



Office of Research, Innovation,
and Economic Impact

**INSTITUTE FOR A
SUSTAINABLE EARTH**
George Mason University®

Weekly Newsletter
April 1, 2025

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Announcements

Seed Grants for Living Lab Projects

Mason's Living Lab program continues to support the development of new research and scholarship initiatives. Mason faculty are invited to submit proposals for funding to support research projects that utilize Mason's campuses and socio-environmental systems to develop innovative solutions to local or global challenges and/or advance a novel sustainability-focused research agenda. Proposals will be considered from individuals or teams with a budget not to exceed \$25,000. Proposal Due Date: Apr 25, 2025.

For more information read the [Request for Proposals](#) or contact malila@gmu.edu.

Events



Next System Convergence

As the world is collapsing around us, we have a choice: accept the broken systems or build something new. Join a two-day convergence. You can build the next system.



Next System
Teach-ins

April 3 - 4, 2025

Join us: nextsystem.org

[Click Here to Register](https://nextsystem.org)

Friday, April 11th, 2025
Merten Hall Room 1204
George Mason University,
Fairfax, Virginia



<https://tinyurl.com/49haxws6>



6TH EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATIONS AND MODELING GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

The past, current, and future State of Earth's Climate System

Call for abstracts
Submission deadline: February 21st

The Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies (COLA) and the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences (AOES) invites masters and doctoral students from the Mid-Atlantic states to share their research.

Don't have anything to present?
Just come and join us!

Featuring:

- Oral and poster presentations
- Keynote speakers including Randy Koster of NASA Goddard
- Career panel with Earth Sciences professionals

Registration through April 4th.

Contact: esomsym@gmu.edu
AOES Department Website: <https://aoes.gmu.edu/>

[Click Here to Register](#)



18th Annual STAR-TIDES Capabilities Demonstration



April 13-15
(Sunday-Tuesday)
Mason Square, Arlington

*Managing Forced Migration:
Reducing Conflict and Improving
Outcomes*



April 16-17
(Wednesday-Thursday)
Pentagon Center Court



Register Here

<https://go.gmu.edu/STreg>



Resiliency Adaptability Sustainability #STARTIDESdemo

Click Here to Register

7TH ANNUAL MASON ENERGY FORUM

The Mason Energy Forum will address the complex relationship between AI, data centers and the data economy, and the changed energy transition environment. It will be a day of panels from leading policy makers, academics, and private sector players on the energy promises and potential difficulties of AI, as well as local challenges for public resources and engagement.

APRIL 23, 2023
Van Metre Hall, 125
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

[REGISTER
HERE TO
ATTEND](#)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow
Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University

Mason Square Campus
3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

Virginia Square-GMU Metro on the Orange/Silver Lines
Hourly parking available in the Van Metre Garage

[Click Here to Register](#)

Building Community Power, Growing Community Wealth

Democratizing NOVA Summit 2025

April 26th - 27th



Register at nextsystem.gmu.edu



GMU Fairfax Campus

[Click Here to Register](#)

Free Online Certificate in **COMMUNICATING SCIENCE FOR POLICY**



Just 5 Hours over 3 Days

including a 1-hour discussion with congressional staff

Apply and learn how to engage decision-makers this summer! Choose one of the training sessions listed below.

During two sessions of 2 hours each, you will learn how to identify what stage a policy issue is in, what your role should be, and how to connect with decision-makers. The trainings conclude with a final hour-long panel discussion with congressional science and technology staff. A pre- and post-survey are required to complete the certificate.

Pick 1 of 4 Training Sessions

June 25 + 26
July 9 + 10
July 16 + 17
July 23 + 24

Eastern: 12 - 2 pm
Pacific: 9 - 11 am

APPLY HERE



Final Policymaker Panel Discussion

July 30 @ 12 pm Eastern / 9 am Pacific
with congressional science and technology staff



[Click Here to Register](#)

Funding Opportunities

Heather's Highlights: Each week we will highlight current funding opportunities, alternating between the six ISE Research Themes.

