FACULTY RESEARCH FUND
Application Cover

Fiscal Year 2014-15

Principle Investigator: Dr. J. Justin Castro
Dept: History

E-Mail: jcastro@astate.edu
Phone: (870) 351-6545

Other Investigators: NA

Proposal Title: Engineering Revolution: Modesto C. Rolland and the Construction of Modern Mexico

Have you received funding in the past? ☐ YES ☐ NO
If yes, how many times? NA

Date of last award: NA
Are you tenured? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Indicate scholarly activities or external applications since previous funding. Attach additional pages if necessary.
NA

### Proposed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Funds Requested</th>
<th>Funds from Other Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stipends</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Materials</td>
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<td>Other (Specify)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REQUEST</strong></td>
<td>$6,200</td>
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Signature of Applicant: [Signature]
Date: ____________

Signature of Department Chair: [Signature]
Date: 2/16/14

Signature of Collegiate Dean: [Signature]
Date: 2/16/14

Committee Member Evaluation:
- Scope & Significance
- Methodology
- Contribution
- Relevance
- Results
- Dissemination Plan
- Objectives
- Budget
- TOTAL
J. Justin Castro
Faculty Research Fund

Abstract

*Engineering Revolution: Modesto C. Rolland and the Construction of Modern Mexico*

ABSTRACT:

My book project examines the role of engineers in the construction of modern Mexico in the wake of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1940). Emphasizing the life and works of Modesto C. Rolland, a talented polymath who worked on land distribution, the development of reinforced concrete, railroads, radio broadcasting, the construction of buildings and stadiums, and the incorporation of Mexico’s frontier territories, I argue that Rolland and his associates were often more crucial to the shape of the Mexican economy and nation-state than the political leaders they worked for. In short supply and in an era of heightened anti-foreigner sentiment, these specialists often outlived the prominent political leaders of their eras, surviving the rise and downfall of different administrations despite ideological differences. Understanding the successes and failures of these engineers during the revolutionary era is essential to understanding the policies, strengths, and limitations of Mexico’s current political and economic systems, including on issues such as NAFTA, the rise of Mexico’s powerful telecommunications industry, economic inequality, and the reach of the nation’s central government. A Faculty Research Fund award will allow me to complete my research and obtain a book contract with a top academic press by spring 2015.