Public Interest Technology University Network Year 2 Challenge

Dear PIT-UN UVA members,

The Public Interest Technology University Network is pleased to announce the launch of the Year 2 Challenge for its 36 members. The Challenge aims to support the development of Public Interest Technology programs within academia by encouraging new ideas, fostering collaborations, and incentivizing resource- and information-sharing among network members.

This is a limited submission RFP. The first step is the submission of a Précis to the Provost Portal by May 3rd by 11:59 PM. A link to the portal is included at the end of this email.

This email contains information that will help you learn about and apply to the Year 2 Challenge, including:

- Important information about this year's Challenge, eligibility and UVA's internal process to select 3 finalists for submission—see below
- The Year 2 Challenge Request for Proposals (RFP), which includes a text version of the full application – attached

<u>**About the Year 2 Challenge:**</u>
The PIT University Network Challenge seeks to encourage new ideas, foster collaborations, and incentivize resource- and information-sharing among network members. In 2019–PIT-UN's inaugural year–27 proposals from 21 institutions were awarded a total of $3,276,748 in grant funds. While Year 1 projects are just beginning to yield results, network designees noted that even the application process allowed them to surface individuals committed to Public Interest Technology and to identify departments and schools that could work together.

For its second year, projects are especially encouraged in the two priority areas in bold, although proposals addressing any priority area are welcome.

· Educational Offerings

· **Career Pipeline/Placement**

· **Faculty & Institution Building**

· Strengthening the PIT University Network

The PIT-UN Challenge will prioritize projects that center the needs of communities who have historically been denied access to new technologies, been systematically left out of conversations at the intersection of technology and policy, and who have been denied opportunities to join the technology workforce, in efforts to further the positive social impact of technology for all communities. Centering community needs may be demonstrated by incorporating community partners in the design and execution of proposed projects.

Proposals are invited in three funding tranches. Budgets should be inclusive of an indirect rate, set at 20% of total direct costs.

· Up to $45,000 for direct and indirect costs

· Up to $90,000 for direct and indirect costs

· Up to $180,000 for direct and indirect costs

Eligibility
In Year 2 (2020), the Challenge Fund will accept the following types of proposals in response to its RFP:

· Proposals from new or founding network members who are proposing a new project for 2020

· Proposals from awarded Year 1 applicants who wish to continue and/or scale their projects – note: awarded year 1 applicants who are requesting additional time to complete their projects but are not

· Proposals from network members who were not awarded funding in Year 1 and have adjusted their previously proposed project

Each university may submit up to three new Challenge applications; within those three, only one may fall in the $91,000-$180,000 range. A "new Challenge application" is defined as an application for funding for a project that was not proposed for the 2019 (Year 1) Challenge.

A person may be listed as the Principal Investigator (PI) on only one Challenge application, but individuals may be listed as collaborators on multiple applications.

Proposals that are a collaboration between two or more universities should submit one single application, explaining the nature of the collaboration in their application.

Internal Process for Selecting Three Finalists

UVA's internal process will begin with the submission of a Précis—a two page overview of your project-- through this portal LINK. It will be reviewed by an internal committee with representation from both the Provost's Office and the Office of the Vice President for Research, using review criteria aligned with those in the attached RFP. Three finalists will be selected and invited to submit a full proposal using the format described in the RFP. The Provost's Office will review these proposals and once they are deemed final, they will be uploaded into the OSP portal for review, and then submitted to the New Venture Fund portal by the Provost's Office.

Internal Timeline

May 3, 2020	**Précis due**
May 16, 2020	**Finalists invited to submit proposals**
June 5, 2020	**Finalists proposals due**
June 26-July 14	**OSP review period**
July 14-16, 2020	**Applications submitted to NVF**

Questions about this RFP, the Précis, or the portal should be directed to Candace Bell, Grants Administrator, ceb8at@virginia.edu or 540-524-8693.