The Environmental Science and Policy Program and MSU AgBioResearch at Michigan State University are pleased to announce the next solicitation of Interdisciplinary Team Building Initiative (ITBI) proposals. The ITBI funding program is designed to promote collaboration among faculty researchers from different disciplines, with the goal of enhancing our capacity to grow broadly defined interdisciplinary environmental scholarship and to compete for external grants.

The ITBI grants support the formation and operation of multiple workgroups centered on strategically important research areas including, but not limited to, water, global climate change, bioeconomy, invasive species, antimicrobials, and food systems. A workgroup consists of a small number (e.g., 2-5) of core faculty members from multiple disciplines who interact regularly with the goal of writing grant proposals, developing an interdisciplinary curriculum, or working on major multidisciplinary publications. Workgroup activities might include group meetings, presentations by group members, identification of and responses to grant opportunities, etc. Workgroup members are expected to maintain regular interactions towards clearly specified workgroup goals.

Open to all MSU faculty members
An ITBI grant will provide funding for two years with a total amount of up to $10,000.

Application deadline is Monday Nov. 16, 2015

The funds can be used for group meetings, workshops, visitors and invited speakers, travel to funding agencies, preliminary research, etc. Unlike a typical seed grant, an ITBI grant primarily supports interactions of faculty members who otherwise do not have the opportunity to collaborate.

Review criteria include:

1. Fostering new collaborations, especially with new and junior faculty members,
2. Interdisciplinary nature of the group membership and approach,
3. Nature of proposed activities,
4. Commitment to and likelihood of group members pursuing external funding opportunities, and
5. Budget and budget justification.
6. Alignment of research proposal with missions of ESPP and MSU AgBioResearch

Each proposal should include:

1. Cover page: outlining the research areas, names and department affiliations of workgroup members and the lead faculty, and contact information for the lead faculty,
2. Workgroup Description (not to exceed 5 pages): outlining background information, research questions, goals of the workgroup, workgroup composition, activities of the workgroup, and expected outcomes.
3. CV: NSF style two page CV of each workgroup member.
Post-Award

ESPP will provide logistic support for the operation of the workgroups. This would include space for group meetings, help with scheduling, grant intelligence and assistance with proposal development. ESPP and AgBioResearch will hold an annual meeting for the workgroups to present their progress reports and discuss plans. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the workgroups to interact with each other. Each workgroup is required to submit a final report outlining the activities and achievements of the workgroup within two months of the end of the funding period.