THE ORANGE INNOVATION FUND SUPPORTS STUDENT RESEARCH INITIATIVES EMERGING FROM CAMPUS INNOVATION PROGRAMS. THE GRANT FUND IS DESIGNED TO HELP MOVE GRADUATE AND UNDERFGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH OR SCHOLARLY PROJECTS FROM IDEATION TO PROOF OF CONCEPT AND COMMERCIALIZATION.

SUMMARY:

The Orange Innovation Fund supports the University's goal to distinguish Syracuse University for excellence in research, scholarship, student experiential learning and innovation.

Initial funding from the program comes from a $250,000 gift to SU Libraries from Raj-Ann Rekhi Gill '98, a member of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees who is operating partner of Silicon Valley Quad, an angel investing syndicate.

The program is administered through Syracuse University Libraries, in collaboration with the University's research and commercialization programs such as the SOURCE, the Blackstone LaunchPad, Invent@SU, NEXIS, the Innovation Law Center, the NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) program at Syracuse, Intelligence ++, Syracuse Center of Excellence (CoE) in Environmental Energy Systems, CASE at Syracuse University (NYSTAR designated Center for Advanced Technology), and the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF).

Applications are welcome from students engaged in these programs, as well as from students working on their own commercialization projects through research classes, labs, or independent study programs across campus.

FUND OVERVIEW:

- $250,000 will be available over a five-year period through two annual solicitations for proposals in September and March. It is expected that approximately $50,000 per year will be awarded.
- Merit/milestone-based grants of up to $5,000 per award will be awarded, with deliverables due within six months of the award.
- Grants will support specifically defined projects over a clear timeframe, with identified outcomes that will help move a research project or innovative venture toward proof of concept and commercialization.
- Use of funds will be for tangible needs related to the development of a product, service, technology, or creative work, helping with needs through four phases: 1) discovery, 2) testing, 3) building and 4) launching.
- Priority will be given to students working with research and commercialization programs such as the SOURCE, Invent@SU, Innovation Law Center, NSF I-Corps program, CASE, Intelligence ++, Syracuse CoE, IVMF, the Blackstone LaunchPad at SU Libraries and campus innovation center ssuch as Whitman's Couri Hatchery.

- Judging of entries will be led by a designated representative of Syracuse University Libraries, working with a cross campus review committee along with alumni entrepreneurs.
- If no applications meet the minimum criteria in the September or March cycle, grants will not be awarded for that cycle and funding availability will carry forward.
- Funding decisions may be reversed for reasons that may include, but are not limited to, academic dishonesty, infringement of the intellectual property of others, and failure to comply with the agreed upon scope of work and project milestones.
- Teams or any resultant business entities are responsible for any tax consequences of the awards.
- Teams may apply for successive awards if they are using the funds for different milestones to advance through proof of concept and commercialization.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS:

The program is open to full-time students, undergraduate, or graduate level, who are currently enrolled in and pursuing a degree program. Only one submission per team is permitted per cycle. Individuals may be a member of only one team. If team members include students from other universities, the team leader and key project leaders should be Syracuse University students.

Research inventions that could be patentable should be owned by students. The purpose of the program is not to fund graduate students working on faculty research projects or university IP. Students who are working on independent research that could be patentable should demonstrate that they have done an abbreviated freedom to operate search that assesses the patent landscape for any protected technology that would keep them from using their technology freely. Campus resource providers can provide direction on how to use databases and search tools available through SU Libraries and the Innovation Law Center.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Proposals will be reviewed against the following selection criteria:

- Innovative research which could potentially be commercialized as a product (hardware or software), service or technology that holds the potential to make a meaningful impact.
- Proposal viability and feasibility, sound research and development, and quality of the written proposal.
- A team that is actively engaged with the campus innovation ecosystem and is availing itself of technical assistance and mentoring, as well as other campus programs.
- A sound commercialization and product development roadmap that will move the research forward, along with expected outcomes such as development of prototype for testing, first sales, attracting angel or pre-seed investment for commercialization, or moving an idea to market through production or licensing agreements. Do this project actually move the idea toward commercialization and fill a needed gap?
- Reasonable and professionally researched budget to demonstrate that the award will have an impact on overall traction and future roadmap.
- Proposed match, or ability to use this award to leverage other funding, if applicable.
- Qualifications and strength of project team, including a faculty or industry mentor, and subject matter experts to help guide the process.

