The Frank H. Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise is seeking proposals for outstanding academic research projects in the field of entrepreneurship.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Approximately five grants of $10,000 each will be awarded. The grant term will be from July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021. To be eligible, applicants must be full-time faculty, Ph.D. candidates or postdocs at an academic research institution. The Kenan Institute does not cover overhead expenses.

The Kenan Institute pays 60 percent of the grant when the grant is approved. An additional 40 percent will be paid when a working paper is either 1) uploaded to SSRN (with a deadline of December 31, 2020) or 2) accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal (with a deadline of December 31, 2021). The deadlines must be adhered to for the grant recipient to be eligible for remaining funding. All publications (including working papers) that are directly related to the grant funding must acknowledge the support of the Kenan Institute in an introductory footnote.

**PRIORITY AREAS**

The Frontiers of Entrepreneurship grants are intended to support a wide range of research topics important to both academics and practitioners in the field, including entrepreneurs, investors and entrepreneurial ecosystem support providers. Based on the themes that emerged from 2019 Kenan Institute Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Conference, this year’s grant priority areas are:

**Entrepreneurial Strategy**

Entrepreneurial firms face unique challenges when either entering an existing market or creating a new one. From choosing a co-founder to experimenting with products or services, entrepreneurs must make strategic decisions that will give them advantages in a space where they previously held no market share. We want to support research that studies the strategic decision-making of entrepreneurs and how support services (such as incubators, accelerators, universities, etc.) can aid entrepreneurs in these decisions.

**Entrepreneurial Finance**

From seed funding to IPO, the Frontier of Entrepreneurship conference discussed the capital life cycle of new and growing firms with an emphasis on addressing barriers to access to capital. Therefore, we would like to encourage research that looks at the various stages of the capital needs of startups, including early stage funding (such as friends and family, angel investors and grant funding) to exits (IPOs, M&As, closures, etc.).
Future of Work and Innovation
As the future of work continues to evolve, we want to know how this will influence entrepreneurship and affect the emergence of new industries. For example, the gig economy, artificial intelligence and automation present both opportunities and challenges that companies – existing and entrepreneurial – will face, with real implications for workers around the world. Therefore, we are interested in funding research projects that address the intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship and the future of work. Additionally, we are interested in learning more about how universities and training programs will address these changes to teach the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

The Role of Government in Firm Creation and Growth
All levels of government have an impact on entrepreneurship through policymaking, and by offering a wide array of programs, incentives and funding opportunities to entrepreneurs, investors and ecosystem partners. We are interested in funding research projects that study how governmental policies and programs affect entrepreneurship regionally, nationally and internationally. Additionally, we have a special interest in nascent industries (such as fintech) and the role government policies and regulations can have on either stifling or spurring growth in these areas.

Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
We are interested in funding research that identifies and addresses the biases (both explicit and implicit) faced by diverse people (women, people of color, veterans, etc.) throughout the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including entrepreneurs, funders, startup employees, service providers, etc.

A list of sample research questions developed by conference participants during the working sessions are outlined in the conference proceedings, which can be found at kenaninstitute.unc.edu/kife/ rfp

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS
Awardees must be willing to present their research at a future Kenan Institute-hosted event, including the Frontiers of Entrepreneurship conference.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE
Please submit a proposal by email to kiproposal@kenan-flagler.unc.edu with the subject line “Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research Proposal.” The submission should consist of a single PDF with the following:

- A cover page with project title, date of submission and information for the Principal Investigator including name, email address, phone number, mailing address, university or research institution affiliation and title
- A proposal narrative
- An up-to-date resume or CV for each researcher
- If the principal investigator is a Ph.D. student, please include a letter of reference from a dissertation or program faculty advisory.

The proposal narrative should not exceed five pages, single-spaced, and should include:

- A one-paragraph abstract written in the third-person for posting on the Kenan Institute website, if the project is funded
- A short literature review on the topic
- A comprehensive description of proposed activities, including details about the hypothesis, research design and what data, if any, will be used
- A description of the project budget and timeline

APPLICATION DEADLINE & DECISION
The deadline for consideration is 5:00 p.m. ET, May 31, 2019. Grantees will be notified by 5:00 p.m. ET, June 14, 2019.