September 30, 2016

**UNH BROADBAND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
ANNUAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Statement of Purpose

The BCoE at the University of New Hampshire is an unbiased resource for government, universities, researchers, communities and corporations providing factual information about broadband. A gift from the YAS Foundation supports innovations in the field of broadband technology and application. These funds are directed at projects and programs at UNH that support BCoE's key areas of focus:

- Technologies enabling broadband access for those underserved and unserved.
- Socio-economic studies addressing affordable broadband, or "broadband for all."
- Policy studies that provide information on access and affordability.
- Practical broadband applications and services to enable "smart communities".
- Advanced research of innovative broadband technologies to help maintain our nation's competitive status globally.

These targeted areas of work directly support BCoE's vision of establishing UNH as a leader in maximizing the effectiveness of broadband on commerce, innovation, competitiveness and quality of life. Its four key objectives are to:

- Establish UNH as a thought leader and advance the effective use of broadband technologies at the university.
- Engage with corporations, industries and other technology leaders to expand broadband research.
- Assist communities around the globe to realize broadband benefits.
- Influence public policy and regulation.

Request for Proposals

BCoE is requesting proposals for an available grant on the topic of *Smart Sensors.* Smart Sensors collect and process data of a defined nature and communicate it to a remote host application. The application can address numerous issues and topics but BCoE is particularly interested in those that can provide an engineering, technical, and/or socio-economic benefit to rural and/or disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the BCoE is interested in relevant policy studies that could inform decision-making.

Proposals need to illustrate how the Smart Sensors collect, process and communicate their gathered data, how the system can benefit from broadband technologies and why this proposal is an improvement over the current state of the art. Systems that utilize sensors that send raw data for remote processing will not be considered for this grant.

September 30, 2016

Examples of applications that could utilize Smart Sensors and would be of interest to be funded under the BCoE Broadband Innovation Fund include:

a. Aquatic systems
b. Remote health care
c. Precision agriculture
d. Energy conservation
e. Water quality and distribution
f. Environmental monitoring
g. Greenhouse gas reduction
h. Safety
i. Transportation Infrastructure
j. Education and Employment

These are just examples. We encourage all new ideas and innovations. A total of $100,000 is available to fund winning proposals and each project will be funded for one year. Continuation requests based on project performance will be considered in year 2.

Each proposal request should include the following information:

a. **Goals and Objectives.** Include clear and measurable goals and objectives. Be clear about how this project relates to *Smart Sensors* and why it is innovative. Additionally, describe how it will benefit rural and/or disadvantaged communities. (One page)

b. **Faculty and staff involvement.** Please list key faculty and staff involved in the initiative. Briefly describe the nature of their contributions and key roles. If others outside of UNH are involved, please describe their contributions. (One page)

c. **Budget and justification.** Please provide a line item budget and brief justification. Why are funds necessary to accomplish the proposed activities? (One page). Do not include fringe benefits or F&A in the budget request.

d. **Activities timeline.** Please provide an activities timeline that lists objectives, milestones, time-lines for completion, deliverables, and persons responsible. (One page)

e. **Evaluation Strategy.** Please describe how you will evaluate this initiative. How will you know that the external evaluation is a success? (One page)

September 30, 2016

Recipients will be expected to provide monthly updates and an end-of-project publishable report. An example of a winning proposal from the previous academic year is a research topic dealing with traffic optimization on [Smart Campuses](#).

Timelines
- RFP Release Date: September 30, 2016
- Deadline for submission*:* February 3, 2017
- Deadline for review: March 31, 2017
- Announcement of Awards: April 14, 2017

Submit to: Jan Nisbet, Senior Vice Provost for Research (janisbet@unh.edu)
Re: BCoE grants program
Cc: Diana Couture (Diana.Couture@unh.edu)