

## NEWS

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## RCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

# RCA UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2024

## NEWS



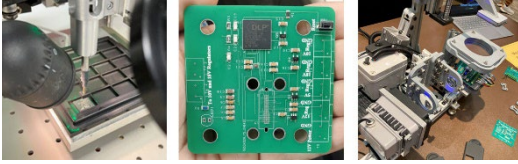
## **NDSU GROWS ANNUAL AWARDS TO NEW ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$142.5 MILLION**

For FY24, the latest fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2024, NDSU earned \$142.5M in external funding awards. This is the highest annual awards total to date and represents an increase of 76% over the previous year's mark of \$80.9M.



### **New internal funding just one sign of increased momentum and investment into humanities at NDSU**

RCA's Bison Arts and Humanities Fund supported five faculty projects through designated funds for creative activity and scholarship.



## **NDSU research enterprise activities hit record highs**

Research expenditures (the funds spent conducting research) for NDSU grew to an all-time high of \$190,332,000 for FY23, the most recently reported fiscal year.



## **NDSU researcher develops nontoxic process to create components for QLED displays**

The award of \$427,935 from the National Science Foundation will advance knowledge in sustainable materials science in terms of manufacturing clean quantum dots



## **TAP Projects Providing Impactful Research Opportunities and Prototype Development**

- Landfill leachate PFAS treatment
- IoT-based sensor for safety monitoring and intervention in work zone areas
- Solar powered snow fencing at Prairie Rose Farm

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$114.5M**

Amount of FY24 awards that came from federal sources (or 79% of all awards)

**25 and 25**

Numbers of NDSU researchers on the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists lists for 2023 and overall career

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - LIMITED SUBMISSIONS

Latest opportunities are below. All other NDSU Limited Submission opportunities are available on the [RCA Limited Submissions page](#).

### LIMITED SUBMISSION: NSF 24-573: EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement-Focused EPSCoR Collaborations Program (RII-FEC)

Through this program (formerly EPSCoR Track-2 program), NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to affect sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's R&D competitiveness. Projects are investigator-driven and must include researchers from at least two EPSCoR eligible jurisdictions with complementary expertise and resources necessary to address challenges, which neither party could address as well or as rapidly independently. Focus areas should be consistent with current [National Science Foundation Strategic Plan](#).

**Award and Eligibility Information:**

- Anticipated number of awards: Up to 12
- Anticipated funding amount: \$18,000,000
- Funding per award:
  - If two RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate: \$1,000,000 per year for 4 years (\$4 million maximum);
  - If three or more RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate: \$1,500,000 per year for up to 4 years (\$6 million maximum)

For more information, visit the [program solicitation page](#).

**Key Dates:**

- Internal Date to Notify RCA of Intent to Submit: Wed., Oct. 9, 2024 by 5 pm
- Internal Date to Submit RCA Pre-proposal: Wed., Oct. 30, 2024 by 5 pm
- Application Date for Letter of Intent to NSF: Tues., Dec. 17, 2024 by 5 pm
- Application Date for Full Proposal to NSF: Tues., Jan. 28, 2025 by 5 pm

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS TO: [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu)

## LIMITED SUBMISSION: Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

The Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence program aims to support the creation of new humanities research centers on artificial intelligence at eligible institutions. Successful applicants will work to establish a sustainable Center and engage in at least two activities which may include but are not limited to: collaborative research and writing efforts; workshops or lecture series; education and mentoring; and the creation of digital tools to increase or advance scholarly discourse about AI. This grant program is one of ten NEH programs that are a part of NEH's [Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence initiative](#).

**Award and Eligibility Information:**

- Anticipated funding amount: Up to \$750,000 (\$500,000 in outright funds plus \$250,000 in Federal Matching Funds; funding for up to 3 years.
- For more information, visit the [program solicitation page](#).

- See important information regarding [revised NEH regulations](#) starting Oct. 1, 2024.

