

Texas A&M UNIVERSITY Texas A&M Energy Institute



CONVERGENCE RESEARCH (CORE) INCUBATOR

The grand challenges our world faces today are complex and tightly interconnected. Addressing them requires working across disciplines to develop innovative, multifaceted solutions that respond to their social, economic, technological and policy dimensions. Solutions will be the outcomes of a process of co-creation among and between the diverse researcher and stakeholder groups connected with these challenges.

The **Texas A&M Energy Institute** is well positioned to provide an enabling platform that catalyzes convergence research to address complex grand challenges. It will do so by building on its past and current experiences, which have included support of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Initiative (*WEFNI*), Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment (*RAPID*), Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovation Institute (*CESMII*), and the Energy Workforce for Future Initiative.

Through its internal seed grants program, the Energy Institute continues to support projects focused on energy-related challenges, including their public policy, law and social science dimensions. It will continue to **leverage its 295 faculty** affiliates from nine colleges and schools and more than 20 departments, and will



continue to **engage stakeholders** from public, private and civil society organizations at state, national and global levels. Through its **CORE Incubator**, the Energy Institute will promote convergence research by providing a catalyzing platform to address complex grand challenges.

TEXAS A&M ENERGY INSTITUTE CORE INCUBATOR



VISION: Sustain and expand Texas A&M University's national and global leadership in the area of convergence research toward addressing complex grand challenges.

MISSION: Create a platform for convergence research among Texas A&M researchers in support of assembling and empowering research teams that can successfully compete for external grants requiring proven records of crossdisciplinary collaborations.



One of the **National Science Foundation**'s 10 Big Ideas is Growing Convergence Research to addresses complex societal grand challenges. The need for convergence research and its products is essential to *"protecting human health; understanding the food, energy, water nexus; exploring the universe at all scales."* Convergence research integrates knowledge, tools and methodologies from the physical and social science disciplines to create a network of partnerships that stimulate innovation, discovery and translational application.

CONVERGENCE



The CORE Incubator will support the three environments to enable the development of convergence research that unlocks new potential for addressing complex societal challenges.

GOALS OF THE CORE INCUBATOR

- Contribute to fostering a **convergence research environment** across Texas A&M departments, centers and institutes, and colleges.
- Provide seed funding for interdisciplinary teams addressing complex research challenges.
- Lead and support convergence research activities that strengthen new and existing collaborations at campus, national and global levels.
- **Participate in creating convergence products** that address any complex societal challenges, especially as related to *water-energy-food nexus, circular economy* and *sustainable development*.
- Bolster **Texas A&M's competitiveness** for grants that demand proven records of success in crossdisciplinary collaboration.



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