**The College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) is soliciting proposals to establish new Communities of Scholars, Centers and Institutes. The College intends to provide financial, programmatic and administrative resources to establish new units organized for the explicit purpose of pursuing extramurally funded research, scholarship and creative activity (RSCA) as well as establishing related educational and engagement programs. Support will be provided to originate wholly new endeavors and to expand or otherwise elevate existing RSCA units in the College. If support is being sought for an existing unit, the proposed pursuit must engender new opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable or unattainable. All endeavors must be based in the College but can involve partnerships with other Colleges or Schools at the University as well as external partner organizations like Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The following is a synopsis of the solicitation and submission process. More detailed information and instructions are available at:**

*https://artsci.utk.edu/research-and-creative-activity/establishing-communities-of-scholars-centers-and-institutes/*

**Submission tracks*:*** Project teams can request support to initiate or elevate a Community of Scholars (TRACK I) to establish the basis for developing a Center or Institute. Project teams can also elect to solicit support to initiate or elevate a Center or Institute (TRACK II).

**Number of awards**: *TRACK I*: ≤3; *TRACK II*: ≤2

**Award sizes and funding timelines**: *TRACK I*: ≤$25,000 will be awarded to each team, to be spent over two fiscal years. *TRACK II:* ≤$25,000 will be awarded to each team during the first fiscal year; up to $100,000 will be awarded to each team during the second fiscal year contingent on performance; up to $125,000 will be awarded to each team during the third fiscal year contingent on performance.

**Programmatic and administrative support**: Teams receiving TRACK I or TRACK II awards will work closely with the CAS Office of Research and Creative Activity to: build or otherwise engage communities of scholars, practitioners and other partners; finalize an organizational and governance structure; identify key performance benchmarks; and draft a business plan that addresses near and longer term financial, administrative, personnel, space, and facility requirements. TRACK I and TRACK II teams also will work closely with a dedicated staff member in the CAS Finance Office to manage all post-awards needs.

**Participation in proposals:** No more than five (5) individuals may participate as named investigators in a proposal. An individual may participate as a PI in no more than one (1) proposal, and may participate in one (1) other proposal as a co-PI or SP. An individual who is not participating as a PI may participate in two (2) proposals as a co-PI or SP. Tenured, tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty can be a Principal Investigator (PI), Co-PI, or Senior Personnel (SP). PIs must have a ≥50% appointment in CAS. Half or more (≥50%) of Co-PIs and SP must be fully or partially (≥25%) appointed in CAS. Other Co-PIs and SP can be appointed in other Colleges or partner organizations.

**Proposal preparation:** Each submission must include a: ≤300 word Summary; ≤5 page Pursuit Description; ≤2 page Bibliography; ≤1 page Budget; ≤1 page Budget Justification; and ≤1 page biosketches for each participant. Pursuit Descriptions must: present succinct vision and mission statements; describe how the prospective unit will support the College’s mission; describe the topic(s) and grand challenge(s) that the unit is strategically positioned to address; provide a work plan detailing specific goals, SMART objectives, activities and time frames; describe the organizational structure and governance of the prospective unit; identify the on- and off-campus communities that the unit will engage; and present financial and sustainability plans. Budgets must detail anticipated expenditures for categories like personnel costs, travel, supplies and equipment, and tuition.

**Proposal submission, review, and disbursement timeline**: Complete submissions must be received through the online submission portal by **5:00PM EST on 15 March 2024.** Informational meetings will be held on 5 February and 8 February 2024 to address questions about the solicitation. Shortly thereafter, proposals will be reviewed according to general intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria as well as solicitation-specific criteria. Awards will be announced prior to the end of the Spring 2024 semester. Funding will be made available shortly after 1 July 2024.