

To: Department Chairs; Center Directors; Facility Directors;
Assistant, Associate and Full Professors in Divisions III and IV
From: Pablo G. Debenedetti, Dean for Research
Subject: Transformative Equipment Initiative
Date: January 31, 2023

Following last year's successful [launch](#), I am pleased to announce this year's **Transformative Equipment Initiative** competition, in partnership with the Office of the Provost. This initiative is aimed at supporting the timely replacement and renewal of equipment by departments or units that manage shared facilities, and the purchase of transformative equipment by departments, units or individual faculty, in response to new research opportunities or new technologies. Two funds have been established to accomplish these objectives, described below and attached.

TRANSFORMATIVE EQUIPMENT FUND: REPLACEMENT

This fund will support the replacement of transformative equipment by departments or units that manage shared facilities. The basic characteristics of this program are:

- There will be a yearly application window.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Dean for Research, who will determine whether a request can be funded in a given or future cycle of funding.
- The main criteria for a successful application will be a clear articulation of the innovative science enabled by the new equipment, a well-formulated plan for maintaining state-of-the-art capabilities in the shared facility, and plans for broad use across units/departments.
- Equipment must be above \$500K.
- Applications should be short: no more than 2 pages, plus budget and vendor quote.
- Applications must include a vendor quote for the equipment item.
- Budget must include maintenance fees.
- Applications must document intended shared use and specify shared facility.
- Applications must be submitted by the chair of the department or director of the center/institute managing the facility.
- If the new equipment will occupy new space (i.e., different from the one occupied by the equipment being replaced), the application must identify the proposed new space, which must be approved by the Vice Provost for Space Programming and Planning.
- A contribution from the department/center is expected and will be negotiated individually if the application is funded.
- For the current application cycle, proposals must be uploaded [here](#) by **Friday, March 31st**.

TRANSFORMATIVE EQUIPMENT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

This Innovation Fund will support the expansion of Princeton's inventory of transformative equipment, in response to new research opportunities and new technologies. The characteristics of this program are:

- There will be a yearly request for proposals.
- The Dean for Research will make funding decisions taking into account the recommendations of an anonymous committee.
- The main criteria for a successful proposal will be a clear articulation of the transformative science expected from the new equipment, and, where applicable, a convincing plan, with names, for attracting users across campus.
- Equipment must be above \$500K.
- Proposals should be short (no more than 2 pages), plus budget and vendor quote.
- Proposals must include a vendor quote for the equipment item.
- Budget must include maintenance fees.
- Any intended shared use should be documented.
- Proposals must be submitted by the chair of the department or director of the center/institute managing the facility, or by the individual faculty member who will be the primary user of the instrument.
- The proposal must identify the proposed new space for the new equipment, which must be approved by the Vice Provost for Space Programming and Planning.
- A contribution from the department/center is expected and will be negotiated individually if the proposal is funded.
- For the current application cycle, proposals must be uploaded [here](#) by **Friday, March 31st**.

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Deputy Provost Richard Myers and Provost Debbie Prentice for their support of this initiative.