NDSU OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

RCA UPDATE

May 13, 2024

NDSU and UND Collaborative Research Projects Announced

Five research projects based in North Dakota have been awarded grants through the University Research Collaboration Program (URCP), funded by the Economic Diversification Research Funds (EDRF) appropriated during the 2023 North Dakota Legislative session.

The URCP funds Level 1 proposals up to $25,000 of the combined total budget and Level 2 proposals up to $50,000.

For FY2025, $200,000 was made available for the program. The program requires projects to foster research collaboration across institutions in activities such as data collection, materials, experimental or instrumentation needs. Projects were also required to have collaborators at both of the state's research universities, North Dakota State University (NDSU) and the University of North Dakota (UND), in addition to faculty or students from a third institution in the state, such as a predominantly undergraduate institution, a polytechnic institution or a Tribal college or university. The two research universities contributed funds equally, but the third partnering institution was not required to provide funding.

The purposes of the EDRF funds include stimulating economic activity across the state through new technology, concepts and products as well as promoting job

creation and career and wage growth while providing experiential learning opportunities for students.

Casey Ryan serves on the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) and chairs its Research and Governance Committee. He believes the collaborative nature of the program sets a positive example moving forward.

"This program is an innovative way to enlist some of the best minds in our state on research projects that will be transformative for the state," Ryan said. “We appreciate the research stewardship that the North Dakota Legislature has made with this investment, and I am excited to learn about the results of our North Dakota researchers' work."

The URCP was designed by the vice presidents for research at NDSU and UND to promote and foster collaborations that reflect the broad portfolio of institutions in North Dakota in a way that fuels existing research priorities and investments.

“Funded projects led by UND represent collaborations which align well with our research priorities, particularly our Grand Challenges in energy and sustainability and human health,” said Scott Snyder, UND vice president for research & economic development. “Building on existing strengths will generate results that drive current knowledge forward. I am very excited about these collaborations."

NDSU Vice President for Research and Creative Activity Colleen Fitzgerald agreed with Snyder.

"Leveraging our key strategic priority areas to spark big ideas has been our focus with this program, so it will, in turn, generate new research funds coming into the state,” Fitzgerald said. “These projects reflect NDSU's expertise and key priorities in life and computational sciences. This initiative enables us to work collectively to advance the state to create impact and for both NDSU and UND to advance campus priorities."

"It is rewarding to see the range of projects that result from a collaborative call such

as this," said Mark Hagerott, chancellor for the North Dakota University System. "The leadership shown by North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota in driving these projects is an example of the excellence that real collaboration can deliver."

"Our institutions are answering a call made by the North Dakota Legislature to help solve big problems while growing workforce," said NDSU President David Cook. "This fits in our mission as North Dakota's land grant institution of delivering value across the state and beyond."

UND President Andrew Armacost said, "Through this funding, university research can certainly help diversify the economy in the state of North Dakota. Strong college and university research activity provides the critical foundation in every high-tech area of economic development — especially at the leading edge of technology."

Funded projects also may be required to provide monthly summaries of project progress. Additional annual reporting deadlines could be aligned with SBHE approved timelines, currently under consideration.

A second call for URCP-funded proposals is currently underway, with a deadline of June 5, 2024.

URCP Level 1 Proposals

- UND, NDSU, and United Tribes Technical College: "Electrocatalyst Development for Oxygen Evolution from Water Splitting" (N. Oncel, R. Kirshna Hona, D. Kilin, A. Azure)
- UND, NDSU, Valley City State University, and Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College: "Carbon Quantum Dots from Kraft Lignin: Novel Bacterial Antidote?" (M. Goriacheva, U. Burghaus, S. Eliazer, H. van Gijssel, A. LaVallie)

URCP Level 2 Proposals

- UND, NDSU, and Dickinson State University: "Ammines for Energy Storage and Ammonia Production Enhancement" (J. van der Watt, A Mohammed, A. Gladen, J. Hewage)

- NDSU, UND, and Mayville State University: "Examining the Role of a Honey-Pomegranate Supplement on Muscle Health in Older Adults" (R. McGrath, Y. Rhee, M Berg, S Paessler, D Jurivich, C. Smith, T. Gonnella)
- NDSU, UND, and Cankdeska Cikana Community College: "A 3D printed scaffold sensor using novel functionalized 2D MXene for advanced stage cancer monitoring" (D. Wang, K. Katti, J. Zhao, N. Bittner)

Learn more about round 2 of the URCP >>

NDSU psychology professor receives NIH grant to study how children learn homophones

Erin Conwell, North Dakota State University associate professor of psychology, has received a $434,929 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to fund her research project entitled, “Context and multiple meanings: Homophone learning in early childhood."

