

Request for Applications
Voelte-Keegan Bioengineering Support

Application Deadline: 5 p.m. CST on Monday, December 1, 2025

Don Voelte and Nancy Keegan generously established a new fund at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) to support Bioengineering research that utilizes the research core facilities at the [Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience](#) (NCMN) and the [Nano-Engineering Research Core Facility](#) (NERCF). The Voelte-Keegan Bioengineering Fund will support small grant requests to generate preliminary data to support proposals for future funding or to broaden the scope of a currently funded project. Requests for operating costs for ongoing projects, rather than a distinct set of experiments toward a unique new goal, will receive lower priority for funding. Approximately \$50,000 is available for this round of awards.

Program Requirements

1. Proposed research must be included under the topic of Bioengineering (defined as the application of principles of biology and the tools of engineering to create knowledge, devices, and technologies)
2. At least two-thirds of requested funds must be for direct usage of equipment in NERCF and NCMN
3. PIs must be full-time UNL faculty members with an active appointment
4. Publications and presentations emanating from this support and of use of facilities in NCMN and NERCF must acknowledge that support

Individual investigators or small faculty teams may submit a proposal. A brief report is required at the conclusion of the project.

Application Requirements

Please provide the following information – in the order described below – as a single PDF file.

1. Project plan, comprising:
 - a. Brief project overview
 - b. Plans for data collection
 - c. Alignment with UNL's [N2025 Strategic Plan](#) and [portfolio of seven grand challenge themes](#)
 - d. Potential external funding sources
 - e. Brief summary of impacts obtained from prior Voelte-Keegan Funding (if applicable).
 - i. Please include as an appendix publications emanating from work done partially supported by this fund (if applicable), including documentation of acknowledgement.
2. Budget and budget justification

The project plan should be no more than **two pages** in length including any references. The budget and budget justification should be no more than a single page together.

Regarding proposal budget, no more than one-third of funds requested may be used for activities outside of the NCMN and NERFC research core facilities. This portion of funds may be used to cover personnel (including applicable benefits), supplies, and related operating expenses. Funds may not be

used for faculty summer salary, course release, or travel. F&A (otherwise known as overhead or indirect costs) is not allowed and should not be included.

Application Deadline and Submission Process

The **deadline** for this round of applications for Voelte-Keegan Bioengineering Fund support is **December 1, 2025**. Project period may begin as soon as January 5, 2026 and will run for 12 months.

Applications for support from the Voelte-Keegan Bioengineering Fund must be submitted via the Internal Competitions module in [NuRamp](https://nuramp.nebraska.edu) (<https://nuramp.nebraska.edu>). Sign in to [NuRamp](https://nuramp.nebraska.edu) using your institutional credentials.

Budget template

Item	Amount (\$)	% of funds
NERCF / NCMN charges		
Operations and supplies		
Personnel		
Personnel benefits		
Total		

Selection Criteria and Review Process

Proposals will be assessed using the following selection criteria:

1. Potential for generating new external funding
2. Well-conceptualized plan for accessing NCMN and/or NERCF instrumentation
3. Technical merit of research plan

Review of proposals will be conducted internally by the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering (COE) and the NCMN and NERCF Directors. The COE Dean will make the final decision regarding the allocation of funds.

Project Reporting

Thirty days after the end of the project, a brief report will be required that includes the following:

1. A one paragraph description of the project suitable for a broad audience
2. One image, graph, or other visual appropriate for communication to the broader community (should not include any proprietary information; a visually interesting picture with minimal technical detail is ideal)
3. Brief description of plan for use of the data collected (future proposals, publications, etc.)

The description and visual will be shared with the general public, with attribution to the PI and acknowledgement of the funding source.

Additional Information

For further information about the Voelte-Keegan Bioengineering Fund, please contact Mark Riley, COE Associate Dean for Research: 402-472-3386 or mriley3@unl.edu. For information regarding proposal budgets, contact Erin Swandon, erin.swanson@unl.edu