



Office of Research, Innovation,
and Economic Impact

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

Weekly Newsletter
December 10, 2024

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News

- [Stanley and Rosemary Hayes Jones invest \\$1.4M in George Mason for STEM education and research](#)
- [Research using AI to track Amazon rainforest species produces landmark result](#)
- [Doctor's orders: 8 ways to stay healthy this cold and flu season](#)
- [Determining quality in forensic injury imaging - George Mason University secures NIH AIM-AHEAD funding to advance equity in AI-driven injury detection](#)
- [AI on call: George Mason and Fairfax County dial up emergency response](#)

Events

Climate Policy Colloquium

December 15-19, 2024

Washington, D.C.

Attendees of the Climate Policy Colloquium will gain insight into the United States policy-making process and the climate policy landscape, explore emerging challenges and opportunities in climate science and policy, and examine the inner workings of government agencies working at the interface of science and policy.

Don't miss out on attending the inaugural year of this AMS climate policy immersion workshop!

[Click Here to Register](#)

New EU Guidelines for Rating Sustainable Data Centers

January 22, 2025 || Noon to 1 PM (EST)

Please join the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, George Mason University's Institute for Sustainable Earth and the University of Stuttgart on January 22, 2025, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm (EST),

for a webinar that looks to present recent EU guidelines for rating sustainable data centers and then discuss the relevance to equivalent operations in Northern Virginia.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Funding Opportunities

Call for Applicants: 2025 Maintainers Impact Fellowship

The Maintainers is a global research and practice network focused in advancing maintenance, repair, and care. They convene interdisciplinary change-makers, researchers, practitioners, and every-day people who center maintenance, repair, and care and the myriad forms of labor, expertise, and infrastructure that sustain our human built world.

Consider applying for The 2025 Maintainers Impact Fellowship. This fellowship will start in January of 2025 and will advance the movement for maintenance thinking and action by uplifting individuals who are actively contributing to maintenance, repair, and care sectors within their communities. The Maintainers are offering two \$3,500 awards for two fellows to implement an impact project within a 3-month time frame (January 6 – April 7). More information [here](#).

Applications Close: November 21, 2024

REACH Center Call for Proposals

The Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center is pleased to announce its inaugural annual seed research grant competition. This year we will make available \$80,000 for seed grants, and will fund multiple grants of \$20,000-40,000 in total costs.

The REACH Center is a multi-institutional partnership between George Washington University, George Mason University, Howard University, and Environmental Defense Fund. The mission of the REACH Center is to bridge big data to climate solutions that advance health and environmental justice. Specifically, the Center leverages the power of novel geospatial datasets and research co-generation with governmental and nongovernmental partners to research health and equity impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions from local to global scales. The Center offers unique contributions to climate change and health research, which are aligned with the [NIH Climate Change and Human Health Strategic Framework](#):

- Health effects research, including discovery and applied research in multiple climate-health exposure pathways, producing new knowledge of how climate change influences infectious and non-communicable disease and how these associations are affected by mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Evaluation of health equity outcomes associated with climate change.
- Intervention research, with a primary focus on broad-scale climate solutions through policies and other institutional actions that can reduce exposure and protect public health from climate-sensitive hazards.

The goal of the seed grant program is to build capacity so that a new cohort of researchers and community partners will have the skills, connections, and research agendas to apply for National

Institutes of Health R-level research grants in these topical areas while also targeting effective interventions to advance health equity and environmental justice.

If you have one or more components of a proposal, but are missing other bits and pieces, we are here to help! REACH Center staff will be happy to assist you in preparing a full proposal. Please contact Robert Orttung (rorrtung@gwu.edu) or Rachel Clark (rachelclark@gwu.edu) with any questions.

Please submit the full proposal in one PDF file by January 15, 2025 5pm EST to Rachel Clark at rachelclark@gwu.edu. Decisions will be announced by February 15, 2025.

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

Research Theme 1: Human Health, Well-Being, and Capabilities

The Department of Health and Human Services has listed a funding opportunity for Using Innovative Digital Healthcare Solutions to Improve Quality at the Point of Care (R21/R33)

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to invite applications that propose research projects that test promising digital healthcare interventions used at the point of care and aimed at improving the quality of healthcare services delivery. Research should be designed to test promising digital healthcare solutions that enable or facilitate technology-driven, point of care process solutions that use advanced analytics, patient-centered clinician and patient facing digital healthcare technologies, or clinical decision support systems to improve quality and health outcomes at the point of care.

Application Due Dates: February 16, 2025; June 16, 2025

Funding Amount: varies

Research Theme 2: Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Ecosystems

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a call for Organismal Response to Climate Change (ORCC)

Proposals to the ORCC Solicitation are encouraged that build on NSF's investment in growing convergence research by developing integrative, cross-disciplinary approaches that examine the organismal mechanisms that underlie adaptive and maladaptive responses to environmental factors associated with climate change, how these responses affect fitness in changing and/or novel climates and the genetic and evolutionary processes (eco-evolutionary) through which these traits originate, persist, and are transmitted across generations.

Application Due Date: January 23, 2025

Funding Amount: \$15,000,000

Research Theme 3: Harnessing the Digital Revolution for Sustainability and Education for All

The National Telecommunications and Information Admin/Dept of Commerce announces the State Digital Equity Capacity grant program

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program is the second of three digital equity programs authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 – to promote digital inclusion activities and achieve digital equity. This program will provide funds to States and U.S. Territories to

implement the State Digital Equity Plans developed pursuant to the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.

Application Due Date: February 7, 2025

Funding Amount: Not Specified

Student Opportunities

Call for Applications : NobleReach Scholars 2025 Program

NobleReach is a nonprofit organization based in Tysons, Virginia. Our mission is to strengthen the security and prosperity of our nation through talent and innovation. NobleReach aims to develop a sustainable pathway for top technical, scientific, and entrepreneurial talent to work on mission-critical projects and outcomes which address the challenges faced by our nation ranging from defense and security to health and climate.

The call for applications for NobleReach Scholars 2025 program (<https://noblereachfoundation.org/talent-opportunities/scholars-program/>) was announced in October and the applications are accepted till December 4th .

It is an opportunity for the incoming and recent graduates to have one-year fully compensated position at a federal agency or mission-driven organization.

Placements offer a total compensation between \$70,000 and \$90,000.

In 2024, 19 applicants among hundreds were selected and placed at eight federal agencies, including Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), U.S. Navy, U.S. Space Force, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and three mission driven industry partners.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

VentureWell's E-Team Program

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 Pathways Communication Grants support innovative ways of communicating scientific outcomes of place-based research projects on pathways for sustainability to educate and engage with non-academic audiences.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Next System Fellows

"We are pleased to announce that Next System Studies is now accepting applications from George Mason University students to the Spring 2025 cohort of Next System Fellows!

Are you seeking a career in public service, research and education, social enterprise, community building, activism, or advocacy? Are you hoping to build practical experience and career networks in fields relevant to social change? Do you want to make a difference in the world – right here, right now?

If so, you should apply to become a Next System Fellow. The Next System Fellows are a part of Mason's prestigious Arlington Fellows program."

[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.



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