Conwell is conducting a three-year study focused on how children aged four to six years learn homophones, or words that sound the same, but have different meanings, such as "new" and "knew" or "flower" and "flour." Through controlled experimental studies, her research aims to understand how children learn that words can have more than one meaning, which words have more than one meaning, and how to tell which meaning of a specific homophone a person uses.

(Photo courtesy NDSU University Relations)

Conwell is utilizing a cross-situational word learning approach, in which children are introduced to new words for unfamiliar objects amidst situations where it's unclear which word corresponds to a specific object. After repeated exposures, participants begin to unravel the connections between words and their meanings.

Previous research by Conwell indicates the significant challenge children and adults face in grasping multiple meanings for words within such studies. Conwell's plan is to systematically change different properties of the contexts and meanings of the words to see what kinds of information might improve the learning of homophones in ambiguous situations.

"These results will improve our understanding of how word learning proceeds in typically developing children and may be useful for supporting literacy acquisition," said Conwell.

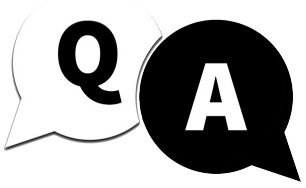
NDSU Vice President of Research and Creative Activity Colleen Fitzgerald added that Conwell's research shows the value of life sciences, one of NDSU's strategic research priority areas. "This project has the potential to build upon NDSU's history of cognitive sciences research by increasing our knowledge of how we learn and acquire language, which will benefit children in North Dakota and beyond. In addition, Dr. Conwell is a proponent of introducing students to research, so her project will provide research opportunities for undergraduate students."

Conwell adds that her grant is not just about research but also about bringing together students and the local community. She plans to include undergraduate students in the research, which will provide them valuable experience. Conwell also plans to work closely with families and childcare centers in Fargo-Moorhead, sharing her findings and learning from them too.

NICHD was established in 1962 to study human development across all life stages, particularly focusing on disabilities and important events that occur during pregnancy. NICHD's mission is to lead research and training aimed at comprehending human development, enhancing reproductive health, bettering the lives of children and teenagers, and maximizing abilities for all individuals.

For more information, see NICHD project 1R15HD115135-01: Context and multiple meanings: Homophone learning in early childhood.

What's it like to be an NSF Rotator?



The National Science Foundation (NSF) offers a chance for scientists, engineers, and educators to serve as temporary program directors or "rotators." According to the NSF, these individuals make recommendations about which proposals to fund; influence new directions in the fields of science, engineering, and education; support cutting-edge interdisciplinary research; and mentor junior research members.

For two years (2022-2023), NDSU Physics Chair and Professor Sylvio May worked as a rotator for the Condensed Matter and Materials Theory Program at the NSF's division of Materials Research. In addition, he was involved in several cutting-edge interdisciplinary research programs, new research initiatives, and programs that support early career scientists.

May recently offered his perspectives on the rotator program.

1. **What's your background?**
   I'm a physicist by training, with expertise in theoretical research at the interface between soft matter and biophysics. I received my degrees from the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena in Germany and completed a postdoc at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
2. **When did you decide to become a rotator?**
   I got interested immediately after talking to an NSF program director who encouraged me to apply.
3. **What was the application process like?**
   Application and hiring turned out to be smooth. There is some paperwork before starting but NSF is very organized and efficient. Equally important, NDSU was highly supportive.
4. **What's a day like as a rotator?**
   I was hired during the pandemic, so I worked remotely. Yet even in that setting, every day was packed with activities, from meetings with other program directors and staff across federal agencies to communications with reviewers and investigators. The NSF proposal review process is significantly more detailed and robust than I initially thought--only the tip of the iceberg is visible from outside!
5. **What was your biggest surprise or unexpected aspect of being a rotator?**
   The intensity of the daily work, the amazing dedication of NSF staff, and the constructive communications with PIs whose proposals were not funded all surprised me.

