



Connect Grant AY 2020 Request for Proposals

(Funding Round 8)

Connect Grants Overview

The *Connect* Grants program, launched in the 2013 Academic Year, supports career development and advancement as well as academic unit-level culture change initiatives and faculty recruitment approaches through awarding mini-grants. **Funded projects align with the goals and objectives of the Office of AdvanceRIT.** *Connect* Grants are offered through AdvanceRIT within the Office of Academic Affairs with advisory support from the Council for the Representation & Engagement of Women Faculty (CREW), Faculty Career Development, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, and Sponsored Research Services. The program's target audience is **all tenured and pre-tenured faculty at RIT** and proposals are accepted from individual faculty and from academic units.

The *Connect* Grants are designed to broaden faculty opportunities and enhance overall career advancement. Creative unit-level efforts to engage in cultural change, guide and manage faculty through various career stages are encouraged. During this current round, approximately \$30K is available for the *Connect* Grants program with the number of awards depending upon the review and evaluation of the proposals in relation to the posted selection criteria.

Special Interest Areas for the 2020AY cycle

AdvanceRIT has a particular interest in funding projects that support the following:

- To redirect or restart research disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic
- Associate Professors for developing a strategy for and/or support for their research portfolio for application to Professor
- Peer-support groups focused on faculty career success
- Global connections for research activities

Proposals that address one or more of these areas will be given additional consideration; however, topics are not restricted to these areas.

Grant Schedule for Academic Year (AY) 2020

The schedule for the current round follows:

- Request for Proposals: December 7, 2020
- Proposals Due: February 15, 2021
- Decisions Announced: April 1, 2021
- Funding Available: May 1, 2021
- Funding End Date: April 30, 2022
- Final Report Due: May 14, 2022

Examples of Past Proposed Efforts (visit the website for more details):

Networking

- Strengthen faculty's professional visibility in national/international networks.
- Utilize social resources to support the creation and expansion of networks among RIT faculty and within professional disciplines.

Research

- Support research proposal development or re-submission efforts for external funding.
- Expand research and/or writing capabilities to enhance competitive proposal development and submissions.
- Promote interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty internal and external to RIT which could include formal peer-to-peer reciprocal visits to mutual institutions.

Professional Development

- Sponsor and coordinate a visiting scholar's colloquium series.
- Present research at national/regional conferences.
- Specialized training to support scholarly collaborations.
- Engage the assistance of an external career/leadership coach.

Community Building and Engagement & Unit-Level

- Unit-level efforts focused on recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty from broadly diverse backgrounds.
- Efforts designed to support organic efforts, organizational development, research to inform change or other self-identified areas of need

AdvanceRIT Background

AdvanceRIT started as an Institutional Transformation grant from the National Science Foundation (Grant No. 1209115) and was institutionalized in 2018. AdvanceRIT implements interventions that influence and transform the workplace culture of RIT at a structural level and promotes the inclusion of all subpopulations and minority groups. AdvanceRIT main programmatic efforts include the [Connectivity series](#) professional development workshops

and the [Connect grants](#) program. These grants provide funding that promotes faculty career success that align with the AdvanceRIT program goals. These efforts are informed by the AdvanceRIT faculty advisory board, [the Council for the Representation & Engagement of Women Faculty](#) (CREW), and by institutional partners.

The Office of AdvanceRIT efforts are informed by working with CREW and our institutional partners to review faculty data and feedback, such as representation data and climate studies at RIT, and benchmark best practices for recruitment, retention, and advancement of women faculty. This information is used to inform programmatic efforts and for advocating for support structures and policies in support of faculty career success.

AdvanceRIT's mission is to enable all faculty at RIT, particularly women, to contribute their full potential, to increase their representation and retention, and to advance their careers.

AdvanceRIT goals are to play an instrumental role in:

- Connecting and engaging women faculty in the RIT community.
- Providing opportunities for professional and leadership development for women faculty.
- Supporting efforts for recruiting a diverse faculty critical for achieving excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service.
- Partnering with affiliated groups, departments, and colleges to support their efforts and bring positive change to RIT.
- Improving the quality of women faculty's work life.
- Ensuring RIT is a place where all faculty are supported, valued, and respected.

Proposal Submission Details

Proposal Template: Complete the *proposal template* and submit as a pdf file to connectgrant@rit.edu. See the current RFP for more information.

CV/Biosketch: The Principal Investigator must submit a CV or Biosketch with the proposal. While no specific format is required, a condensed version (2-3 page) is recommended, such as an NSF biosketch, that highlights research or activities related to the proposal.

Letter(s) of Endorsement

- For proposals submitted by faculty, email to connectgrant@rit.edu a letter from the Department Head of the PI. The purpose of the letter is to indicate that this proposal aligns with your plan of work and that your chair acknowledges and supports this proposal.
- For unit level proposals, upload a recommendation letter from the college dean and from constituents/department members indicating department support for the proposed effort. Letters should concisely describe the potential

impact of the proposed effort on the proposer and on their respective department, college, and the university.

Expectations of funded projects:

- Awardees shall be willing to disseminate project outcomes and experiences through participation in university-wide workshops, panel discussions, and presentations.
- Awardees will attend a project initiation meeting with grant sponsors and other awardees.
- Awardees must complete a final report summarizing activities and impacts. A final report (with unique identifiers removed) may be disseminated more broadly.

Direct questions to Advancewomen@rit.edu.