Research Theme 4: Clean Energy, Decarbonization, and Climate Action

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has a call for proposals for their Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) program

The Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) program invites innovative multidisciplinary and multisector investigations focused on convergent research and education activities in wildland fire. All areas of science, engineering, and education supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation are included in this program. FIRE supports research proposals and conference (network) proposals that focus on one or more of the following elements: Focus area 1: Next Generation Coupled Fire Models (FIRE-MODEL); Focus area 2: Enhancing Capacity for Fire Resilience in the Wildland-Urban Interface (FIRE-WUI); and Focus area 3: Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education (FIRE) Networks (FIRE-NET).

Application Due Date: June 12-20, 2025

Anticipated Funding Amount: Not Specified

Research Theme 5: Enhancing Equality, Equity, and Access to Basic Goods and Services

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has an active funding opportunity open for Exploring Equitable Futures.

RWJF is taking bold leaps to transform health in our lifetime and pave the way to a future where health is no longer a privilege, but a right. They have three main goals: 1) economic inclusion for family wellbeing; 2) equitable and accountable public health and healthcare systems; and 3) healthy and equitable community conditions. The purpose of this call for proposals is to support projects that seed new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come.

Application Due Date: October 15, 2025

Research Theme 6: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions to Support Thriving Economies

The VinFuture Prize organization has open nominations for the 2025 VinFuture Prize award season

The VinFuture Prize was established to honor scientific research and breakthrough technological innovations that can make a significant difference in the daily lives of millions of people. The awards honor outstanding inventors and researchers from universities, academies, research labs around the globe, as well as inventors in a professional research environment. Nominations for the 2025 award cycle are due by April 17th, 2025.

Application Due Date: April 17, 2025

Funding Amount: various prize amounts

Student Opportunities

Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center Climate and Health
Research Fellowship

The REACH Center Climate and Health Research Fellowship is now accepting applications for the 2025 cohort! This fellowship is designed to support outstanding students who demonstrate academic excellence, have a strong interest in community-engaged work, and show a deep commitment to advancing health and environmental justice through equitable climate solutions. The program provides an enriching experience that includes mentorship, professional development, and financial support to help students achieve their goals.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Next Generation Fellows

The UCAR Next Generation graduate Fellowship is a prestigious, multi-faceted opportunity to explore the interplay between the areas of Earth System Science research and its impact on society. Fellows engage with, and learn from UCAR's experts while participating in dedicated professional development and leadership training opportunities.

Each Fellow receives a \$40,000 Fellowship over two years (\$10,000 twice per year); Fellowship Visits that entail up to 20 weeks of paid research trip to Boulder, Colorado or Washington, D.C. or other agreed upon location; funding to attend conferences, professional coaching; and the support of a like minded cohort.

The primary goals of this program are to facilitate engaged, motivated "Next Generation" students in exploring the intersections between science and society, and to support Fellows in becoming future leaders in the field of atmospheric and Earth System Sciences.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

2025 VASG Chesapeake Bay Commission Commonwealth Fellowship

Virginia Sea Grant and the Chesapeake Bay Commission seek a graduate-level fellow for a one-year placement in the CBC Annapolis, MD office. The fellow will work under the guidance of the Commission's Executive Director and Administrative Officer, with opportunities to support the Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania Directors. This position offers the opportunity to be at the intersection of science and policy, at the state, regional, and federal levels, on issues of concern to the Commission's member jurisdictions when it comes to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tri-state, bi-partisan body that works predominantly with the legislatures of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to develop sound policies and laws related to the Chesapeake Bay. The Commission provides information and advice on Chesapeake Bay issues to the members of these three legislatures and works interactively with executive branch leaders and agencies of all three states. As a signatory to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, the Commission is fully involved in the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and advises Congress on the needs of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

The E-Team Program, part of the VentureWell Accelerator, supports student ventures as you embark down the path you're likely to take as an innovator and entrepreneur. We help you advance your invention through a powerful mix of up to \$25,000 in grant funding, entrepreneurship training, mentorship by dedicated staff, national recognition, and networking with peers and industry experts.

Do you have an idea that can change the world? Every year, we award over \$800,000 in non-dilutive E-Team grants to early-stage innovator teams that develop scalable innovations which aim to solve a large social, health, or environmental challenge.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations—so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.



ise.gmu.edu

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