Convergence Labs @VCU - AI+
Cluster Hire in Artificial Intelligence for Public Good

Call for Proposals from Schools and Colleges
Revised December 2024

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Deans are invited to submit proposals for cluster hires focused on advancing *AI for Public Good*. Proposals should demonstrate how new positions will contribute to responsible AI development and societal benefit while addressing institutional priorities of transdisciplinary collaboration. Deans can submit proposals for more than one hire.

Priority will be given to proposals:
- Involving more than one academic unit
- Demonstrating potential for strong interdisciplinary collaboration
- Describing a clear connection to societal needs and the potential for public impact
- Exhibiting potential to attract outstanding faculty applicants with a commitment to innovation and social good

Proposal Contents
The proposal must include the following sections:
1. Rationale
   a. Strategic Focus of Cluster: Explain how the proposed positions advance the institution's commitment to transdisciplinary collaboration and address critical societal challenges or opportunities through AI applications.
   b. Transdisciplinary Integration: Provide a clear transdisciplinary vision for the collaboration between departments or academic units and integration with the VCU vision for Convergence Labs @VCU.
2. Position Description(s)
   a. Number of positions, desired expertise, qualifications
   b. Academic rank (only tenure-eligible/tenured)
   c. Primary teaching and research areas
3. Transdisciplinary Connections
   a. Describe the expectations for collaboration across departments, schools/colleges and plans for integrating new faculty into ongoing initiatives or creating new interdisciplinary programs or research collaborations.

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    b. Provide joint appointment details (if applicable). Please note a separate joint appointment MOU has been developed.
4. Impact: What is the anticipated impact of the hire(s) on research, teaching and/or community engagement?
5. Resource and Support Requirements: Provide a description of any resources that would be needed to support the hire including start-up package details, equipment and technology needs, specialized equipment requirements, computing and technology infrastructure for example.

Submission Format and Requirements
1. Proposal Format:
   a. Maximum of 5 pages (excluding appendices)
   b. 12-point font, single-spaced
   c. 1-inch margins
   d. PDF format
2. Required Appendices:
   a. Detailed budget spreadsheet
   b. Space planning documentation
   c. Letters of support from relevant departments
3. Submission Process:
   a. Submit complete proposal package to the Office of the Provost
   b. Include signed approvals from: Department Chair(s) and Dean(s)

<u>Questions</u> regarding this call for proposals can be emailed to: vpfacaffrs@vcu.edu.

Submission and Review Timeline
The general cycle for the cluster hiring initiative will start each spring with the call for proposals and will target position announcements in late spring with the aim of a fall or spring start for the faculty hires.
1. Call for Proposals: ***Spring 2025***
2. Submission deadline**: Mid-Spring 2025**
3. Final decisions: **Late Spring (followed by position announcements)**

Review Process
Proposals will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Provost, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, and the Vice President for Research and Innovation, or designees. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate:
- Strong transdisciplinary collaboration.
- A clear connection to the aims of Convergence Labs @VCU to explore innovative solutions to complex societal challenges and the potential for public impact.
- Potential to attract and support outstanding faculty with a commitment to collaboration and innovation.

Preference will be given to proposals where schools/colleges have contributed lines to the cluster. Please see options in the *Process for Cluster Hires* document. The final selection of proposals will be made by the Provost**,** Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and the Vice President for Research and Innovation.