6. **What were your 3 major takeaways / benefits from being a rotator?**
   First, the opportunity of becoming a rotator was unexpected to me but doing it was an excellent decision. Second, being part of an organization that enables a significant amount of basic research in the U.S. is very rewarding despite the intense workload. Third, I'm now able to better appreciate the complexity of assessing the value of a research proposal.
7. **What did you learn about NSF that you didn't know prior to being a rotator?**
   Looking back, it feels like I knew close to nothing about NSF prior to the role. So, my answer would be that all I learned was new.
8. **How do you think your time as a rotator will impact your career?**
   I now have new project ideas in my head and I hope I'll find the time to carry some of them out.
9. **Would you do it again?**
   Yes, I would do it again. I have benefitted from all the support I've received since I came to the U.S. and I would like to give back.

Get more information about NSF Rotator programs (including how to apply).

Sandstrom named RCA Award and Proposal Officer

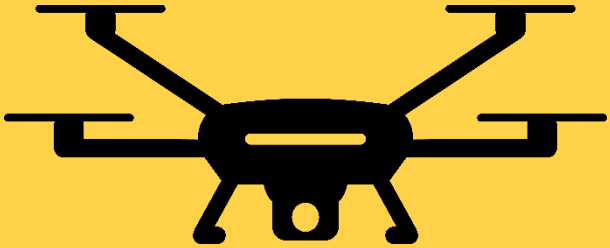
Shelly Sandstrom has accepted the role of Award and Proposal Officer, effective May 16, 2024. This role was most recently held by Dionna Martel. In her new role Shelly will be an authorized signature for proposals and awards; conduct non-industry award negotiation; assist with pre-award and non-financial post-award issues; and act as a sponsor liaison.

Shelly has been with NDSU for 28 years. During the last 10 years, she has worked with SPA on the post-award administration processes as a program assistant and an award intake officer and on the NDSU Grant and

Contract Accounting (GCA) team as a grant and contract officer. Managing the post-award process has provided her with the experience and knowledge that will serve her well as the SPA Award and Proposal Officer.

The SPA team will be initiating an immediate search to fill the vacancy left by Shelly at the Award Intake Officer position.

Congratulations Shelly!



Ban on Use of DJI, Autel and Other Covered Foreign Drones

On December 22, 2023, new Federal legislation referred to as the "American Security Drone Act of 2023" was signed into law as part of the larger National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation prohibits the use of Federal funds for the procurement or operation of covered unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) from covered foreign entities beginning December 22, 2025.

The legislation mandates that no federal funds awarded through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, or otherwise made available, may be used to **purchase or operate** an unmanned aircraft system (drone) that is manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity. Covered foreign entities include DJI, Autel, and many other brands.

In 2018, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a ban on the use of purchase and

use of DJI drones due to cyber vulnerabilities. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency has issued guidance on the use of Chinese-Manufactured UAS in order to mitigate potential cybersecurity threats in non-Federal projects.

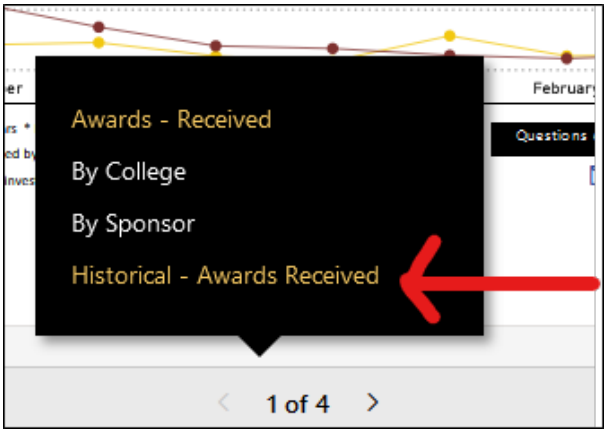
The NDSU College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources (CAFSNR) has enacted a plan to discontinue the use of DJI, Autel and all other drones manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity before December 22, 2025, as CAFSNR conducts numerous research projects which are directly or indirectly funded by Federal agencies such as the USDA.

For an up-to-date list of UAS which comply with the Federal regulations, visit The Blue UAS Cleared List maintained by the Defense Innovation Unit.

New Historical Report Pages Added to RCA Public Data

The Office of Research and Creative Activity publishes data every month on the Reports and Data page of the RCA website. Both the Awards Received Summary and the Proposals Processed Summary now have an additional page which contains historical data back to FY2009.

To view these pages, click at the bottom of the report (as shown below) and choose the page you'd like to view.



Questions? Contact christy.gallagher-lein@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-8573

INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM RCA

RCA Sparking Big Ideas Research Seed Projects

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity (RCA) Research Seed projects are intended to support ideas that pursue innovative, ambitious solutions to impactful research questions that fit within NDSU's strategic priorities or align with prior and/or existing research investments at NDSU.

