

**Florida A&M University and Florida A&M University Developmental Research School**  
**FAMU2: FAMUDRS Research-Practice Partnership Hub**  
**FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP)—Pilot Phase**  
*Pilot Phase Award Period: April 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027*

**Request for Proposals & Instructions**

**Application Deadline: Friday March 6, 2026 at 5:00pmET**

**A. Program Purpose**

The **FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP)** recognizes outstanding research conducted by Florida A&M University (FAMU) faculty in partnership with faculty and staff at Florida A&M Developmental Research School (FAMUDRS) within the FAMUDRS Research-Practice Partnership Hub. With support from the Office of the Provost, this program is designed to promote productive partnerships between FAMU's university faculty and K–12 educators. It is also designed to build capacity and infrastructure by embedding opportunities for professional learning and continuous improvement at FAMU and FAMUDRS. Ultimately, the FAMU2-FRAP will support FAMU's mission to enhance and empower its students and communities through innovative teaching, research, scholarship, partnerships, and public service. Primary objectives include:

- establish and sustain collaborative partnerships between FAMU's faculty and FAMUDRS's K–12 educators grounded in mutual trust, shared goals, and ongoing communication;
- identify and investigate pressing problems of practice within FAMUDRS through co-designed, applied research projects that are timely, relevant, and context-specific;
- translate research findings into actionable tools, strategies, and resources that support evidence-based decision-making and instructional improvement in FAMUDRS;
- build FAMUDRS educators' and leaders' capacity to use data and evidence to improve outcomes;
- build FAMU faculty's capacity to conduct and disseminate community engaged research; and
- contribute broadly to the disciplines represented in FAMU2's research portfolio by sharing (a) primary research findings through publications and presentations; (b) products, tools, and resources developed in the research process, and (c) lessons learned about the partnership model at the local, state, and national levels.

**B. FAMU2: The FAMUDRS Research-Practice Partnership Hub**

Established in 2025, the **FAMUDRS Research-Practice Partnership Hub** is a research-practice partnership (RPP) between FAMU and FAMUDRS, hereafter referred to as FAMU2. RPPs are long-term, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial collaborations between academic faculty at the university and school and community organizations. In RPPs, researchers work with and alongside partners to conduct research that addresses complex problems of interest to and defined by the partner. RPP projects can be found in multiple disciplines, including education, health and allied health, social and behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, and STEM.

Specifically, FAMU2 is focused on enhancing opportunities for research conducted at FAMUDRS that is of beneficence to its students, educators, leaders, and families. As a laboratory school in the College of Education, FAMUDRS serves as a *bridge* between research and practice—connecting academic research generated across FAMU's colleges, schools, centers, and institutes with practical applications with students, educators, leaders, and families. Through FAMU2, FAMU and FAMUDRS seek to catalyze community engaged scholarship that brings cutting-edge discoveries into classrooms and creates transformative opportunities to the entire school community.

### C. The Award

The **FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program** is intended to both recognize and support faculty at FAMU and faculty and staff at FAMUDRS who are committed to collaborating to produce research that is rigorous, relevant, and impactful for students, educators, leaders, and families at FAMUDRS. Therefore, the award will include up to \$5,000 in funding for collaborative research teams consisting of FAMU faculty and students and FAMUDRS faculty, staff, and students who will engage in research over a period of up to 18 months. In addition, as a part of the award, recipients will be required to participate in opportunities to develop competencies related to the conduct of RPPs. It is expected that this assistance will lead to the development of new and/or strengthening of existing research partnerships between FAMU and FAMUDRS. It is also expected that this assistance will lead to productive scholarship within one year of the completion of this award, including peer-reviewed publications in academic journals; presentations at academic conferences; applications for external grants, contracts, and awards; and internal institutional awards. Expected outcomes include:

- recognition of FAMU as an active and innovative partner in promoting positive student outcomes across the P-20 educational system;
- recognition of faculty and staff expertise at FAMUDRS and FAMU locally and nationally;
- collaborative development, conduct, and dissemination of research studies grounded in FAMUDRS's priorities;
- improved processes and practices for sustained partnership between FAMU and FAMUDRS;
- measurable improvements in FAMU faculty's research productivity and capacity to create new, productive RPPs with other external and internal university partners; and
- measurable improvements in outcomes for FAMUDRS students, educators, and families

**The FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program is in a pilot-phase**, as a part of the Institutional Challenge Grant program awarded to the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) by the William T. Grant Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, and Spencer Foundation. More information about the award can be found at: <https://fcrr.org/projects/william-t-grant-foundation-institutional-challenge-grant>. Questions about the program can be directed to the Project Manager, Catie Goodman at [cjgoodman@fcrr.org](mailto:cjgoodman@fcrr.org). Up to nine awards will be given in Spring Semester 2026, with projects extending until June 30, 2027. Awards are limited and competitive. Program continuation is contingent upon available funding and program success.

