Title of initiative to be proposed:

The Power of Creative Language: Local Growth, Global Impact

Name of lead PI, with title, department/school, and contact information (email and phone):

Samrat Upadhyay, Professor,  
Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences  
supadhya@indiana.edu  
(812)856-5882

Team member names and departments/schools:

Ross Gay, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences  
Stephanie Li, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences  
Adrian Matejka, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences  
Scott Herring, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences

One-paragraph description of area to be proposed, including research questions to be investigated, if applicable (word limit is approximately 300):

Since its inception in 1948, Indiana University Bloomington’s Creative Writing program has been an engine for innovation in poetry, creative non-fiction, and fiction. Faculty and alumni of the program have won nearly every major American literary award, including the MacArthur Genius Grant, the John A. Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Mark Twain Award for creative non-fiction, and the Pulitzer Prize, among many other prizes and acknowledgements. We have reached an important transitional moment in this illustrious program and, accordingly, will be applying for an Emerging Areas of Research Funding to harness the opportunities this moment represents. We plan to address three distinct, yet inter-related, initiatives: a) to build upon IUB’s strategic commitment to global and international affairs with the hire of a Distinguished Global Writer, who, along with our current internationally-renown faculty, will raise our profile on the international stage via creative output and international learning/outreach programs in Asia, specifically in China and Nepal; b) to build upon the legacy of (now retired) Distinguished Professor, Scott Russell Sanders, with a targeted hire in creative nonfiction (the fastest growing area of creative writing); c) to offer a PhD in creative writing (which will bring creative writing more in line with 21st century expectations of academia).

All of these initiatives capitalize upon the current strengths of the creative writing program, shore up IU's position as a leader in creative research and pedagogy, and grow the program in ways that respond to changing demographics in the 21st-century community of poets and writers, MFA/PhD candidates, and the academic job market. Together, they manifest EAR's vision, focusing on emerging opportunities locally and globally and enhancing our unparalleled national successes in continuing to entice the highest quality scholars and students.

Please submit by email to earprogram@indiana.edu.