

Characteristics of Successful Level I Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals

Level I proposals are evaluated according to the criteria outlined at <http://www.provost.ku.edu/strategic-plan/ric> . The Level I proposals funded in the first round of the Strategic Initiative Grant submissions were quite varied, but had some characteristics in common:

- All included specific, clearly defined plans of action for building research strengths related to one of the strategic initiative themes.
 - The plans addressed only one or two of the factors necessary for advancing KU research on the topic so that the goals of the project were clear.
 - All plans built upon existing strengths at KU.
 - The activities proposed were clearly linked to the goals.
 - Together the activities, goals, and timeline supported the feasibility of the project.
 - The plan included benchmarks for gauging its progress in achieving the goals.
 - If plans included commitments from the investigators' units, those commitments were documented in the proposal.
- Investigators had strong individual records of research and funding, as well as a record of prior collaboration.
 - The number of investigators varied appropriately with the needs of the research.
 - The representation of investigators from different university units (departments, schools/college, research centers, etc.) varied appropriately with the nature of the research, but all proposals included a multidisciplinary team.
- The budget justification provided the necessary connection between the budget and the proposed activities.
 - The budget amount requested was appropriate for the activities.
 - The budget period was appropriate for the proposed activities.
- The proposals addressed the sustainability of the research convincingly by identifying specific targets of external funding.
- Consistent with the goal of the Strategic Initiative Grant program, all of the funded proposals had building research on the strategic initiative themes as the primary target, with the potential for positive effects on undergraduate and/or graduate education presented as a related benefit of the research activities.