



Office of Research, Innovation,
and Economic Impact

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

Weekly Newsletter
February 11, 2025

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News

- [Reimagining robotics through art and innovation](#)
- [Bird flu: What you need to know](#)
- [Unlocking privacy with encrypted ingenuity: Security expert receives NSF CAREER award](#)
- [George Mason scientists partner to create genetic markers for endangered species](#)
- [First-of-its-kind research identifies beneficial prenatal vitamins to reduce risk of infant death](#)

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](#)



We are pleased to announce the 2025 edition of the prediction competition: When will the cherry trees bloom?

Submit your predictions for Washington D.C., New York City, Kyoto, Liestal-Weideli, and Vancouver by *February 28*.

Complete entries are eligible to win up to \$5,000 in cash and prizes!

The 2025 International Cherry Blossom Prediction Competition

Learn more at competition.statistics.gmu.edu

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Funding Opportunities

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 Craig H. Neilson Foundation has a call for Psychosocial Research.

The Psychosocial Research (PSR) portfolio supports the study of people's psychological and social

wellbeing and research to develop and test interventions that improve an individual's mental, behavioral, and social welfare following spinal cord injury (SCI). The goal is to build and disseminate solutions that individuals, caregivers, clinicians, and communities can incorporate to address emotional wellbeing and barriers to social engagement. The portfolio seeks to advance meaningful participation of people with lived experience in SCI research design and execution.

Application Due Dates: LOI Due March 6, 2025; Full Proposal Due July 10, 2025

Funding Amount: varies

Research Theme 2: Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Ecosystems

The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation has a call for Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative.

The goal of the Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative is to support the development of environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable communities in forested regions of the United States. SFCI supports programs within forested communities that promote, in an integrated fashion, forest conservation, the creation of jobs or businesses based on sustainable forestry, and public consensus-building.

Application Due Date: March 7, 2025

Funding Amount: \$50,000

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

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has a continuous Dear Colleague Letter for the Supporting Research at the Intersection of Agricultural Science, Big Data, Informatics, and Smart Communities, a joint effort between NSF and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)

The purpose of the NSF Dear Colleague Letter is to encourage proposals that combine methods in agricultural, biological, and computer and information science and engineering to address pressing challenges in digital agriculture.

Application Due Date: Continuous

Funding Amount: Not Specified

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](#)

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.



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