

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Organized Research Centers
Call for New Centers
Deadline: March 1, 2022

Binghamton University's Organized Research Centers (ORC) provide a supportive infrastructure for interdisciplinary research. The ORCs facilitate research collaborations; disseminate research results through research conferences, meetings and other activities; strengthen graduate and undergraduate education by providing students with training opportunities and access to facilities; and seek extramural funds for research and scholarly activities.

ORCs are led by tenured, full-time faculty; tenure-track faculty may serve as co-directors. An ORC must include three or more faculty working in a critical realm from one or more departments. ORCs are established based on the determination that the nature of the proposed center's research and scholarly activities goes beyond the collaborative effort between two or more faculty members and that the existence of the ORC is necessary in order for the center to be successful in achieving its goals and objectives. ORCs are established with internal start-up funding and should generally become self-sustaining within three to five years. An ORC may not be established if research objectives are essentially the same as those of an existing department or research unit.

In 2022-2023, Binghamton University anticipates designating one new Organized Research Center with a focus on workforce development. Recent federal priorities from sponsors, including the National Science Foundation, Economic Development Administration, Department of Defense, and other federal agencies, have stressed the importance of including workforce development programs in funding and grant proposals. Developing and highlighting workforce development programs that increase diversity among the domestic workforce will lead to more successful proposals. As a way to support the development of such workforce programming at Binghamton University, we are focusing this year's call for a new ORC on workforce development research and programming.

A proposal, not to exceed 8 pages of narrative (excluding attachments or appendices), must include the following:

1. Statement on the proposed Organized Research Center's relation to workforce development research and programming.
2. Faculty team, including director (tenured, full-time faculty member), affiliated faculty, and their departments. Core membership must include a minimum of three or more faculty from one or more departments. A brief succession plan should be included in the event that the director retires or leaves the director position. Directors who transition to a Bartle Professorship may continue to serve as the center director, but will need to appoint a tenured co-director as part of the center's succession plan. ORCs may also recommend the appointment of a tenure-track faculty or staff member as an interim director with the explicit approval of the Vice President for Research and the Provost during transitional periods until a permanent tenured faculty can be appointed.
3. A clear demonstration that the research conducted by the proposed ORC requires a center approach and that it cannot be simply accomplished through normal collaboration among faculty.

4. Description of research and scholarly activities to be undertaken. Special attention should be paid to the creative value and significance of the proposed program. The proposal should discuss the original knowledge that the proposed ORC may anticipate adding to the field.
5. Benefits of proposed center to Binghamton University.
6. A clearly outlined strategic plan for the first three-five year startup phase of the center. This plan should include discussion of specific objectives of the proposed ORC with a description of how objectives will be monitored, how performance will be measured and metrics by which ORC should be evaluated.
7. Statement of how the research of each of the individual researchers would be integrated with the proposed ORC to develop a synergy greater than their individual efforts. The nature of the participation of each of the proposers should also be included.

Attachments or appendices must include:

- a. Brief biographical sketches (two pages each) of the director and co-directors (if applicable);
- b. Statements from each of the faculty members listed in the proposal that they agree to participate in the proposed ORC;
- c. Letters of support from each of the involved deans;
- d. Resource requirement projections, including:
 - i) Five-year budget and justification. Up to \$60,000 is available from the Division of Research over a three to five-year period for start-up activities. Appropriate use of campus-based ORC funding includes direct research expenses, such as support for research assistants and postdoctoral fellows, materials and supplies, equipment and facilities, research workshops, and general assistance;
 - ii) Requirements for space and library resources (if applicable);
 - iii) Summary of all additional anticipated sources of funding (internal and external).

New proposals are submitted to the Office of Strategic Research Initiatives (email to BUinternalgrants@binghamton.edu). Proposals will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research (a joint committee between the Provost and the Faculty Senate). Recommendations will be forwarded to the Vice President for Research, who will consult with the President, prior to deciding whether to establish a new center.