During the pilot phase, applicants are welcome to support action research projects initiated by FAMUDRS faculty and staff (see listing in applications). These projects will use one of two priority approaches for the conduct of research within FAMU2:

1. **Action Research:** a systematic approach to scientific inquiry in which educational practitioners identify, investigate, and address problems of practice through structured inquiry, with the goal of improving teaching and learning through the uptake and use of evidence-based practices. In action research, FAMUDRS teachers or leaders pose the question (or wondering) and may seek collaboration with other FAMUDRS personnel and/or FAMU faculty, researchers, and undergraduate and graduate students to conduct the study. Investigators may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods and statistical procedures to answer the research questions.
2. **Youth-led Participatory Action Research:** a systematic approach to scientific inquiry in which young people identify, investigate, and address problems relevant to their own lives through structured inquiry, with the goal of improving their own learning and advocating for changes based upon the research evidence. In youth-led participatory action research, FAMUDRS student(s) pose the question (or wondering) and may seek collaboration with FAMUDRS teachers and leaders and/or FAMU faculty, researchers, and undergraduate and graduate students to conduct the study. Investigators may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods and statistical procedures to answer the research questions.

#### D. Additional Award Information

- **Award Amount:** A one-time award amount of up to **\$5,000** will be awarded to the project team.
- **Award Distribution:** Funds will be dispersed by FCRR. A formal budget plan is not required at the time of submission. However, funds must be used in accordance with award terms and conditions (see below). Funds will be dispersed in accordance with university policies. FCRR will collaborate with FAMU and FAMUDRS to ensure appropriate disbursement of funds.
- **Use of Award Funds:** Funds may only be used for activities related to the research described in the proposal, and may include travel, supplies, and research support. Project recipients can request funds to purchase small equipment/software required to conduct the research; however, it is important to note that small grants cannot typically absorb the costs of large equipment or continued software licensing. In addition, all equipment purchased using the funds will belong to the institution and may be returned after completion of the project. Awards may not be used to support salary or stipends for students. In general, it is expected that funds may be used to achieve one or more of the following goals:
  - develop and implement a collaborative program of research within FAMU2 between FAMU faculty and FAMUDRS faculty and staff;
  - provide opportunities for FAMUDRS students and FAMU undergraduate and graduate students to participate in FAMU2; and
  - produce and disseminate original research generated from FAMU2.
- **Award Requirement: Professional Learning Opportunities and Milestones**
  - FAMU faculty and students on the project team funded by the award are required to attend RPP workshops and other professional learning opportunities developed and facilitated by FCRR and the National Network of Education Research Practice Partnerships. The workshop will be offered in collaboration with the Office of the Provost at FAMU. Attendance at these workshops and other professional learning opportunities is a mandatory portion of the program; failure to attend may result in disqualification from the award.
  - FAMUDRS faculty and staff on the project team funded by the award are required to attend Action Research workshops and other professional learning opportunities developed and facilitated by FCRR. The workshop will be offered in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent at FAMUDRS. Attendance at these workshops and professional learning opportunities is a mandatory portion of the program; failure to attend may result in disqualification from the award.
  - Both FAMU faculty and FAMUDRS faculty and staff awardees are expected to meet established milestones for the program, accomplishing all required activities and components completely and on time.

#### E. Eligibility

- **FAMUDRS Faculty and Staff:** Eligibility is limited to full-time, active status FAMUDRS faculty and staff who have proposed Action Research and Youth-led Participatory Action Research projects that have been approved by FAMU2 and FAMUDRS leadership. **Please contact Dr. Patricia West at [patricia.west@famuedu](mailto:patricia.west@famuedu) for questions about proposing FAMU2 action research projects.**
- **FAMU Faculty:** Eligibility is limited to regular, full-time, active status tenure-track or tenured FAMU faculty holding the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor.