The purpose is to support teams to advance ideas for the development of competitive proposals in pursuit of significant external funding.

The seed projects can request up to $100,000 for a project period of approximately one year, with the goal of a submission of a large-scale proposal to an external funder within six months of the seed project end date.

The deadline for proposals is May 15, 2024.
Learn more and apply >>

Bison Arts and Humanities Fund

The Vice President for Research and Creative Activity has created a program to stimulate new research and creative endeavors in the humanities and the arts: the Bison Arts and Humanities Fund.

The arts and humanities are vital to the human condition, with importance for civic engagement, cross-cultural understanding, and the development of critical and creative thinking skills.

Faculty are encouraged to submit a proposal for up to $5,000 that can be used for early-to late-stage humanities or arts projects. Emphasis for funding will be on projects that directly support career progression and projects with strong potential to bring positive national attention to NDSU faculty and/or which can be leveraged for future funding.

Learn more and apply >>

University Research Collaboration Program (URCP) - ROUND 2

North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota have issued a joint call for the University Research Collaboration Program which is funded by the Economic Diversification Research Funds (EDRF) appropriated in the 2023 Legislative session. The University Research Collaboration Program has selected a first round of awards of up to $50,000. The EDRF funds are targeted at stimulating economic activity across the state through innovation of new technology, concepts, and products and promoting job creation and career and wage growth while providing experiential learning opportunities for students. The URCP requires projects to include faculty from UND and NDSU along with faculty or students from a third North Dakota institution. A call next fiscal year is also anticipated for the year two funds.

Deadline: June 5, 2024
Learn more and apply >>

EDRF Technology Acceleration Program

The Technology Acceleration Program will accelerate the development of prototypes (e.g. software, IoT, algorithms, sensors, biologics, materials, medical devices) that have potential to leverage public-private partnerships and fit within NDSU's strategic priorities or align with prior and/or existing research investments at NDSU. Proposals should demonstrate commercial applicability and articulate how the funding would result in significant progress for the prototype along the bench to the market pipeline. Proposals should include a concise

statement of how the activity being funded can serve an unmet industry or market need. The Technology Acceleration Program is not intended to support projects at a conceptual stage.

Deadline: June 1, 2024
Learn more and apply >>

SBIR/STTR Phase 0 Funding Program

Research and Creative Activity has designed a program to provide financial support for those pursuing federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Funding for this program will come from Economic Diversification Research Funds (EDRF). Established by the ND Legislature for NDUS institutions, the program's purpose is to:

- Stimulate economic activity across the state through innovation of new technology, concepts, and products;
- Promote job creation and career and wage growth;
- Enhance health care outcomes;
- Address loss of revenue and jobs in communities with economies that depend primarily on the fossil fuel industry; and/or
- Provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning April 23, 2024. Review of submitted proposals began May 15, 2024. The request for applications will be open until funds are fully obligated.
Learn more and apply >>

Did you receive an award email directly?

Some award sponsors will email award documents directly to a PI or other department personnel instead of sending them to Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA). When this happens, please forward the award with the sponsor email chain to ndsu.research@ndsu.edu.

This will ensure that SPA has the correct contact info of the sponsor's representative and will save time and effort when further correspondence is necessary.

Questions? Contact us at ndsu.research@ndsu.edu

WE'RE HIRING:
Director of Animal Resources/Institutional Attending Veterinarian

Learn more and apply >>

NSF By The Numbers

NSF by the Numbers is published by the National Science Foundation and open to the public that provides statistical and funding information for awards, NSF-funded institutions, funding rate, proposals evaluated, and obligations by fiscal year. Interactive dashboards include:

- Numbers by state, including award, proposal, and budget data
- Yearly trends for proposals evaluated, new awards funded, funded institutions, and more
- Details on award durations, institutions, obligation amount, and more by fiscal year
- Data on improving representation in the scientific enterprise
- Institution factsheet, including institution-specific funding rate trends, numbers of PIs on awards, awards by NSF Directorate, and more

Access the dashboards >>

NSF Dear Colleague Letters

NSF-NIH Pathfinder Supplements on Quantum Sensors for Biomedical Science

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) announces an opportunity for researchers currently supported by NSF to request supplemental funding to extend their research on quantum sensing in a direction that may be of joint interest to NSF and NIH. Following consultation with a cognizant NSF program officer, supplemental funding may be requested to support postdoctoral fellows or graduate research associates to perform research that integrates developers of new quantum technologies with potential end-users for the anticipated sensors and devices.

