



CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
Cross-Disciplinary Faculty Research Excellence Awards
for

- i. Breakthrough Award, 1 @ \$ 15,000**
- ii. Exploration Awards, 3 @ \$ 5,000**

The faculty cross-disciplinary collaboration initiative is pleased to announce the call for applications for the *2026 Faculty Cross-Disciplinary Research Excellence Awards*. This call is specific for project proposals that generate synergy across diverse disciplines and promote innovation in cross-disciplinary research, all in alignment with TTU's strategic initiatives.

Description of Awards:

- i. Breakthrough Award in Cross-Disciplinary Research (1 @ \$15,000)**
The Breakthrough Award is for one year and aims to advance collaborative, innovative research that addresses complex societal problems using an interdisciplinary approach. Applications must include pilot data to demonstrate an emerging cross-disciplinary collaboration and the growth of a developing idea. We welcome applications from faculty teams in various departments and/or disciplines, working on unique and collaborative projects expected to achieve significant breakthroughs.
- ii. Exploration Award in Cross-Disciplinary Research (3 @ \$5,000 each)**
These Exploration Awards are designed to foster cross-disciplinary, collaborative, and creative ideas that have the potential to establish unique institutional research partnerships towards and exploring innovative

pathways for addressing global challenges / solutions within the context of the strategic research initiatives of TTU.

Eligibility:

- Only full-time TTU faculty members are eligible to apply.
- Applicants may collaborate between various departments or provide evidence of involvement from multiple disciplines.
- Collaboration must show equitable contribution to the project.
- Collaborators must demonstrate that some percentage of their position is dedicated to research or creative activity.
- Applicants can submit a single project, indicating the specific award category they are applying for.

Proposal should include:

a- *For the Breakthrough Award*

1. Project Title
2. Abstract (250 words)
3. Project Proposal Components:
 - Brief background and objective/aim(s)
 - Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project and team, including profiles of the team members and their respective contributions
 - Pilot data
 - Methodology and timeline (1yr)
 - Anticipated outcomes and breakthrough impact, as evidenced by examples*
 - Clear reference to which strategic initiative the proposed project could contribute
4. Budget and Justification
5. References

Proposal Format: Single PDF file / 12 pt font, 1” margins, single spaced, not more than 4000 words (excluding title, abstract, and references).

* Examples might include acceptance for presentation at prestigious conferences; submission of federal award proposals; invitations to present research at important venues/institutions and other research initiatives.

b- For the Exploration Award

1. Project Title
2. Abstract (250 words)
3. Project Proposal Components:
 - Brief background and objective/aim(s)
 - Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project and team
 - Brief methodology as appropriate for the disciplines
 - Clear reference to which strategic initiative the proposed project could contribute
 - Anticipated results and innovative potential for the strategic research theme
4. Budget and Justification
5. References

Proposal Format: Single PDF file / 12 pt font, 1” margins, single spaced, not more than 2000 words (excluding title, abstract, and references).

Awards:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Cross-Disciplinary Executive Committee for merit in meeting the criteria (see Rubric).

The top 3 Breakthrough Award proposals and the top 5 Exploration Award proposals will be selected as finalists. Finalists will be contacted to present their research ideas at the conference in a 10-minute talk at the *TTU Promoting Cross-Disciplinary Faculty Collaboration in Research* conference (April 22, 2026) for final judging. The best Breakthrough project will receive \$15,000, and the top three Exploration projects will each receive \$5,000.

The awarded funds will be distributed through TTU and should be utilized to advance the proposed research activities.

Timeline:

Proposals are due March 09, 2026.

Finalists will be contacted by April 06, 2026, for presentation April 22, 2026.

Submit completed proposals to Dr. Elize Bisanz (elize.bisanz@ttu.edu)

Visit [here](#) for more information on previous winners and TTU strategic initiatives.

Rubric:

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria (1-10 pts/criterion):

- Interdisciplinary nature of the research
- Interdisciplinary nature of the team
- Rationale
- Research approach
- Innovation and impact
- Alignment with TTU strategic initiatives
- Pilot data (*Breakthrough Award* applications only)

Contact Information:

For inquiries or further information, please contact Dr. Elize Bisanz
(elize.bisanz@ttu.edu)

We look forward to receiving your innovative proposals and advancing groundbreaking research through cross-disciplinary collaboration at TTU.