

Dear Colleagues,

For the last three years, our office has maintained a program called Initiatives in Science and Engineering (ISE) to provide funding for a few imaginative research proposals that, for one reason or another, were not sufficiently advanced or developed to obtain funding from traditional sources.

I am writing to inform you that this program will continue in the current academic year, and that we will be accepting proposals in the fall. Proposals should be brief but should provide sufficient information to allow reviewers to understand the idea and the implementation plan for the project. The ISE can support programs at up to \$100,000 per year for a maximum of two years. The expectation is that the research supported by the ISE would test unusually creative ideas that could then compete successfully for support from traditional funding sources. The proposals should also describe plans for sustaining the research effort after the ISE funding period ends.

We are particularly interested in receiving proposals to initiate new interdisciplinary research projects. All proposals should involve researchers from the Morningside, Lamont, or Nevis campuses, but we will consider proposals that involve interaction with researchers at the Medical Center.

Proposals should be submitted to the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research no later than November 30, 2006. We will review the proposals, using local expertise to supplement our own resources. The review process will include a discussion between the proposers and the reviewers to clarify and augment aspects of the proposals of interest or concern to the reviewers. We expect to be able to complete the review and announce the results early in the Spring semester.

If last year's experience is a reliable indicator, we will receive many more interesting and meritorious proposals than we will be able to support; nevertheless we encourage you to participate in the program so that we can maintain and enhance the vigor and creativity of Columbia's research program.

For enquiries about the ISE program, please feel free to contact me (dih1@columbia.edu, 4-1696).

Sincerely,
David Hirsh