Renewable Bioproducts Institute
Integrated Graduate Education and Research (IGER) program

Goal
To enable RBI to leverage its graduate fellowship program into higher impact programs with research objectives of broad scientific merit and with outcomes that can lead to intellectual property generation.

Format
RBI currently funds approximately 10 fellowships per year, which are awarded to individual investigators based on peer review. The idea of the IGER program is to take a fraction of these fellowships—say, a minimum of three—and award them to a group of faculty who will jointly supervise the students and make advances in an area of significant RBI interest that cuts across multiple disciplines. It is envisioned that one to two such groups could be funded each year on the basis of the relative quality of the IGER proposals compared to the individual project proposals.

Requirements
• A research topic that has a scope from a forest biobased raw material to the final product and combines novelty and innovation in at least one of the areas:
  o Properties of the final product
  o Process to make the product
  o Techno-economic model of how to bring to market the process and product

• A Principle Investigator group of at least three faculty members who represent at least two of the disciplines in which RBI fellowships can be awarded. One faculty member would be designated as the lead PI for purposes of communication and reporting. It would be expected that all three faculty would be involved in the research supervision of all graduate fellows and in research meetings and presentations sponsored by RBI that concern the project.
• Graduate fellows that are in at least two of the schools who participate in the RBI fellowship program.