**Purpose**: Ball State University’s Aspire Internal Grant Program provides funding to faculty, professional personnel, and students to support projects in the areas of research, scholarly studies, and creative endeavors.

The Start-Up program enables new faculty members to purchase supplies, research-related items, and/or travel to conferences or workshops that will launch their research, scholarly studies, and creative endeavors by providing a one-time $3,000 S.E.E.T. (Supplies/Expenses/Equipment/Travel) grant.

**Eligibility**: Tenure-track faculty in their first year of employment with Ball State University who have not received significant research-related or creative endeavor start-up funds from a Provostial or departmental/college package are eligible for the ASPIRE Start-Up Program. Significant is defined as: receiving start-up funds greater than $5,000 and/or dedicated summer stipends from the Office of the Provost or faculty’s department.

**Project Period**: Runs from award notification until December 31st of the following year.

**Application Process**: Please upload the following items via the Submittable online portal:

- A two-page Proposal detailing what the Start-Up funds will be used to purchase and how this contributes to your research or creative agenda. This summary should be double-spaced, typed in a font no smaller than 11 point, New Times Roman or Arial and must include the following elements:
  - Project Overview
    - Meant to serve as a concise description of the proposed request and identify the project goals, significance, and expected benefit.
  - Description of applicant’s research program or creative agenda, including:
    - A statement of specific project objectives and methods to be employed.
    - Description of how this award will contribute to the proposed agenda.
    - Anticipated outcomes of project (e.g. potential for dissemination; springboard for future external grant submissions; etc.). Please include specific potential

*Applicants are highly encouraged to discuss their proposed agenda with their chair and share a draft of their application for review prior to the submission deadline.*
If you need further assistance with this process please contact the Aspire Program Manager at 765-285-1600 or aspire@bsu.edu