**Key Dates:**

- Internal Date to Notify RCA of Intent to Submit: Fri., Sept. 13, 2024 by 5 pm
- Internal Date to Submit RCA Pre-proposal: Wed., Sept. 25, 2024 by 5 pm
- Application Date for OPTIONAL Draft to NEH: Wed., Oct. 2, 2024 by 11:59 pm ET
- Application Date for Full Proposal to NEH: Wed., Dec. 11, 2024 by 11:59 pm ET

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS TO: [ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu)

## LIMITED SUBMISSION: LIMITED SUBMISSION: Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes National Science Foundation (NSF)

Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes (QLCI) are large-scale interdisciplinary research projects motivated by major challenges at the frontiers of quantum information science and technology (QIST). Institutes are expected to catalyze breakthroughs on important problems underpinning QIST, for example in the focus areas of quantum computation, quantum communication, quantum simulation and/or quantum sensing. The QLCI program can support awards to continue existing Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes or to establish and operate new Quantum Leap Challenge Institutes.

**Award and Eligibility Information:**

- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$2,000,000 to \$7,500,000/year, up to 6 years.
- Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: 2
- Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI: 2
- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs): Two and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.

For more information, visit the [program solicitation page](#).

**Key Dates:**

- Internal Date to Notify RCA: Tues., Sept. 24, 2024 by 5 pm

- Internal Proposal Due: Wed., Nov 13, 2024 by 5 pm
- NSF Letter of Intent Due: Fri., Feb. 7, 2025 by 5 pm
- NSF Preliminary Proposal Due: Fri., Mar. 7, 2025 by 5 pm
- NSF Full Proposal Due: Wed., Sept. 17, 2025 by 5 pm

E-MAIL NOTIFICATIONS TO: [ndsresearchdev@nds.edu](mailto:ndsresearchdev@nds.edu)

## RCA INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### [RCA Big Ideas Research Seed Projects – STEM Fields](#)

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

These seed projects will provide up to \$100,000 to support ideas that pursue innovative, ambitious solutions to impactful research questions that fit within NDSU's strategic priorities and/or the ND Science and Technology Plan. The purpose of the program is to support activities such as pilot studies or gathering preliminary data that will allow teams to advance ideas for the development of competitive proposals in pursuit of significant external funding, including NSF EPSCoR and EPSCoR-like programs (e.g. NIH COBRE). For this call, proposals must be for projects within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields as defined by the National Science Foundation and/or the National Institutes of Health. This includes the social, behavioral, economic and science of STEM education fields. **PIs must be at the Associate Professor rank or above and have a prior funding track record as a PI from the agency where submission is intended.**

### [Sparking Big Ideas: Interdisciplinary Research Planning Grants](#)

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

This planning grant program awards up to \$10,000 to initiate early-stage project development to help catalyze collaborative, interdisciplinary teams among diverse disciplines in order to 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. Team composition should be reflective of the nature of the proposed research and the team's approach should rely on the perspective and expertise of multiple disciplines. This program is intended to help teams develop collaborations and prepare to pursue external sponsored research support for the proposed project. Full time tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply. Professors of Practice who have research as part of their appointment are also eligible to apply.

### **[EDRF Infrastructure Program](#)**

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

The Infrastructure Program will provide up to \$50,000 for improvement of infrastructure in support of research and economic development goals that fit within NDSU's strategic priorities or align with prior and/or existing research investments at NDSU. This program can be used for acquisition of research instrumentation, equipment, and related installation services. Full-time faculty and research staff at NDSU are eligible to apply.

### **[Bison Arts and Humanities Fund](#)**

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

RCA has renewed 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, for example. 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. Projects with strong potential to bring positive national attention to NDSU faculty and/or which can be leveraged for future funding are especially of interest.

### **[NASA EPSCoR Pilot Projects](#)**

Application Deadline: Monday, November 4, 2024

NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to effect lasting improvements in a state or region's research infrastructure, research and development capacity, and its national research and



development competitiveness. This grant program awards up to \$58,000 to develop pilot projects that are in line with NASA's overall mission. Each proposed NASA EPSCoR pilot project shall perform scientific and/or technical research in areas that support NASA's strategic research and technology development priorities with the goal of ensuring a competitive submission to a NASA funding opportunity. All proposals should emphasize and clearly articulate how the pilot project develops capabilities to compete for funds from NASA.

