

INSTITUTE OF ARCTIC BIOLOGY

The NIH IDeA Administrative Support Office (IASO) – A shared services solution for NIH Institutional Development Award (IDeA) funded programs

BACKGROUND

UAF currently has three active programs funded by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program, all of which are administered by the Institute of Arctic Biology (IAB). These include the IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) award with Brian Barnes, IAB Director, as PI, and the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Center for Transformative Research in Metabolism (TRiM), Kelly Drew PI. Additionally, PI Stacy Rasmus has partnered with the University of Montana for the American Indian/Alaska Native Clinical and Translational Research Program (AI/AN CTRP). IAB also was the home of Alaska's only other COBRE award that created and supported the development over 15 years of our Center of Alaska Native Health Research. Together these current IDeA programs represent the significant investment of at least \$31.6M to UA over the next five years by NIH to support competitive basic, clinical, and translational biomedical research, faculty development, and infrastructure improvements at UA. This funding strengthens biomedical and health research in Alaska, enhances the competitiveness of our PIs in securing research funding, provides research opportunities for students, retains current faculty, and attracts new tenure-track and research faculty interested in seeking funding from the NIH.

IDeA funded programs are institutional, often state-wide awards that allow for the direct charging of administrative effort to restricted funds within each awarded grant. This effort can include program administrators, fiscal officers and technicians, administrative assistants, reporting specialists, and outreach coordinators. Indirect cost recovery from these programs help support executive administration, human resource, travel, procurement, and public relations. While a wide range of administrative support is allowable on the grant, it creates a duplication of effort in some areas and understaffed support in other areas when operated independent of one another. Additionally, within the last few years, NIH has encouraged the sharing of resources between IDeA programs (see IDeA PI Meeting Summary at <https://tinyurl.com/s5duaow>, pp 8-10). This encouragement was further reinforced by Alaska IDeA's Program Official, Sheila Caldwell, to PI Barnes to share administrative functions and costs whenever appropriate and where ever possible within the IDeA network.

With Alaska being one of 24 states eligible for IDeA funding, it is imperative that we fully support the administrative functions of these awards to grow administrative leaders to be experts in IDeA and NIH funded programs and share those resources across units within UA. This not only includes current IDeA awards already administered directly by IAB, but future awards that can benefit from a shared administrative support office. Outlined in this proposal is a model to equitably share administrative loads, provide consistent skilled support for pre and post-award management, cross-training and succe

- Leverages restricted funding and IAB Fund 1 to maintain a critical mass and back up