Learn more >>

Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students in Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies (Hydrogen INTERN) Supplemental Funding Opportunity
This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) describes this unique partnership with DOE EERE's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO) and is aligned with and conforms with the NSF INTERN opportunity described in the Dear Colleague Letter: Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students (INTERN) Supplemental Funding Opportunity. This DCL is referred to as the Hydrogen INTERN DCL.
Learn more >>

NTA
National Technology Alliance

Turn waste into a valuable resource for the Department of Defense

Improve the way the US military converts waste into valuable resources! The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) seeks mobile waste-to-energy prototypes. If you have an innovative solution at TRL 6 or higher that can process diverse waste streams without sorting, generating energy in various forms, we want to hear from you!

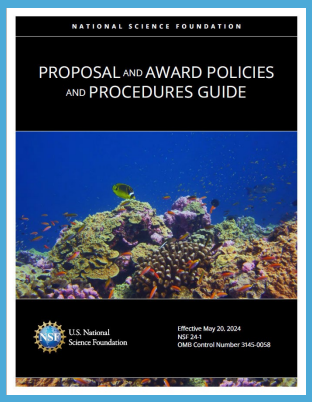
Expeditionary Missions Consortium (EMC²) presents this unique funding and partnership opportunity on behalf of its client, and solvers/submitters must be a member. Membership is offered at no cost.

Submissions open soon.

Learn more >>

Get ready for the new NSF PAPPG Requirements

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced that a revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1) has been issued.



The new PAPPG will be effective for proposals submitted or due on or after May 20, 2024. While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on May 20, 2024, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 23-1) continue to apply.

Track details about all PAPPG changes >>

UAS Workshop with Grand Sky

Interested in learning more about UAS? You're cordially invited to a workshop facilitated by the NDSU UAS Network and Grand Sky. The workshop will be facilitated by **Jeffrey Spaeth, GrandSky flight operations PM/lead pilot**.

Grand Sky is the first and only fully operational commercial unmanned aerial systems (UAS) research and development park in the United States. Strategically located on the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota, Grand Sky is the hub of activities in the nation's leading state for UAS flight testing, training and development. Since 2015, Grand Sky has been the site of continuous UAS industry advancements and milestones, including the first trans-Atlantic MALE UAS flight and the first site to receive regulatory approval to host commercial beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) flights.

May 15, 2024 1:00pm – 4:00pm NDSU Memorial Union, Badlands Conference Room

Agenda

- Selecting the best platform for a mission
- Selecting the best sensor for a mission
- Lessons learned & safe practices for sUAS operations
- UAS industry trends in North Dakota and nationally
- Overview of P107: What it is, and why you should become a certified drone pilot
- Q&A

Registration is limited to 35 attendees

Register >>

Presented by

GRANDSKY

CAREER Proposal Submission Logistics Webinar

June 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Representatives from NSF's Division of Enterprise Services will hold a technical webinar on system-related information to assist with CAREER proposal submission. This webinar will include a review of the system-related requirements in the CAREER proposal submission timeline guidance.

Learn more >>

Department of Energy Office Hours

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC) is the nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences, the steward of 10 national laboratories, and the lead federal agency supporting fundamental research for energy production and security.

The DOE's monthly virtual office hours are opportunities to share information and ask questions about the six research programs and two research and development and production offices. Researchers at all institutions are welcome to attend and learn more about the programs; no existing relationship with DOE or the DOE national laboratories is required to attend. Research administrators are also encouraged to attend.

Office hours will take place on the schedule below for each program office. Topics will vary each month. The office hour will be in the form of a zoom meeting, starting with a brief presentation on the monthly topic, followed by questions. Program managers will be available to answer questions from the community. **Click on the topic below to register for one of the office hours.**

Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR)
ASCR will hold virtual office hours on the second Tuesday of the month, 1-2 pm. Upcoming topics include:

- May 14, 2024, at 1 pm – Introduction to ASCR's Applied Mathematics research program
- For more information on ASCR office hours, visit https://science.osti.gov/ascr/officehours

Basic Energy Sciences (BES)

BES will hold virtual office hours on the third Thursday of the month, 1-2 pm. Upcoming topics include:

- Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 1 pm – Introduction to BES Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences Division - Organization, priorities, and funding opportunities
- For more information on BES office hours, visit https://science.osti.gov/bes/officehours

Biological and Environmental Research (BER)