DEMONSTRATION OF OUTCOMES:

Student teams will be expected to participate in campus sponsored demo days that showcases their MVP (minimally viable product), or proof of concept created through the funding. Regular check-ins are required to track progress.

TIMELINE:

Three proposal writing workshops will be offered each semester by Linda Dickerson Hartsock, advisor, strategic initiatives SU Libraries, and former founding director of the Blackstone LaunchPad. These workshops are useful as an introduction to grant writing that can be applied toward developing proposals for other public, private and foundation funding programs. Students must take one of these two workshops to apply. Proposal writing is a valuable skill, and the process will strength applications, as well as demonstrate rigor and commitment to the program.

Linda is also available to help coach applicants throughout the process and can by scheduled for sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. E-mail: Ldhart01@syr.edu for appointments.

FALL 2024 SCHEDULE

Invent@SU applications open July 1, 2024

General applications open August 1, 2024

Proposal workshops (offered three times)

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 3 p.m. - In person at Bird Library
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 3 p.m. – In person Couri Hatchery, Whitman 116
Thursday, September 12, 2024, 3 p.m. - Hybrid (In person and virtal) at Bird Library and via Zoom

https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/94274148051

Applications:
Due Friday, September 27, 2024, by 5 p.m. to SU Libraries
For a link to the application, please e-mail **orangeinnovation@syr.edu**

Announcement:
Following a committee review process, announcements will be made in October, 2024 along with award letters.

APPLICATION TEMPLATE:

1. Applicants will be directed to a simple Qualtrics form to collect basic information/data for tracking.

2. All applicants should e-mail a PDF of their grant proposal to orangeinnovation@syr.edu

    a. The PDF should be titled and saved in this format: **Name.Date**
        i. For example: MarySmith.9.27.2024
        ii. This naming convention is important for tracking applicants and date of submission.
        iii. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

    b. The proposal should be approximately seven pages (up to 12 pages if needed). Style guidelines:
        i. Single space, 12-point typeface, margin size from .5 to 1 inch.
        ii. Please run spell check and syntax check before submitting.
        iii. While you can use AI to assist with research and writing, be sure to have an extremely good grasp of what you are proposing, since you will be asked detailed questions if/when you are asked to pitch to the review committee.

3. The proposal should be **ONE DOCUMENT** saved as a **SINGLE PDF**. It should follow this table of contents:

    a. Cover letter with your contact information
    b. One-page executive summary
    c. Proposal and case for support (if you have written a formal business plan, you may use that for this section)
        i. What is the problem you are solving?
        ii. What is the technology (hardware or software) you are developing to solve it?
        iii. What customer discovery have you done and what has it indicated?
        iv. What is the addressable market potential for this technology?
        v. What is the competitive landscape and your differentiator/value proposition?
        vi. Who are your strategic partners and what are their roles?
        vii. Do you have letters of intent from customers or strategic partners?
        viii. What is your business model?
        ix. What traction have you achieved to date?
        x. What is your commercialization roadmap?
        xi. What is the proposed use of these funds?
        xii. What product development/commercialization milestone will you accomplish with this funding and what gaps will remain on your commercialization roadmap?
        xiii. Who is your team?
        xiv. Who are your advisors and mentors?
        xv. How will you measure success?
        xvi. Why should we fund you?
        xvii. Include website, social media links
    d. Project scope/description (required) budget
    e. Project timeline
    f. Team resumes (these do not count against page length)
    g. Support letters (these do not count against page length)
    h. Supplemental materials (these do not count against page length)
        i. Feel free to include a slide deck in PDF format (if you have one) integrated into the single PDF. It is not required. If you do decide to submit one, do not submit it separately.
        ii. Any other visuals that you think would be compelling. Not required, but if you do submit, do not submit separately.

REMINDER: THE PROPOSAL NEEDS TO BE A SINGLE PDF. DO NOT SUBMIT THESE ITEMS SEPARATELY.