

Call for Proposals for the 2021 Grant Competition

208 Bricker Hall
190 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210-1016

General Information

Through an annual grant competition, the Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA) Endowment supports programs that examine the impact of science and technology on people and society.

Full-time assistant, associate and full professors (with a minimum 75% appointment for a nine or 12-month period) are invited to submit proposals to be considered for Battelle Endowment funding.

The Battelle Endowment committee is seeking outstanding proposals that influence future leaders to become more knowledgeable about, and engaged with, the relationship between science and technology and broader social and cultural issues. Projects that bring together expertise from two or more disciplines or institutional partners, and those that envision collaborative opportunities for faculty, students and community members are encouraged. Projects that address engineering-related topics or feature collaborations between engineering and the social sciences or arts/humanities are particularly welcomed. Proposals that involve pure research or seek only to acquire or use technology (e.g., to purchase computers or other equipment) rather than explore its impact on broader social issues, are not generally competitive.

Awards

The Battelle Endowment typically supports three to six new projects each year, with award amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000. Evidence of other support (e.g., matching funds) is encouraged and preferred. BETHA grants are typically awarded for a period of two years. Multi-year projects will be considered in exceptional circumstances, with subsequent funding contingent upon demonstrated and acceptable performance during the initial two-year grant period.

Awards are announced in the spring with project start-up the following autumn semester. All awards are administered by the Office of Research, and final budgets are subject to the approval of the Office of Research fiscal officer.

Selection Criteria

Proposals are reviewed by a committee consisting of Ohio State University faculty members and the senior associate vice president for research. In selecting programs for funding, the committee seeks projects that will best fulfill the goals and spirit of the Battelle Endowment. The committee uses the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

- Does the proposal address the goal of helping scientists and engineers become more sensitive to the human impacts of technology, and/or help further the understanding of the capabilities and limitations of science and technology?
- Does the proposal offer specific activities for mentoring future leaders?
- Does the proposal include an outreach component (e.g., a plan for dissemination of what is learned that has relevance beyond the university community)?
- Is the proposal realistic in goals and timeline?
- How likely is it that these goals will be achieved?
- Does the project team include the necessary expertise?
- Is the budget reasonable to accomplish the project goals?
- Is the proposal well organized to accomplish the project goals?
- Will the project be supported by proposer's academic unit? (The level of support given by proposer's department and/or college is viewed as important to the success of a Battelle Endowment project.)

Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Proposals for the 2021 competition, including the required letters of support, must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Late or incomplete proposals, or proposals that do not conform to the required format, will be returned without consideration. Please read the Submission Instructions for specific information about submitting proposals.

BETHA Workshop

Again this year we are pleased to offer a workshop for those who may be considering submitting a proposal. This 60-minute Zoom session will feature a panel of past BETHA recipients and review committee members who will share tips for writing a successful proposal and discuss criteria used in the review process. Watch for more information and registration link coming soon.

Contact

For questions or more information, please contact:

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