Background
NC State’s Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, in collaboration with the Deans of each college and the Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science, has established the NC State Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) Program. The SRI Program is designed to assist NC State researchers in developing new and innovative pilot programs that have potential for future support from government agencies, corporations, industrial consortia or foundations. Moreover, the SRI will fund projects that support NC State’s strategic research plan (web site here) and the UNC Tomorrow commission recommendations. The specific purposes of the SRI Program are as follows:

- Accelerate the implementation of research initiatives that are responsive to national priorities as well as NC State research areas in the areas of:
  - Health and Well-Being
  - Energy and the Environment
  - Safety and Security
  - Educational Innovation
- Develop research initiatives with high potential for external funding from corporate, government and foundation partners;
- Align research with NC economic development priorities and industry needs;
- Emphasize and promote cross-college interdisciplinary research collaboration;
- Raise external visibility of NC State research strengths;
- Involve undergraduate and graduate students in research programs.

It is anticipated that NC State faculty and staff will have significant opportunities for research funding from agencies such as the NSF, NIH, DOE, USDA and others as well as private industry and foundations. The SRI Program will serve as an important catalyst for enabling the initial development of research initiatives in response to these, and other, funding opportunities.

Funding Levels
Two levels of funding are supported by the SRI program:

1. **Initiative planning grants** of up to $20,000 are available for a six to twelve month period for NC State faculty and staff professionals to support the development of concepts for a university wide initiative. Planning grant activities may include the following:
   - Workshops on emerging multidisciplinary research areas;
   - Support of high level seminar series;
• Development of concepts and white papers for large scale centers and institutes;
• Development of a plan to promote industrial research collaborations.

Successful initiative planning grant teams may subsequently pursue an initiative implementation grant.

2. Initiative implementation grants of up to $100,000 per year will be available for a one to two year period in FY 2011-2012 for NC State faculty and staff professionals to support the implementation of a large-scale initiative. Implementation grant activities may include the following:

• Development of proposals in response to for large scale research program opportunities, including the pursuit of key preliminary data for successful proposal submission;
• Identification and recruitment of industrial partners in support of initiatives;
• Creation and support of resources such as websites, research collaboration sites, or other social networking tools to facilitate the dissemination of initiative progress and research activities;
• Engagement of undergraduate and graduate students in initiative activities;

Eligibility
NC State faculty or EPA professionals are eligible to apply.

Award Information
Only the Initiative Planning grants will be funded for FY 2010-2011. The maximum Initiative Planning grant request can be $20,000. A 25% cost match on the entire budget is required from either internal or external sources. In other words, an initiative planning grant proposal may request $10,000 ($10,000 VCRGS, $5,000 Kenan Institute, $5,000 other, including College support).

Awards will be made beginning July 1, 2010 for a twelve-month (12) period. At the end of that period, the unexpended balance reverts to the fund for reallocation. Carry-over from one fiscal year to the next is contingent upon approval. All funded proposals will be required to satisfy the appropriate University and College/School criteria for conducting the project before expenditures are made.

It is anticipated that support for Initiative Implementation grants will be available in FY 2011-2012.
Proposal Content
Proposals are limited to five (5) pages and must include the following:

- Title of the project, principal investigator contact information, and a list of other key personnel;
- Project description including information regarding how the proposed initiative will address the specific purposes of the SRI program listed above and anticipated impacts;
- Short bios of PI and key personnel;
- Budget and Justification.

Other items such as support letters may be included and are not counted against the page limit.

Proposal Submission
After entering and receiving approval in PINS (http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/pins), proposals should be submitted electronically in MS Word or PDF format to Dr. Chris Brown, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Development at cbrown@ncsu.edu by XXXXXXX XX, 2010.

Proposal Review and Selection
Proposals will be reviewed by panel of faculty and EPA professionals and will be selected based on the following:

- Alignment of the proposed project to the specific purposes of the SRI program articulated on page one (1) of this RFP;
- Qualifications of the PI and key personnel;
- Reasonableness of the budget.

Reporting Requirements
Initiative planning projects selected will be required to submit a report (3-5 pages) one month after the end of the grant period. The report should include information regarding project outcomes including key findings and plans.