



Office of Research, Innovation,
and Economic Impact
**INSTITUTE FOR A
SUSTAINABLE EARTH**
George Mason University®

Weekly Newsletter
April 29, 2025

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Announcements

Welcoming Julianna Gwischcz to ISE

Julianna Gwischcz, MSSW, PhD is the new Associate Director of George Mason University's Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) where she works with the ISE Executive Director and team to catalyze transformative and transdisciplinary research, innovation and learning-in-action in service of a just, prosperous, and sustainable world.

As a purposeful leader, transdisciplinary scholar-practitioner, lifelong learner and educator, and trusted engagement steward, Julianna has devoted over 16 years to cultivating synergistic knowledge-action partnerships and weaving unlikely connections across divides. Her foundations in the social sciences, arts and humanities, and her track record as a bridge-builder and boundary-connector are evident in her scholarly and practitioner work. Her work thrives at the intersections—of higher education and experiential learning; international sustainable development and climate resilience; global health and human rights; leadership development and social/systems change; science and technological innovation and social impact philanthropy; STEAM education and youth entrepreneurship; healing art and design and science communication; and beyond. Grounded in a capacity building framework, Julianna's work is driven by her passion for nurturing agency and building bridges for dialogue, understanding and collaboration across difference, and her deep commitment to advancing social and planetary healing that enables the interconnected flourishing of all life for generations to come.

Julianna comes to George Mason from the [Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory](#) (GFL) and [Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation](#) at Arizona State University (ASU). Among the many hats she wore during her time at ASU, Julianna most recently served as Senior Global Futures/Sustainability Scientist and Program Manager with GFL and its [Lightworks Initiative](#), and as Capacity Building and Engagement Lead for the [UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Sustainability Science Coalition](#) and its [Flagship Hub](#).



WELCOME

Julianna Gwisch, MSSW, PhD
Associate Director
Institute for a Sustainable Earth



NEW Undergraduate Minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation

The mounting threat of climate impacts has created a need for an innovative workforce with the expertise to build community resilience. The newly developed undergraduate minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation (CRA) at George Mason University will provide students with the skills to develop and implement real-world solutions for communities navigating one of the most pressing issues today. This program bridges climate science, policy processes, and practical adaptation strategies – giving students actionable knowledge to translate research into effective practice.

Climate resilience and adaptation is an interdisciplinary effort; therefore, the CRA minor is geared towards students studying within a wide range of subjects. Most George Mason students will be able to obtain the CRA minor by taking ten additional credits beyond their primary degree program, including two core courses and a topic-relevant practical experience. By exploring the complexities of climate change through diverse perspectives, students will gain the expertise needed to contribute meaningfully to local and global climate resilience efforts.

The CRA Minor is co-hosted by the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences and Department of Environmental Science and Policy in George Mason University's College of Science.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

EARN A MINOR IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

- Bridge science, policy development & action to build real-world climate resilience.
- Open to all majors with just ten additional credits.

Scan here to learn more!



<https://bit.ly/4jG9XyJ>

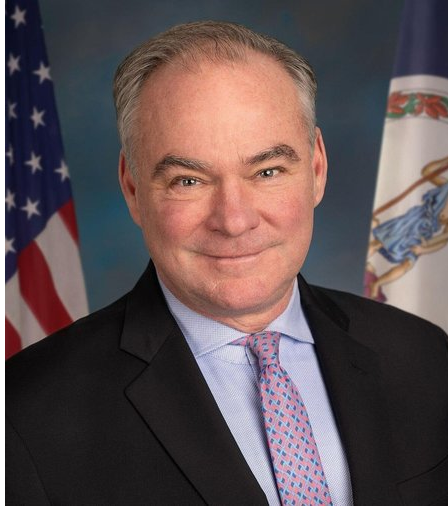
Events

Leadership Dialogues: Strategic Responses to Federal Administration Changes on State & Local Government With Senator Tim Kaine

No region is more affected by the recent seismic changes in federal policy and practice than the DMV. Each speaker will provide insights about navigating these challenging times, using both a NoVA and Commonwealth lens. What are the issues, impacts and priorities? What are the risks and opportunities? What are possible actions and responses, and lessons from the past?

May 2, 2025 10:30 AM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Click Here to Register](#)



Energy & Environment Forum

Members of the community are encouraged to learn and engage about Loudoun County's efforts to increase environment and energy sustainability by attending the third annual Energy and Environment Forum Thursday, May 22, 2025, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., at the Academies of Loudoun, 42075 Loudoun Academy Drive, Leesburg. The forum is hosted by the Loudoun County Environmental Commission, which advises the Board of Supervisors on policies and practices dealing with the environment, sustainability and the management of energy.

The forum will feature breakout sessions with subject matter experts where members of the public may learn about ongoing activities in the areas of energy and the environment and provide comments.

The forum will also feature an ongoing listening session to hear from the community on what Loudoun should be working on with respect to environmental and sustainable energy matters.

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m

[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 1: Human Health, Well-Being, and Capabilities

The Patient-Centered outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has an open funding opportunity for [Addressing Violence and Trauma Topical PCORI FA – Cycle 2](#).

This Topical PCORI Funding Announcement (PFA) is exclusively dedicated to funding high-quality, patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) projects that address violence and trauma within the following 3 special areas of emphasis: 1) Intentional Trauma; 2) Unintentional Trauma; and 3) Substance Use and Trauma. Please see solicitation for specific requirements for each special area of emphasis.

Application Due Dates: LOI Due May 13, 2025

Funding Amount: varies

Research Theme 2: Sustainable and Resilient Communities and Ecosystems

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is now accepting applications for the Climate + Health Excellence (CHEX) Centers opportunity.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund announces the Climate + Health Excellence (CHEX) Centers award. This is a new institutional research and training opportunity that will help institutions bridge the gaps between fields that will have important roles to play in understanding the impacts of climate change on human health and diminishing their effects. This grant will support new discovery toward defining the health impacts of climate change, developing potential interventions, translating discovery science into practical application, and outward-facing work that can help public understanding of Climate + Health or strengthen connection between research and communities whose health has been harmed by climate change.

Application Due Date: August 7, 2025

Funding Amount: \$10,000,000

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

The National Endowment for the Humanities has issued a grant notice for the Digital Humanities Advancement Grants.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Office of Digital Humanities is accepting applications for the Digital Humanities Advancement Grants program. The program supports work that is innovative, experimental, and contributes to the critical infrastructure that underpins scholarly research, teaching, and public programming in the humanities.

Application Due Date: May 22, 2025

Funding Amount: \$350,000

Student Opportunities

Mid-South REACH Program

The Mid-South REACH (Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hub) program is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded program that extends across four states: Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia. The primary goal of this grant program is to accelerate the real-world impact of biomedical and health related innovations through education, mentorship, and financial support for aspiring entrepreneurs. The Mid-South REACH program is not a traditional grant program. It is focused on product development and requires milestone-based project management in six-month increments, renewable up to four times.

Please see the attached Mid-South REACH Cycle 3 Request for Applications (RFA) and Pre-application Template, if you would like to start working on your pre-application draft now.

Pre-applications will be due May 9, 2025, by 5 pm ET.

[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](#)

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.





Institute for a
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