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|  | **Research Triangle Nanotechnology Network**Monteith Research Center2410 Campus Shore DriveRoom 246, Campus Box 7531Raleigh, NC 27695-7531Email rtnanonetwork@ncsu.edu Web <http://www.rtnn.org>Phone: 919-515-6171 |

**KICKSTARTER PROGRAM**

**Proposal Instructions**

**OVERVIEW:** The Research Triangle Nanotechnology Network (RTNN) is a collaboration between North Carolina State University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that offers open access to comprehensive and unique nanotechnology laboratories, equipment, and research expertise. RTNN is a site in the National Science Foundation’s National Nanotechnology Coordinated Infrastructure (NNCI). In order to further our mission to serve as a hub of cutting-edge nanotechnology innovation and education, the RTNN has established a Kickstarter program to allow members of the nanotechnology and greater scientific communities, who would otherwise not have the financial resources, to use RTNN facilities. A summary of RTNN’s capabilities and equipment can be found at <http://www.rtnn.org>.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Proposed projects must be focused on research or preliminary development activity or educational programming in an area of nano-scale science, engineering, and/or technology. Competitive proposals should be: (1) limited in scope and (2) involve either hands-on science education, cutting-edge research, or high-risk, high-reward R&D activity with the potential to facilitate disruptive technologies.

The RTNN encourages applications from ***high school and community college science and engineering students and educators***, ***non-traditional users*** (those from disciplines that have not historically used NNCI programs, including Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Textile Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Agriculture, Soil Science, Forest Biomaterials, and Plant & Microbial Biology), users from ***underrepresented groups*** (as defined by NSF), academic users who are at a ***non-Research-1 university*** and may have limited access to facilities and/or research funding, ***industrial users*** who for some reason do not have funds or have start-up projects with highly innovative potential, and researchers who have been ***disproportionally affected*** by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples of relevant research and development activities include:

* Preliminary data collection, prototyping, or proof-of-principle studies with prospects of leading to future outside funding or investment.
* Activity that expands the scope of the applicant’s existing research programs.
* Specialized characterization or fabrication not currently funded within the scope of the applicant’s existing programs.

Examples of relevant educational programming include:

* Individual or group class projects that utilize RTNN capabilities.
* Lesson plan development featuring examples from experiments run at RTNN.
* Field trip experiences.

**For proposals involving research and development activities, the primary investigator must be a first time user of this RTNN special program.**

Primary investigators are limited to a single application per cycle. Co-investigators are unlimited per cycle.

**FREE-USE:** Use valued at up to $1,000 can be included in each proposal. Facilities should be used within six months of the proposal selection date. The free-use of facilities is not renewable or transferable. Proposals should be targeted at covering RTNN facility access fees and costs for necessary materials and supplies only. Current user fee rates can be provided upon request to rtnanonetwork@ncsu.edu.

**PROCESS:** Applications should include a completed copy of the application form provided in this application packet. Proposals should be submitted to rtnanonetwork@ncsu.edu with the subject line: **“Kickstarter Program Proposal Submission.”**

**SELECTION:** Projects will be supported based upon the quality of the proposal, a proven need for assistance, the impact that the RTNN will have on the project, and the extent to which the project aligns with RTNN’s mission. We regret that reviewer comments will not be available for applications that are not selected.

**RTNN KICKSTARTER PROGRAM**

**Application Form**

**Primary Investigator Information:**

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| Name:       | Affiliation / School:       |
| Address:       | Phone Number:       |
| Email:       | Primary Discipline or Industry:       |

*Several recent reports have described how the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected academic research particularly for specific groups (e.g., women, international students, early career scientists). In response to this crisis, the RTNN is expanding its Kickstarter eligibility criteria to include researchers that have been* ***disproportionally affected*** *by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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| [ ]  Check here if you want your proposal to be considered under COVID-19 eligibility *Describe how your work was disproportionally affected in the Statement of Need below. Questions on eligibility can be directed to rtnanonetwork@ncsu.edu.* |

**List of Co-Investigators and Their Affiliations** (*High school students should have the support of a scientifically-knowledgeable adult mentor, such as a teacher). In special cases, a mentor can be arranged through RTNN.*)**:**

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**Proposal Title:**

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**List of Necessary RTNN Capabilities and/or Facilities:**

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**Statement of Work** (*describe the project’s rationale, proposed work plan, any necessary materials and supplies, and proposed staff scientist or faculty involvement*) (***limit to 100 words***)**:**

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**Statement of Need** (*include a justification for free-use and the enabling features of the grant; if applying under COVID-19 eligibility, please describe how you meet this eligibility requirement*) (***limit to 100 words***)**:**

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**Statement of Impact** **(***describe the anticipated impact on educational, research, or development programming within your organization and, if applicable, any under-represented communities or users from non-traditional disciplines that may be engaged outside of the primary and co-investigators*) (***limit to 100 words***)**:**

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**Proposed Budget:**

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**Demographic Information (*optional*):**

Ethnicity (*check one*):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  Hispanic / Latino/a | [ ]  Not Hispanic / Latino/a |

Race (*check all that apply*):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  American Indian or Alaska Native | [ ]  Asian (including Indian subcontinent and Philippines) |
| [ ]  Black or African American | [ ]  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| [ ]  White | [ ]  More than one race |

Sex (*check one*):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  Female | [ ]  Male | [ ]  Other (*please specify*):  |

Do you have a physical, learning, medical, or psychiatric disability? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

***Submit proposals to rtnanonetwork@ncsu.edu with the subject line: “Kickstarter Program Proposal Submission.”***