--The commercialization of basic science discoveries coming out of government and university labs, since the many federal labs in our region will be participating in the program;

--Entrepreneurial dynamics, including access to financing, in underserved localities given the rural and sparsely populated areas in our region; or

--Entrepreneurship and collaboration, since our region is recognized for having strong norms of collaboration and for launching collaborative organizational forms such as the TechStars, Unreasonable Institute, BoomTown and MergeLane accelerators.

b) Information on how the topic addresses a gap in the academic literature.

In addition, please provide an appendix with relevant references and proposed items you would like to include in the survey instrument administered to participating individuals and teams.

Selection of proposals will be based on a) practical relevance to entrepreneurship and commercialization in our region, and b) academic soundness of proposal (e.g., fills a gap in the literature, instruments/items proposed are reliable and valid). A committee of research faculty from the Boulder campus from various disciplines will select the proposals to be included. Those whose RFPs are selected agree to be involved with instrument design, data collection, data management, and basic I-Corps reporting on the research component. We will have a project manager who leads the logistics for the main data collection and data management effort, so involvement of diverse faculty is manageable.

Our objective with the research component of the grant is to engage researchers across the region in these efforts to facilitate entrepreneurship, technology commercialization, and economic development here. We look forward to your proposals. Please submit proposals to christa.johnson@colostate.edu, with “NSF ICORP RESEARCH PROPOSAL” in the subject line. If you have any questions about the goals of the research component of the I-Corps grant, please feel free to contact Anthony Marchese, Sonia Kreidenweis, or Christa Johnson.

Full solicitation details can be found here:
<http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/i-corps/nodes.jsp>