



## MHI and CICMHE Research Funding Program

### **Research Partnership Grants**

2017 Guidelines for Proposal  
Preparation and Submission

**Proposal Due Date:** September 1, 2017

# MHI/CICMHE Research Funding Program

## Research Partnership Grants

### Context

MHI has a goal of supporting research and teaching in material handling, logistics, and supply chain as demonstrated through a long-standing commitment to the College Industry Council on Material Handling Education (CICMHE). One critical component of this goal is to develop and support faculty who conduct research on topics that are important to the future of the material handling, logistics, and supply chain industry. To meet this objective, MHI provides a three-part research grant program:

- Type 1: Research Start-up Grants
- Type 2: Research Spark Grants
- Type 3: Research Partnership Grants.

This program influences and supports the work of researchers at different stages in their careers. The intent is to assist in the development of world-class researchers who focus on material handling, logistics, and supply chain as they initiate and perform high-value, high-impact research that is aligned with the needs of the industry.

### Purpose and Principles of Research Partnership Grants

The purpose of a Research Partnership Grant is to provide a source of matching funds to support the development and funding of large-scale research projects related to material handling, logistics, and supply chain management. These matching funds are intended to serve as leverage for professors to obtain funding for large research projects recognized as having the potential for substantial contribution and advancement of the material handling, logistics, and supply chain community. The Partnership Grant should be used to help researchers build a core group of partners engaged in their project by contributing cash and/or in-kind resources to the project and helping recruit other partners. MHI/CICMHE will annually award as many Partnership Grants as possible depending on the availability of funds.

### Eligibility

MHI/CICMHE Research Partnership Grants are open to all full-time faculty from schools in the U.S. and Canada. There is no limit on the number of Partnership Grants that may be received by faculty either in a single year or during a research career.

### Funding Levels and Conditions

The amount of each grant will be decided on a case by case basis depending on the project value, degree of potential leveraging, and the availability of funds. Expectations are that grant requests will typically be in the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000 per project year, excluding in-kind contributions, but there are no lower or upper bounds. Participating institutions must agree to waive overhead costs for Partnership Grants. MHI/CICMHE funds will only be committed when the proposed project has been funded by the primary granting agency.

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## Proposal Consideration Process

**Stage 1:** Researchers provide MHI with a description of their research idea, the desired support required (on a per year basis for multi-year proposals), and the potential leverage that the MHI/CICMHE funding can provide. No specific format is required for the proposal. If full proposals (as prepared for the primary granting agency) are available, they are very helpful, but not expected. Generally, a brief (approximately two-page) description will be sufficient.

**Stage 2:** If the idea is perceived to have merit, it will be considered for funding by a panel of reviewers selected by the Research Grants Program Committee.

**Stage 3:** If the committee review results in conditional approval, an “intent to support” letter will be provided to the proposer for use as part of their proposal. Final signatures on the letter will be provided when MHI/CICMHE has reviewed the full proposal prior to submittal to the primary granting agency.

**Stage 4:** If the proposal is funded by the primary granting agency, MHI/CICMHE then provides the agreed upon funding and resources/services for the project.

## Reporting Results

MHI/CICMHE requests that grantees provide a brief update on the status of their partnership grant. This update may be provided in any number of ways including a short document, or a presentation at an MHI/CICMHE meeting or event. Grantees are also strongly encouraged to participate in CICMHE’s research colloquium (International Material Handling Research Colloquium) and teachers’ institute (Material Handling Teachers Institute).

In order to publicize the accomplishments of Grantees to MHI and its members, the following information is requested from awardees at the completion of the grant:

- General information on research conducted that was supported in some way by this grant
  - General description of the research
  - Publications that were generated
  - Students involved
    - Number of undergraduate and graduate students involved, and
    - Number of UG and G students impacted indirectly;
- Additional external research funding made possible by the MHI grant;
- Information about industry interactions made possible by the research grants
  - Direct involvement by industry
  - Indirect involvement (attended presentation, etc.);
- Dissemination at conferences, tradeshows, and colloquia; and
- Description of how this funding influenced your career and research trajectory.

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## **Time Line**

Proposals are accepted at any time, but may be subject to availability of funds due to commitments that may have already been made during the August through October cycle typically followed by the other types of MHI/CICMHE research funding (see Start-up and Spark Grants).

## **Contact**

All questions, requests for clarification, and requests for additional information should be submitted via email to Pat Davison and Delana Hopkins at MHI. Electronic versions of proposal should also be submitted to Pat Davison ([PDavison@mhi.org](mailto:PDavison@mhi.org)) and Delana Hopkins ([DHopkins@mhi.org](mailto:DHopkins@mhi.org)).