### [Equipment Repair Matching Funds](#)

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Research and Creative Activity Office has a small pool of funds available for equipment repairs, which could include software updates for equipment, that can be completed by **Friday, May 30, 2025**. For departmental / unit requests, priority will be given to equipment that is used by multiple researchers and that has a match of at least 33%. For Service / Recharge Centers and Core Facilities, priority will be given to requests that have at least a 50% match. Researchers are eligible to receive one award (one piece of equipment) per fiscal year.

### [RCA Travel Award Program](#)

Application Deadline: Rolling

Research Development Travel and Conference Support Awards are intended to help cover expenses for travel to a national-level conference to present research or creative work and/or registration fees for a virtual conference to present research or creative work. Virtual conference – up to \$500 in registration costs will be considered. On-site conference – up to \$1,000 in eligible expenses will be considered. Travel must be completed by **Friday, May 30, 2025**.

### [RCA Conference Support](#)

Application Deadline: Rolling

The RCA Conference Development Support award is intended to help cover up to \$3,000 in expenses for hosting and developing a regional conference that brings recognition to NDSU faculty. This support can include: Funding for event room and event reservation costs; Funding for food and meals served during the conference; Funding for materials to be used in support of the event (i.e., flyers, pens, paper, registration booth items, etc.) Applications will be processed in the order received,

and awards will be made until all funds are allocated. The conference must be completed by **Friday, May 30, 2025**.

## FEDERAL AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NIH: [Adoption of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending \(Other\) Support by May 25, 2025](#)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Advancing Plant Transformation \(nsf24120\) | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation](#)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: NSF 75th Anniversary: NSF STEM Day \(nsf24122\) | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation](#)
- NSF: [Dear Colleague Letter: Advancing Research at the intersection of Biology and Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)/Machine Learning \(ML\)](#)

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## EVENTS

Important dates related to internal programs of interest to NDSU faculty researchers can be found on the [Faculty Development Calendar](#).





**Bio & Biomedical  
Computation  
Networking  
Seminar**

November 20, 5 pm - 8 pm

**ND EPSCoR  
Annual Conference**

November 21

- [\*\*ND EPSCoR: Bio & Biomedical Computation Networking Seminar call for oral or poster presentations\*\*](#)

Deadline: October 4, 2024 (extended)

- [\*\*ND EPSCoR: ND EPSCoR Annual Conference call for oral or poster presentations\*\*](#)

Deadline: October 4, 2024 (extended)

YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND  
THE 9TH NDSU-KAGOSHIMA UNIVERSITY  
SYMPOSIUM ON BIOMATERIALS.  
**OCTOBER 14 AND 15, 2024.**

THE SYMPOSIUM ON BROAD ASPECTS  
OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, NANOMATERIALS  
AND POLYMERS WILL FEATURE INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS, A POSTER  
SESSION AND PLENTY OF  
OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK.

ANNUAL  
**KU-NDSU  
Symposium**

[NDSU.EDU/CONFERENCES/KU\\_NDSU\\_SYMPOSIUM](https://NDSU.EDU/CONFERENCES/KU_NDSU_SYMPOSIUM)

You are welcome to attend the [\*\*9th NDSU-Kagoshima University Symposium on Biomaterials\*\*](#) on October 14 and 15, 2024.

The symposium on broad aspects of biotechnology, nanomaterials, and polymers will feature invited presentations, a poster session and plenty of opportunities to network.



Strengthening  
University-Industry  
Partnerships

**University-Industry Partnerships**

**Tues, Oct. 31, 10-11am**

## **Hidatsa Room, NDSU Memorial Union**

Interested in exploring and enhancing partnerships with industry? This talk will offer insights into the benefits and challenges of university-industry collaborations and provide some tips and best practices for initiating and maintaining successful partnerships. Whether you are new to the concept of university-industry partnerships or looking to deepen existing collaborations, this talk will provide valuable knowledge and tools to help you effectively engage with industry partners.

Tony Boccanfuso is the President and CEO of UIDP, a global organization comprising industry and university members that work together to develop and disseminate mutually beneficial strategies for addressing common issues between the two sectors. [Register to attend>>](#)

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## **RCA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **IACUC policy update with implementation deadline**

Based on recent changes to controlled substance provider policies as well as internal review of IACUC DEA oversight practices, the NDSU IACUC Committee is enforcing IACUC Guiding Principle, Pharmaceutical Management 6.6.3. Principal investigators of animal research protocols employing controlled substances must obtain their own DEA registration. All currently approved protocols must be updated with the PI's registration upon receipt. DEA registrations should be in place by January, 2025.