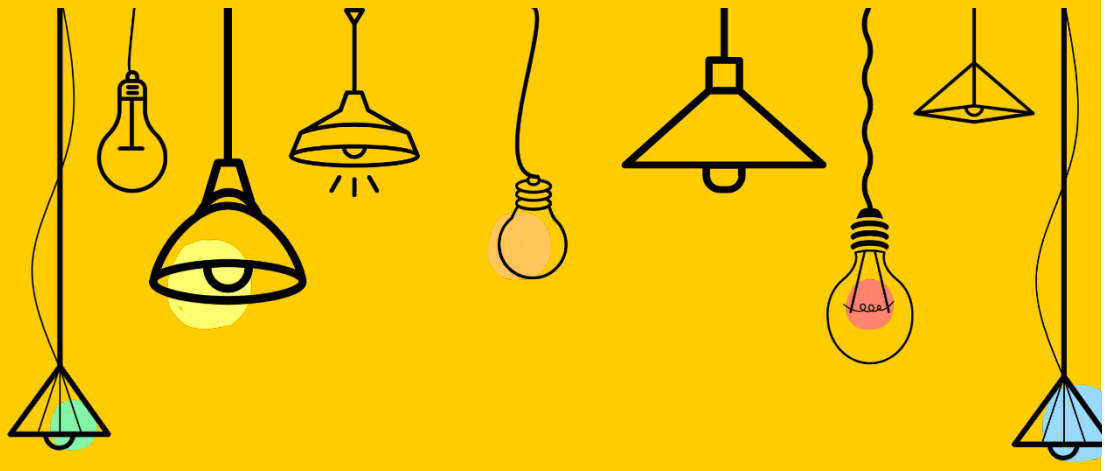
BER will hold virtual office hours on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 1-2 pm. Upcoming topics include:

- Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 1 pm – Introduction to the BER Earth and Environmental Systems Science portfolio
- For more information on BER office hours, visit https://science.osti.gov/ber/officehours

High Energy Physics (HEP)

HEP will hold virtual office hours on the third Tuesday of the month, 1-2 pm. Upcoming topics include:

- Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 1 pm – Technology Initiatives and HEP Core Research
- For more information on HEP office hours, visit https://science.osti.gov/hep/officehours



Have a big, bright idea about research at NDSU?

It's important that we continually challenge each other to come up with ambitious, big ideas in our research endeavors at NDSU. So we'd like to hear your ideas, and the bigger they are, the better.

While we can't promise all of them will succeed, we welcome you to share them - from an early concept or thought all the way to developed ideas that may just need some collaboration - send us an email (**bigideas@ndsu.edu**) and get the process started.

Funding Opportunities

NIH National Institutes of Health
NIH Grant Funding

NSF Grant Funding

DoD Grant Funding

ALL RCA INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES >>

Highlighted Funding Opportunities

DCL: Joint NSF and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Funding Opportunity: Supporting Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR)
The National Science Foundation (NSF), in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA), seeks proposals to advance foundational research in agricultural robotics. These proposals should be of mutual interest to the NSF Foundational Research in Robotics (FRR) program and to USDA/NIFA.
Read full DCL >>

NIH R01: Interventions to Reduce Sleep Health Disparities
Standard deadlines apply, First deadline in October
Learn more and apply >>

NIH R01: Understanding the Intersection of Social Inequities to Optimize Health and Reduce Health Disparities: The Axes Initiative
Deadline July 5
Learn more and apply >>

Spencer Foundation – Large Grants for Education Research
Intent to Apply Deadline – May 22, 12pm (Noon)
Learn more and apply >>

Limited submission programs

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program. Email notifications of interest

to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu by **close of business** on the notification deadline date.

There are currently no limited submission program opportunities.

Looking for more funding opportunities?

RCA subscribes to SPIN by InfoEd Global, a database of more than 40,000 funding opportunities. Through this subscription, SPIN is free for current NDSU faculty, staff, and students.

For more information and to access this database, visit the SPIN page on the RCA website. If you have questions, please contact ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

Contact Us

The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends bi-weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.
You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

We collectively acknowledge that we gather at NDSU, a land grant institution, on the traditional lands of the Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda) and Anishinaabe Peoples in addition to many diverse Indigenous Peoples still connected to these lands. We honor with gratitude Mother Earth and the Indigenous Peoples who have walked with her throughout generations. We will continue to learn how to live in unity with Mother Earth and build strong, mutually beneficial, trusting relationships with Indigenous Peoples of our region.