We are pleased to announce a call for proposals for innovative investments to support the five key goals of the Academic Plan to enhance and elevate:

- RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP
- UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
- GRADUATE EDUCATION
- TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Proposals for research and scholarship that support the seven strategic areas and two emerging areas will be given preference for support (http://academicvision.uconn.edu/full-proposals-selected/).

Strategic Areas:
- Artists, Scholars & Discourse
- Brain, Mind & Cognition
- Genetics, Genomics & Personalized Medicine
- Human Diversity, Disparity & Rights
- Materials & Manufacturing
- Health & Wellness
- Sustainability & Resilience: Environment & Energy

Emerging Areas:
- Complex Systems & Big Data
- Creativity, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Proposals in the arts, social sciences and humanities are strongly encouraged.

$3 million (total) will be committed to these projects, which will be funded at the following levels:

- Level 1 ($100K per year for up to three years)
- Level 2 ($50K per year for up to three years)

To avoid duplication, we ask that proposals for similar work under consideration through the OVPR’s Research Excellence Program not be submitted for this competition.

Proposals are due on March 30, and funding decisions will be announce by May 30th (with a July 1, 2016 funding date). All proposals should include projects that are consistent with one or more of the five strategic goals in our Academic Plan. The template for proposal submission is included below.

- Level 1 Proposals: To support strategic areas of emphasis that have already demonstrated promise and potential (metrics for success include number of students who may benefit from new educational and outreach programs, significant extramural funding support that involves inter-disciplinary groups of faculty partners, national recognition, etc.). Proposals can emphasize:
  - Assembling teams and collecting preliminary data for large research proposals.
Developing team-based projects to support educational or outreach programs.

- Shared Instrumentation that will enable teams to collect higher quality data for publications and grant proposals. Software, technology and data analysis tools will also be considered.

- Support for proposals will include funding up to $100K per year for up to three years for any, or a combination, of the following (support for continuing years will be based on progress made towards goals in the previous year):
  - Graduate and UG Assistantships (salaries and fringe benefits)
  - Teaching buy-out to afford time for large grant preparation
  - Professional grant writing or coordination services
  - Innovative collaborative projects
  - Shared Equipment, software, technology or data analytic tools
  - Center/Institute Operating Budget
    - Travel
    - Seed Grant Programs
    - Seminar Series and Workshops
  - Other Creative Ideas

- **Level 2: Proposals for Promising Pilot Initiatives** that develop new collaborations in research, teaching, outreach and creativity (metrics for success include number of students who may benefit from new educational and outreach programs, significant extramural funding support that involves inter-disciplinary groups of faculty partners, national recognition, etc.).

- Support for proposals up to $50K per year for up to three years can include (support for continuing years will be based on progress made towards goals in the previous year):
  - Shared Equipment, software, technology or data analytic tools
  - Teaching buy-out to afford time for large grant preparation
  - Professional grant proposal writing or coordination
  - Center/Institute Operating Budget
    - Seminars, Workshops and Outreach programs
    - Seed Grant Programs
    - Travel
  - Graduate and UG Assistantships (salaries and fringe benefits)
  - Other Creative Ideas

**Proposal Scoring and Ranking**

Proposals will be ranked based upon their overall quality, an assessment of their potential for advancing the goals stated in the Academic Plan, and the strength and historical productivity of the PI and interdisciplinary teams. A panel of highly esteemed faculty members (primarily BOT professors) and University administrators will score and rank the proposals for the Provost’s consideration. The PIs of funded FY’15 Tier 1 proposals will be consulted on all project proposals that seek to leverage their activities.
Cover Sheet for Academic Plan Proposal Submission:

PART I.

Proposal Title:

5 Goals of the Academic Plan Proposed Project (Check the most appropriate [one]):

___RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP
___UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
___GRADUATE EDUCATION
___TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS
___PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Check the single most appropriate strategic and emerging area from below:

___ Artists, Scholars & Discourse
___ Brain, Mind & Cognition
___ Genetics, Genomics & Personalized Medicine
___ Human Diversity, Disparity & Rights
___ Materials & Manufacturing
___ Health & Wellness
___ Sustainability & Resilience: Environment & Energy
___ Complex Systems & Big Data
___ Creativity, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Project Funding Level (check): Level 1 ___ or Level 2___

Project Duration (1-, 2- or 3-years or ‘Equipment/Technology’):

Project Director:
Department/Center/Institute:

Co-Director(s):
Department/Center/Institute:

Other Faculty or Staff Partners:

PART II.

Please share proposal with the appropriate deans, department heads and center/institute directors prior to submission

PART III.
**Project Abstract:** Briefly describe the project for which you are applying for funding. Include a description of how the proposed activities will support the goals of the new Academic Plan (Excellence in Research & Scholarship, Excellence in Undergraduate Education, Excellence in Graduate Education, Excellence in Teaching Effectiveness, or Excellence in Public Engagement) (Please adhere to 250 word limit):

**Anticipated Outcomes and Accomplishments:** Describe the outcomes and accomplishments that will be used to measure success of this investment after years 1 and 2. For research-based proposals, a clear statement regarding institutional return on investment must be included (Please adhere to 500 word limit):

**Prior Collaboration:** Describe current or prior collaborations among PI/Co-PIs that have led to successful outcomes (Please adhere to 250 word limit):

**Budget and Budget Justification:** Provide an itemized budget and justification. Cost-sharing is not required. (Please adhere to 500 word limit).

**Proposal narrative:** (Single spaced, NOT TO EXCEED 3 PAGES; 12 pt. font) Provide a clear description of the specific aims of the project and how these aims will be accomplished. Describe how the activities of individuals/teams will be coordinated to achieve the anticipated outcomes. Be clear on how funding the proposal will help advance the institution in terms of national/international prominence.

**CVs:** Abbreviated 2-3 page CVs of key personnel (Appendix) – NIH, USDA or NSF format accepted