VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

RESEARCH INITIATION AWARD (RIA)
Sponsored by the School of Education Faculty Organization

The Research Initiation Award (RIA) provides support for VCU-SOE tenure-track and collateral faculty preparing proposals for submission to an *identified, external funding source*. The work effort must lead to a proposal for a significantly larger project of potential interest to an external funding agency. Students may be engaged in any aspect of research support, such as library research, data collection and analysis, transcription, or laboratory support. It is expected that, when appropriate, a budget line for student wages will be included in the proposed budget submitted to the external funding agency.

Research Initiation Award Application

Applications are accepted up to the Application Deadline: **January 15, 2010.** The **Award Period** will begin **March 1, 2010** and end **June 30, 2011.** A one year no cost extension may be requested to the Office of Research Services.

SOE faculty may request funds for up to one year. Up to two awards will be funded for a 12-month period. The RIA grant proposal review committee may fund a single grant proposal for up to $600 or fund two grant proposals for up to $300 each. Funds will be available to the Principal Investigator after he/she submits an IRB approval letter to the Office of Research Services (Dr. Jim McMillian).

Proposal Guidelines:

- Funds may be used to support undergraduate or graduate student workers only. Funds may not be used to support external consultants, staff, or faculty salaries.
- The RIA Proposal should be submitted using the *SOE Internal Research Grant Application Forms*
- Applicants must present a work plan with an anticipated schedule for expenditure of funds and an external funding agency proposal submission plan including deadlines.
- Applicants must identify a potential external funding agency and, where possible, a program officer. Funds may be used to travel to the external funding agency and meet with the cognizant program officer or attend agency technical assistance workshops for specific programs.
- Funds remaining at the end of the grant period (including the approved one-year extension) will return to the SOE Faculty Organization.
- A presentation to the SOE faculty will be given at the end of the grant period at a time to be determined. This presentation should include significant aspects of

the proposed work, findings, results of inquiries to funding agencies and future/proposed work to be funded by federal/state/local agencies.
- A final report will be due at the end of the grant period. This report will consist of a brief summary of the status of the project, agencies and program officers visited, workshops attended, and all proposals submitted to external funding agencies.

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated by members of the SOE Research and Professional Development Committee. Proposals should be comprehensive and understandable by peers outside of your specific discipline and should address the evaluation criteria listed below. Proposals will be scored and ranked according to the following:

1. Appropriateness of the work plan for the project and timeline for developing the proposal (25 points).

2. Significance of project outcomes to the SOE research mission (15 points).

3. Enhance research agenda of faculty (15 points)

4. Substantive products/deliverables (15 points)

5. Likelihood that the project will lead to a proposal submission to an external funding source (15 points).

6. Likelihood that the proposed research will significantly enhance the quality of the submitted proposal (15 points).