[Learn more about applying for a DEA license](#)

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### **Pecoraro named interim Attending Veterinarian**

The Vice President of Research and Creative Activity announces Dr. Heidi Pecoraro, DVM, PhD, as interim Attending Veterinarian. Heidi is currently serving as Director and Pathologist at the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. Additionally, Heather Mitchell, DVM, will be assisting on an interim basis for training or health assessment needs.

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### **NIH and the eRA Commons**

NIH manages the eRA Commons system, which enables users to access, verify, share, and transmit information about applications and awards. All individuals working on an NIH grant application or award for at least one person month or more must have an eRA Commons account. The eRA Commons is also used to access ASSIST, NIH's online system for preparation and submission of grant applications

If you are in a scientific role (PI, co-PI, post-doc, grad student, undergrad student, project personnel), you should only have one eRA Commons role for the life of your research career. Anyone supporting a submission by doing data entry for an application in ASSIST will also need an eRA Commons account.

An eRA Commons ID is required for all individuals listed on the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile form at the time of application. However, for undergrad students, grad students, and post-docs the eRA Commons ID is not required at the time of application, but is required as part of the research performance progress report (RPPR). The RPPR will not be accepted if eRA Commons ID's are not provided.

If you had an account at a prior institution, we will need to affiliate your existing account with NDSU. If you need to create an account or request your account be affiliated with NDSU, contact [SPA](#)

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### **SAMs registration and NDSU institutional address**

An active registration in the System for Award Management ([SAM.gov](#)) is required in order for entities to do business with the federal government and must be renewed annually. During the recent renewal, the NDSU institutional address was updated. Going forward, the correct institutional address to be used on all proposal and award documents is:

- North Dakota State University
- 1301 12th Ave N
- Fargo, ND 58102-000

Use of this address will ensure that NDSU is correctly identified by all federal agencies that use the SAM database to identify entities properly registered to

do business with the federal government. If you have any questions, contact [SPA](#).

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### **Important reminder from SPA for award notifications**

All award notices need to be received by Sponsored Programs Administration, but there are times a sponsor will direct them to a PI or Department instead. If you receive an award notification from a sponsor, please forward the sponsor's email containing the award to [ndsu.research@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.research@ndsu.edu). These emails often contain important information for Sponsored Programs Administration and Grants and Contract Accounting.

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### **Updates on Human Subjects Research Participant Incentive Payments**

Effective in FY25, the maximum cash/gift card amount allowed per encounter has been raised to \$100. Amounts exceeding \$100 require the participant to be paid via AP Voucher, and require the collection of a W9. If gift cards will be used for participant incentives, they must be purchased utilizing one of the following approved options:

- Option A: Request a cash advance and use the cash for the purchase
- Option B: Request advance approval to purchase with a purchasing card
- Option C: Purchase from the bookstore using a department account

**Note that individuals can no longer be reimbursed for purchasing a gift card, regardless of purpose.**

All gift cards must have a recipient signature in order to clear the prepaid expense amount.

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### **Research Development and Grant Writing Newsletter August 2024 edition**

- Supplemental Funding Requests to NSF
- You've Submitted Your CAREER Proposal: What Now?
- Special Considerations When You're Proposing to Address a Well-Known Challenge
- Forecasted Funding & Notice of Intent Opportunities

- Tensed about Tenses
- Understanding the Role of Your PO

### **September 2024 edition**

- Developing Applications to EPA Under New Guidelines
- NSF-USDA-NIFA Programmatic Funding Alignments
- Overview of Funding by Department of Energy
- NSF TIP Directorate's New Roadmap
- Avoid the Generic Introduction
- Narrative Silos Are Like Weeds

[Read the newsletters \(requires NDSU login\) >>](#)

The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends 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. This listserv refreshes periodically.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran.

Direct inquiries to: Equal Opportunity Specialist, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708 or Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 102, 701-231-6409.

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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.