

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows Program
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Associate Dean's Office for Academic Innovation and Start Something College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are seeking proposals from CALS faculty for the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows (IEFF) 2026-2027 program. The [IEFF program](#) seeks to foster and expand a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship of CALS faculty across each of our departments. With funding from the Dean, this program supports faculty seeking to incorporate innovation within teaching, research or extension/outreach activities.

Priority will be given to proposals that engage undergraduates in innovative learning experiences and/or entrepreneurial activities. Examples of proposed activities include: revising existing courses or developing new courses to emphasis innovation and/or entrepreneurship learning, engagement with industry and/or external stakeholders, development of a bootcamp, seminar series or training program, mentored research/service/extension/work experience, or special project related to innovation and/or entrepreneurship.

Faculty recipients of IEFF awards will be organized as a cohort, where they will work with the Dean's office and other fellows to promote the program within their departments and across the college. Typical activities of a faculty fellow include attending occasional lunch and learn activities around innovation and entrepreneurship, reviewing applications and mentoring of later cohorts, and collaborating with the Office for Academic Innovation and Start Something College of Agriculture and Life Sciences leadership team.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- All CALS faculty, regardless of rank, are eligible to apply. Up to six fellowships will be awarded.
- Faculty Fellows will be organized as a cohort and provided with training and professional development in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Each Fellow will receive a one-time \$5,000 award to enable the development and implementation of the proposed activity (e.g. summer salary, professional development, graduate or undergraduate student support, materials and supplies, travel) as approved by Assoc Dean Bain.
- Fellows will meet quarterly, together with the Program Leaders, to report progress, share experiences, receive training and collaboratively enhance a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across campus.
- Fellows will present their projects at a final reception in the Student Innovation Center open to all faculty to highlight what they accomplished, learned, and its broader impact on students and the college.
- Fellows will formally serve for two years with an expectation that they will continue to be engaged in building a network and culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within their departments and across the college.

Why Apply?

- Elevate your profile.
- Quarterly lunches with faculty fellows and the Assoc Dean's Office for Innovation and Start Something College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to share ideas and project updates.
- \$5,000 of support to enable the proposed activity (e.g. summer salary, teaching assistance, travel, supplies).
- Two-year formal affiliation with the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows Program with ongoing networking and mentoring opportunities among other innovation and entrepreneurial minded faculty within the college and opportunities to remain engaged in this initiative.
- Exposure to cutting-edge teaching, research, and extension activities around innovation and entrepreneurship.
- A simple application process.
- A final reception.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested faculty should submit the following:

- A proposal (maximum 2-page, single-spaced) that includes: an explanation of the specific activity; why they think they would be a good champion of innovation and/or entrepreneurship within their department and the college; commitment to offer their proposed activity at least twice; willingness to participate in the activities of the Fellows Program, brief explanation of how the funds will be used to enable their proposed activity; description of the target audience (eg undergraduate students) and potential number served.
- Brief letter of support from the faculty member's department chair that includes a statement that, if selected, the faculty member will deliver the activity/course to the described audience at least twice (i.e. 2026/2027 or 2027/2028). Acknowledgement that the proposed activity will enhance, or be in addition to, current faculty responsibilities not a substitution.

Proposal documents should be combined into a single PDF file and emailed to Carmen Bain cbain@iastate.edu by **midnight, December 14, 2025**.

SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection committee that includes former fellows, Dr. Carmen Bain, Associate Dean of Academic Innovation and Mr. Kevin Kimle, Rastetter Chair of Agricultural Entrepreneurship, Director, CALS *Start Something*.

Selection Criteria

- Proposals will be evaluated along six dimensions:
 1. Rationale for participating as a Fellow
 2. Is the proposed activity clear?
 3. Is the proposed activity in the spirit of innovation and/or entrepreneurship?
 4. Will the proposed activity involve and principally benefit undergraduate students?
 5. Is there potential for long-term sustainability of the proposed activity?
 6. Is the proposal creative? Does it have sizzle?
- The rubric that follows uses these criteria:

	Lacking	Adequate	Good	Exceptional
Rationale for participating				
Clear Problem Statement				
Innovation and/or Entrepreneurial Content				
Student Impact, Value and Differentiation*				
Long-Term Potential and Sustainability				
Overall Creativity. Proposal Sizzle				

*** Students involvement should not be limited to salaries or stipend but include intellectual involvement in the proposed activity.**

Award notifications will be made on or before **December 23, 2025**