Interim Vice Provost for Research and Executive Director of Discovery Park, Charles O. Rutledge, is pleased to announce a campus-wide competition to add up to four new centers to Discovery Park. In late January, the Lilly Endowment awarded $25 million in additional funding to Discovery Park. $10 million of this gift is designated to the creation of four new Discovery Park centers. New centers selected through this competition will be awarded one million dollars to endow a Director’s position and an additional $500,000 per year for three years as seed funds to launch the center.

Discovery Park has been extraordinarily successful and has become a model for the conduct of interdisciplinary discovery, learning and engagement. Discovery Park is about new ways of working at Purdue—new areas of research, new strategies for learning, and new opportunities to reach outside of our campus boundaries. Every center in Discovery Park has strong connections with the Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship and contributes to strategies for economic development within the state of Indiana. Discovery Park activities are characterized as:

- Interdisciplinary
- Broad-based
- Nationally competitive
- Focused on a grand challenge
- Incorporating long-term and short-term projects and results
- High potential for growth
- Technologically innovative
- Capable of significant leveraging of funding
- Potential for economic impact in Indiana

The new centers are intended to increase the scope of Discovery Park.

The criteria for selection of the new centers will be:
(1) Quality—the quality of the proposed discovery/learning/engagement program and the potential of the center to contribute to the preeminence of Purdue University;
(2) Leverage—the potential for the center to attract significant additional external funding for the proposed programs.
(3) Leadership—the demonstrated capability of the leadership of the proposed center to grow the center to preeminence and contribute to Discovery Park;
(4) Interdisciplinary—the potential of the proposed center to engage in a program with a significant breadth of interdisciplinary cooperation; and
(5) Economic Development—the potential for the center to contribute to economic development with emphasis on the State of Indiana.

All interested individuals and groups intending to submit a proposal should submit a letter of intent of no more than one page to Associate Vice Provost of Research, Bob Bernhard (Email: bernhard@purdue.edu, Phone: 61938) by February 28th, 2005. The letter of intent
should include a brief description of the proposed theme of the center and contact information for proposal team. Groups will be invited to submit full proposals by March 4, 2005.

Full proposals must be submitted by 12 PM, March 28th, 2005 by hard copy or by email of a .pdf file to Interim Vice Provost for Research Charles O. Rutledge (chipr@purdue.edu) with a copy to Candiss Vibbert, Executive Assistant to the President (vibbert@purdue.edu). Proposals may be submitted by a single investigator or by a group of faculty members. Proposals are welcome from new groups as well as from existing groups that have not previously received University funding. Existing organizations that propose formation of a new Discovery Park center should emphasize the new activities which will result from the award of the center and will be evaluated based on these new activities against the five criteria identified previously.

The review process for the center proposal will include both internal and external reviewers who will make a recommendation for final selection.

Proposals should be no more than fifteen pages in length (font size 11 in Times New Roman or equivalent, minimum ¾ inch margin all around) plus the cover page, brief curriculum vitae (2 page) and a notional one page budget:

1. Introduction and background including a description of the grand challenge to be addressed, a description of the primary interdisciplinary focus of the proposed center, the faculty involved, and the facilities currently available. The list of faculty must include all of the faculty members who are submitting the proposal, but may also include other faculty whose research activities are related to the proposed center. Curriculum vitae of the faculty who have submitted the proposal must be appended to the proposal. All other faculty listed in the proposal must sign the cover sheet of the proposal to acknowledge that they support the proposal. The appropriate Deans, Heads, and Department Chairs must also sign the cover sheet.

2. Discussion of the anticipated discovery/learning/engagement activities within the center. Include identification of projects and existing grants that might be brought to the center when it is initiated.

3. Identify external funding opportunities for the proposed center. Also, identify any relationships with corporations or other institutions that might be developed through this center.

4. Discuss the relationship of the work anticipated to be conducted in this center to other centers of Discovery Park.

5. Discuss the benefits of the center to faculty, students, Purdue University, and the state of Indiana.

6. Discuss the challenges and obstacles which must be addressed for creation of this center.

7. Describe how the Lilly Endowment funds would be utilized to launch the center.

8. A list of individuals who might be considered to serve as a center director (brief curriculum vita should be appended).

Contact: Bob Bernhard, Associate Vice Provost for Research
e-mail: bernhard@purdue.edu
phone: 61938
New Centers Time Schedule

February 11  Mail to faculty
February 28  Letter of Intent due
March 4      Notification to those selected to proceed
March 28     Full proposal due
March 30     Send out for review
April 15     Receive reviews
May 2        Recommendation of committee to prioritize reviews
              • Acceptable and non-acceptable
              • Priority of acceptable
              • Blend of centers
Committee composition
              • Three Center Directors
              • Three faculty
              • Marc Archambault
              • Joe Hornett
              • Chip Rutledge to chair
May 18      Selection by President Jischke and Provost Mason
June 1       Announce centers
July 1       Centers begin