FAMU-appointed Engineering faculty members in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering who are full-time, active status tenure-track or tenured FAMU faculty holding the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor are eligible to apply for this award. **Please contact Dr. Saungaylia Randolph at [saungaylia.randolph@famuedu](mailto:saungaylia.randolph@famuedu) for questions about collaborating with FAMUDRS faculty and staff on FAMU2 action research projects.**

#### F. Important Dates for the 2026-2027 Pilot Phase

- *Pre-review is not available for this program.*
- **Submission Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2026 @ 5:00pmET**
- Award Notification: March 2026
- Award Period: April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

#### G. Application Submission Process and Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **FAMUDRS Faculty and Staff Practitioner Partner:** Eligible FAMUDRS faculty and staff should submit the **FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP) – Faculty and Staff Practitioner Partner Application (which will allow you to upload the FAMU2 Action Research and/or Youth-led Participatory Action Research Project Proposal Template)**. *Proposals that are late, incomplete, or do not meet application requirements will not be reviewed. During the Pilot Phase, applications will be accepted from FAMUDRS faculty and staff who have been participating in professional learning with FAMU2 Action Research Coaches during the Fall 2025 semester and whose proposals have been approved by FAMU2 and FAMUDRS Leadership.* **FAMUDRS faculty and staff applicants for the award program are required to submit the following 2 application materials:**
  1. **Application:** Applicants must complete the **FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP) Application Form**. All sections must be completed to submit your application. Changes cannot be made to an application once the application has been submitted or once the submission deadline has passed. The application page includes signature approval by FAMUDRS Leadership (i.e., Deputy Superintendent).
    - i. **Action Research Project Proposal (no more than 1000 words):** Applicants must submit a proposal providing details on their action research project. Applicants must use the template provided. Applicants may use resources provided by their Action Research Coaches to support development of the proposal template. **Proposals must not exceed 1000 words. Proposals must be typed, single-spaced in the application template provided using 11pt Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font.**
- **FAMU Faculty Research Partner:** Eligible FAMU staff should submit **FAMU2-FRAP Faculty Research Partner** – Faculty Research Partner Application. *Proposals that are late, incomplete, or do not meet application requirements will not be reviewed. During the Pilot Phase, applications are accepted from FAMU faculty who are interested in working with FAMUDRS faculty and staff on an approved project.* **FAMU Faculty applicants for the award program are required to submit the following 3 application materials:**
  1. **Application:** Applicants must complete the **FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP) Application Form**. All sections must be completed to submit your application. Changes cannot be made to an application once the application has been submitted or once the submission deadline has passed. The application page includes signature approval by the applicant's Department Chairperson and Dean.

- i. **Curriculum Vitae (no more than 5pp):** Applicants must submit a current CV formatted according to requirements for one of the following standard brief CV templates:
  - National Science Foundation (NSF) Biosketch
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH) Biosketch
  - Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Biosketch

Applicants are encouraged to use SciENCv to create biosketches. SciENCv (Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae) was developed by NIH to support the use of a common researcher profile system by federal agencies. Through SciENCv, individuals who apply for, receive, or are associated with research investments from federal agencies can create a biosketch using the official formatting requirements for the NIH, NSF, and IES. For more information, please visit <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>.

- ii. **Statement of Alignment with Approved FAMU2 Action Research Projects (no more than 1000 words):** *During the pilot phase, applicants are neither required nor encouraged to contact FAMUDRS faculty and staff about their approved projects.* Applicants are not expected to know all details about the project before applying. Rather, applicants are expected to clearly demonstrate their capacity and commitment to collaborating with the FAMUDRS faculty or staff member to carry out research activities that will contribute to the successful completion of the action research project. To do so, applicants are encouraged to (a) choose one specific FAMU2 action research project of interest; (b) state their research expertise, interests, and experiences and how it aligns with the approved project; (c) describe previous or existing collaborations with FAMUDRS and/or other school and community partners to conduct research, engagement, and/or service activities that resulted in improved outcomes for a targeted stakeholder group; and (d) affirm their willingness to participate in FAMU2-FRAP activities, collaborate to complete established milestones, and ensure the project's success during the award period. Applicants should also include potential plans for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals, presentation at research conferences, applications for future funding, and continuation of partnership activities within FAMU2. Applicants should describe how they will include their FAMUDRS partners and FAMU students in these plans. Applicants are encouraged to prepare statements that are written in clear, concise language so that reviewers from any discipline will be able to understand; field-specific jargon and acronyms are discouraged unless they are plainly defined within the text. **Statements must not exceed 1000 words. Statements must be typed, single-spaced in the application template provided using 11pt Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font.**

## H. Research Compliance

All projects involving FAMUDRS students require IRB approval before data collection begins. However, IRB approval is NOT required at the time of application.

