Faculty Climate Action Champion Award: Application Instructions

This funding provides support for one exceptional faculty member to deepen climate change teaching and research at UCSC. Selected champions and their projects are intended to help meet and focus student demand for climate action and education. They should inspire a wider range of faculty to take up the challenge of engaged research and education to achieve carbon neutrality. In summary, the Champion program is meant to incentivize and enable faculty engagement in climate change research, teaching and both campus and community engagement.

The selected champion will be expected to work at the campus, community, state, national or global level to apply their expertise toward addressing climate action and provide a public lecture at the end of their tenure to discuss their work and activities as Champion. The award may be used to fund graduate and/or undergraduate assistantships and institutional opportunities that will allow the selected Champion to build upon their scholarship, to educate the campus and community of the significance of that work, and to explore its application to advancing climate action at levels spanning from the campus to the planet.

Application Instructions
Interested faculty should submit the following application information and materials to scasey@ucsc.edu by May 22, 2016. The application should be 3 pages maximum, plus CV and biography. Please include your name, division, department and email on the first page of your program plan.

A. Program plan:
   1. Describe the activities, research, courses the champion would pursue during their tenure, emphasizing how the proposed activities would be influenced by being selected as the champion.
   2. In addition, the following elements must be included and are required of champion:
      a) Campus Engagement: how will you engage campus community including students, staff, & faculty in your proposed activities?
      b) Community Engagement: how will you engage community members, non-profit leaders, government and/or business leaders in your proposed activities?
      c) Research plan that includes a broad, interdisciplinary scope and has applications beyond the specific academic field of the Champion and describes how the grant will give the Champion an opportunity to pursue a new direction in their work or a new project
      d) Curriculum plan: Description of teaching or other curricular innovations such as a seminar (targeted towards undergraduate and/or graduate students), a new course or set of courses, and/or significant infusion of climate action into an existing course or courses.

B. Itemized budget, explaining how the $25,000 will be spent
C. Biography of the proposed Champion highlighting past leadership efforts
D. Curriculum Vitae
At the end of the Champion’s tenure, the expected activities listed in this plan will be compared with the final report to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, so it is important that these plans are practical in describing what can be accomplished. Proposals will be evaluated based on demonstrated experience and leadership in the area of climate action; intellectual merit; and broader impacts of proposed activities in terms of educating and engaging campus and the public in climate action.

Related funds must be spent according to UC and State of California guidelines. Additional restrictions include that the funding must be spent within the time of the Champion’s tenure and funds must be spent on materials directly applicable to activities as Champion and cannot be spent on general purpose equipment or on overhead. Champions will be expected to submit a final report on their expenditures at the end of their tenure, and return any unspent funds at that point.