Request for Proposals: Catalyst SEAD Grant
Submission Due Date: March 18, 2016 (5:00pm EST)

Summary of Catalyst Program and Call for Proposals
The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT), the Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) introduce the Catalyst Faculty Fellow Program, an experiential program designed to promote trans-disciplinary collaboration, develop innovative practices and foster entrepreneurial endeavors at Virginia Tech.

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT), Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) invites applications for projects that are creative, innovative and show a strong potential for contribution toward the goals of the Catalyst Program. These funds can be used to pursue a range of transdisciplinary activities including creative projects, pilot studies, feasibility studies, or preliminary research. It is expected that the projects funded by the SEAD grants will help catalyze partnerships with external sponsors, including larger projects (with possibilities for future funding and/or commercialization), long term initiatives, or one-time events, performances and exhibitions that are visible at the national level.

Funds Available:

- Limitation of funds: $30,000
- Approximate number of awards: 1
- Awarded funds will be available July 1, 2016 and all project expenses must be posted to Banner within 30 days of the project’s end date
- Unspent funds must be transferred back to ICAT within 45 days of the project’s end date.
- Funds will not be awarded for conference travel.

Eligible Investigators:
Catalyst Faculty members at Virginia Tech are invited to submit an application and lead a project team. The ideal team will also include one or more Catalyst students. If the proposers have not yet identified particular students, then ICAT, CIE, and OVPRI will work with the proposing team to find appropriate students for your project if it is selected.

Research Areas:
This call is open to all investigational areas with preference to projects that operate at the nexus of business, design, arts, science and engineering. Connections with companies, non-profit organizations, and public entities are highly encouraged.

Submission:
Please submit your proposal by 1) sending an electronic PDF copy of the signed cover sheet contained in the RFP to Lisa Jansen (ljansen@vt.edu), and 2) submitting an online copy of your proposal using our Google submission form. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Jansen (ljansen@vt.edu).

**Review Criteria:**

The proposals will be reviewed by the Institute Director, Senior Budget and Contract Manager, the Senior Fellows, Apex CIE, and OVPRI, and then evaluated with the following criteria:

1. Intellectual merit and innovation;
2. Interdisciplinary nature of the team;
3. Correlation to the mission of Catalyst;
4. Broader impact of the project;
5. Potential external funding or commercialization can be obtained to advance the proposed effort.

After the proposals are reviewed, a member of the proposal team may be asked to make a brief presentation to the review committee.

Awards will be announced by April 8, 2016.