Applicants must obtain IRB approval before data collection begins. Plan to submit IRB applications by September 1, 2026, to allow adequate time for review before the November 2026 data collection start date. Any proposed research activities involving human subjects require the completion and submission of forms to FAMU's Office of Research Compliance.

#### Research Compliance Timeline:

- Award notification: March 2026
- IRB applications due: September 1, 2026
- Expected IRB approval: October 2026
- Data collection begins: November 2026

#### Responsibilities:

- FAMU faculty are responsible for submitting IRB applications through FAMU's Office of Research Compliance: <https://www.famu.edu/administration/research/irb-net.php>
- FAMUDRS partners must obtain approval from FAMUDRS administration and Leon County Schools (if applicable)
- Both partners must complete CITI human subjects training: <https://about.citiprogram.org/>

For assistance, contact the FAMU Office of Research Compliance at (850) 412-5246.

### I. Application Review Process

- *During the pilot phase, the Review Committee will consist of members of the FAMU2 Launching Committee, which consists of faculty and staff at FAMU and FAMUDRS, and selected faculty and staff in FCRR, FSU, and FAMU who are engaged with the Institutional Challenge Grant program awarded to FCRR by the William T. Grant Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation, and Spencer Foundation.*
- The Review Committee will recommend the finalists to the FAMU Provost, Dean of FAMU College of Education, and the Superintendent of FAMUDRS, who will make final funding decisions based on the funding allocated to the program, the number of applications received, and merit of each application.
- Reviewers will consider the following when reviewing and awarding applications:
  - strength of alignment with FAMU2's goals and priorities
  - strength of alignment with FAMUDRS's Strategic Plan and Priority Areas of Interest
  - strength of FAMU faculty applicant's research productivity, including publications, presentations, and external and internal funding awards.
  - FAMU faculty applicants' previous participation in research, engagement, and service activities with FAMUDRS and other school and community partners to produce positive outcomes for targeted stakeholder groups
  - FAMUDRS faculty and staff applicants' previous participation in research, engagement, and service activities with FAMU faculty and other researchers to produce positive outcomes for students, educators, and families.
  - Both applicants' interest in and willingness to participate in FAMU2-FRAP activities, achieve milestones, and program success, and potential to contribute to furthering FAMU2's growth and development beyond the funding period.

### J. Award Terms & Conditions

- The FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP) can only be used to support research partnership activities within FAMU2 action research projects.
- The FAMU2 Faculty Research Award Program (FAMU2-FRAP) does not support salary or stipends.
- This award may be used for OPS expenses, research-related supplies and travel, and student support.
  - *Student Support: Funds may be used for FAMU student research participation through: conference travel/registration, research training materials, data collection supplies, and software licenses. Funds may NOT be used for student salaries or stipends. Students*

*may participate through course credit (independent study, research methods practicum) or as volunteers.*

- Time extensions will not be allowed during the pilot program.
- FCRR reserves the right to withdraw remaining funds from a project if unauthorized spending occurs and may also require misspent funds to be repaid by FAMU or FAMUDRS.
- If awarded, any research compliance items must also be approved prior to use of funds.
- **All necessary forms must be received by FCRR no later than 30 days following notice of award; failure to submit these documents in a timely manner may result in the withdrawal of the award.**
- FCRR will begin financial closeout of the award will automatically within 60 days following the award period end date.
- **Awardees will be required to respond to short project outcomes surveys via email at 6-, 12-, and 18-month intervals after the award end date.** Surveys will allow faculty to identify the proposals, publications, exhibits, presentations, and/or other external funding outcomes resulting directly from this award.
- In the event that a member of the research team leaves the FAMU or FAMUDRS, involuntarily or voluntarily, prior to the end of the award period, the awardee has the responsibility of notifying FAMU, FAMUDRS, and FCRR and returning the remaining award amount to FCRR.
- The balance of any remaining award funds will be returned to FCRR at the conclusion of the award period.