Call for Applications: McCormack Biotech Award

The **McCormack Biotech Award** is a competitive three-year faculty award designed to support innovative research in biotechnology, biomedical sciences, or the application of the tools of biotechnology. The award is made available by the Dean of the Ogden College of Science & Engineering to provide faculty with sustained financial support to advance an ambitious research program and recognizes recipients as **McCormack Biotechnology Scholars**.

Award Details

- **Term:** Three years
- **Annual funding:** Minimum: $25,000 per year, Maximum: $30,000 per year
- **Salary support:** Each year, the awardee will receive a half month of summer salary from the annual award funds. The award will also buyout one half month of faculty research time during the academic year.
- **Research support:** The remaining funds may be used to support the awardee's research, consistent with applicable institutional policies.
- **Title:** Awardees will hold the title **McCormack Biotechnology Scholar** throughout their three-year award term.

Eligibility and Research Focus

The competition is open to Ogden College of Science & Engineering faculty members pursuing research that addresses an aspect of **biotechnology or related biomedical science or utilizes biotechnology tools**. Proposals may address fundamental, applied, translational, technological, or interdisciplinary questions via laboratory research, fieldwork, simulation, product development, or mathematical treatment, provided that the proposed research has a clear connection to biotechnology, biomedical science, or applications of biotechnology tools.

Past McCormack Biotechnology Scholars are eligible to reapply **an unlimited number of times** following completion of an award term.

Application

Applicants should submit a concise proposal describing the research program to be supported by the award. Applications should include:

- A cover sheet including an executive summary of the proposed work.

- An introduction not to exceed two pages on the scientific question, problem, or opportunity being addressed and the significance and potential impact of the research, particularly as it relates to the fields of biotechnology, biomedical science, or the application of biotechnology tools.
- A description of the research activities to be undertaken during the three-year award period.
- How the award will advance the applicant's research program, with particular note to how it will be leveraged toward obtaining external funding.
- A brief budget or description of how the annual award will be used, including the half month of summer salary and half-month of research time buyout. The annual budget should be in the range $25,000-$30,000.
- The entire application should not exceed 5 pages.

An application packet is available online at
https://www.wku.edu/ogden/web_pages/info_for_faculty_and_staff.php

Selection

Applications will be evaluated competitively based on the significance and originality of the proposed research, its relevance to biotechnology or related biomedical science, the potential impact of the work, and the likelihood that the award will meaningfully advance the applicant's research program and chances for future external funding.
The selected faculty member will be named a **McCormack Biotechnology Scholar** for a three-year term and will receive between $25,000 and $30,000 annually for each year of the award. Unexpended funds may carry forward from year to year within the award period. Any funds remaining at the end of the three-year period will return to the College. The College expects to offer one award per year contingent on availability of funds but reserves the right to offer up to two per year.

Submission

Application deadline: Noon Central Time Friday, December 11, 2026.
Submission instructions: Application packet and current CV should be emailed as a single PDF file to ocse@wku.edu. with subject line "McCormack Award Application."
We encourage eligible faculty members with innovative research programs in biotechnology and related biomedical sciences to apply.
Note that biotechnology and related sciences as used here may apply to all lifeforms, not limited to human.

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