



Office of Research, Innovation,  
and Economic Impact

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

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**March 4, 2025**

[Announcements](#) | [In the News](#) | [Events](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#) | [Student Opportunities](#)

## News

- [George Mason University is keeping it "nanofab-ulous" as nanotechnology efforts expand](#)
- [George Mason sets in motion a plan to harness AI for responsible adoption and societal impact](#)
- [Mason scientist orchestrates Moon-based 'message in a bottle' for future generations](#)
- [George Mason achieves "Top Producing Institution" status from Fulbright Scholars program](#)

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## Events

### Mason I-Corps March Cohort

The George Mason University's NSF I-Corps Regional Program supports faculty, researchers, students, and innovators from across the Commonwealth of Virginia in exploring the commercial viability of their technology-based innovation ideas to accelerate business exploration and, ultimately, make a real-world impact. We offer a six-session course designed to introduce participants to the lean startup method, pioneered by the National Science Foundation.

March Cohort Schedule:

- February 18, 2025, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- March 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 2025, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## Welcome to REACH!

Please join us to learn about the **REACH Center, a new multi-institutional climate and health exploratory research center.** The Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center aims to **bridge big data with climate solutions** that advance **health and environmental justice.**

One of our key goals is to **bring together disciplines from across the University to collaborate on climate and health-related research projects and proposals.**

Learn about how you can be a part of this effort! We will give an **overview of REACH Center activities and discuss how we can help you develop climate and health research. Seed funding and student fellowships are available!**



**[RSVP HERE](#)**

***Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health Center***



**11 AM - 12 PM EST  
MARCH 5, 2025**



**Merten Hall Room  
1203 AND VIA ZOOM**  
*(link provided upon registration)*

[Click Here to Register](#)

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



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



## 6<sup>TH</sup> EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATIONS AND MODELING GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

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

**Call for abstracts**  
**Submission deadline: February 21<sup>st</sup>**

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 4<sup>th</sup>.

Contact: [esomsym@gmu.edu](mailto:esomsym@gmu.edu)  
AOES Department Website: <https://aoes.gmu.edu/>

[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 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has a Call for Letters of Inquiry: Energy System Interactions

The program goal for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Energy System Interactions is to inform the societal transition toward low-carbon energy systems in the United States by investigating economic,

environmental, technological, and distributional issues. The program looks to support research in the following topic areas: 1) Energy Markets and Policy Analysis; 2) Net Zero Innovation and Negative Emissions Technologies; 3) Transportation and Mobility; 4) Energy and Distributional Equity; 5) Industrial Decarbonization; 6) Energy Systems and Climate Adaptation.

Application Due Date: Continuous

Anticipated Funding Amount: Not Specified

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### **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

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

Virginia Humanities has an open call for the Public Humanities Fellowship opportunity

The Public Humanities Fellowships help writers, independent scholars, community historians, and college and university faculty members share meaningful research, stories, and cultural expressions that are relevant to Virginia's diverse communities and that connect audiences to wider regional, national, and global contexts. If you're engaged in the public humanities, and are interested in sharing your work with a wider audience, Virginia Humanities would love to hear from you.

Application Due Date: March 31, 2025

Funding Amount: \$15,000 stipend to support a four-month project

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## **Student Opportunities**

### RaMP-UP Fellows Program

Get a stipend of \$32,000 for a full year of participation. A roundtrip ticket to Panamá and lodging while at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute facilities is included. Come away with a robust research experience, scientific products, an international professional network, a peer network, and strong mentors to advocate for your career. Applications for the 2025-2026 program will open on January 15, 2025 and close March 16, 2025.

RaMP-UP Fellows spend a year engaged in BioDiversity studies with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) scientists. You will be embedded in the tropical landscapes of Panamá, practicing cutting-edge and rigorous methodologies to make a lasting impact on Tropical BioDiversity.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

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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 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](http://ise.gmu.edu)



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