

An abstract graphic design on the left side of the slide. It features several organic, flowing shapes in blue, red, pink, and purple. These shapes are filled with various patterns: the blue shape has a dotted pattern, the red shape is solid, the pink shape has a dotted pattern, and the purple shape has a cross-hatch pattern. There are also small, black, wavy lines scattered across the white background.

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BREAKTHROUGH AWARDS VERSUS EXPLORATION AWARDS

Where does my idea fit?

CATEGORY COMPARISON

Expectations: The similarities

Breakthrough *and* Exploration award proposals should:

- **Use interdisciplinary approaches to address complex societal problems**
- **Provide convincing rationale for the research question**
- **Clearly describe approach, with justification**
- **Clearly state anticipated results and innovation/impact**
- **Clearly state alignment with TTU strategic research initiatives**
- **Clearly state team members' interdisciplinary contributions**

CATEGORY COMPARISON

Expectations: The differences

Breakthrough

- Existing/established collaboration
- Preliminary/pilot data
- Statement of impact includes potential societal benefit and *clearly defined* next steps
 - Planned proposals, talks, etc.
- Max 4,000 words (excluding title, abstract, and references)

Exploration

- New or early collaboration
- No preliminary/pilot data
- Statement of impact includes potential societal benefit and *potential* next steps
 - E.g., Potential dissemination avenues
- Max 2,000 words (excluding title, abstract, and references)

BREAKTHROUGH VS EXPLORATION

The funding

Process:

- Proposals due 3/9/26
- Top Breakthrough (3) and Exploration (5) proposals selected as finalists
- Finalists present at the TTU *Promoting Cross Disciplinary Faculty Collaboration in Research* conference (4/22/26)
- Winners selected & announced @ conference