# University of Tennessee Community of Scholars Program

# Description and Application Guidelines

**The Community of Scholars Program (CoS)** was launched by theOffice of Research and Engagement (ORE) to support the creation and growth of research affinity groups. Each CoS is composed of UT researchers from multiple departments, colleges, and/or units, united by a shared research theme or topic area, and organized to share research capabilities and explore opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

The objectives of a CoS may include:

* To identify and promote the research strengths and expertise represented by the membership of the CoS around the central topic.
* To build productive research networks.
* To increase the competitiveness of the CoS members for external funding by building interdisciplinary teams.

## How to Become a CoS:

A group interested in being recognized as a CoS should submit a brief proposal (two pages max) that identifies:

* The faculty member point of contact.
* Names and departmental affiliation of the participating CoS faculty (at least three departments, centers, and/or institutes should be represented).
* A descriptive title for the CoS.
* A short statement of the central research theme or topic area around which the CoS will organize and how it aligns with the funding priorities of at least one external sponsor.
* A draft agenda for an initial kick-off activity.

CoS applications should be submitted to Diana Moyer at [dmoyer@utk.edu](mailto:dmoyer@utk.edu).

## CoS Roles and Responsibilities:

The Office of Research and Engagement supports Communities of Scholars by providing financial support, staff time to help organize CoS activities, identifying potential funding opportunities, and publicizing the CoS to the broader UT community.  ORE will provide $2,000 as start-up funds to new Communities of Scholars. An additional $2,000 is available upon request annually.

Each Communities of Scholars should submit an annual report at the end of the spring semester that summarizes the activities from the past year and presents a plan of events and the dates they will occur for the next academic year. CoSs are expected to have a minimum of three meetings/events a semester.