

NEWS

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College of Engineering

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Announcements

Hanover Research Webinar: Grant Academy Roundtable: Launching Competitive Grantseekers

Thursday, June 27, 2024

11:00 am CT

Zoom

Auburn is collaborating with Hanover's Grant Academy services to support faculty in the early stages of building their research careers. In this webinar session, the Hanover team will review major insights and best practices that institutions can consider in creating faculty development programs focused on grant writing.

[Register for the Zoom here.](#)

Funding Opportunities

NFWF Southeast Aquatics Fund 2024

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Due July 18, 2024

Areas of interest: environmental engineering, watershed resilience

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Southeast Aquatics Fund is a competitive grants program that supports voluntary watershed-based restoration and improved management within riparian and in-stream areas and the forest and agricultural lands that impact them to improve the health of these aquatic systems and secure populations of native freshwater aquatic species.

Priorities for the Southeast Aquatics Fund include implementing water quality and quantity best management practices through providing landowner outreach and assistance, improving connectivity, restoring riparian and in-stream habitat, and supporting assessment and prioritization activities in targeted watersheds of the Southeast.

Read more about this opportunity [here](#).

Crosscutting Activities in Materials Research (XC)

National Science Foundation

Full proposals accepted anytime

Areas of interest: community outreach, materials engineering

Crosscutting Activities in Materials Research (XC) coordinates and supports crosscutting activities within the Division of Materials Research (DMR) and more broadly across NSF.

The emphasis within XC is diversity and inclusion, international cooperation, and education (including experiential learning at REU/RET Sites). Additionally, activities that broadly engage the community, such as summer schools, institutes, workshops, and conferences that do not fit within just one or two programs in the Division of Materials Research, may be supported by XC. Proposals are welcome that do not fit elsewhere at NSF that are also highly relevant for the materials research and education community. It is highly recommended that you contact one of the Program Directors for XC prior to submission of a full proposal exceeding \$50,000.

Read more about this opportunity [here](#).

Funding Strategies

NSF Ideas Labs

The National Science Foundation periodically issues calls for participation in Ideas Labs. These are unique funding mechanisms which provide exciting opportunities for faculty interested in multi-disciplinary collaboration and problem-solving. The purpose of an Ideas Lab is to generate new thinking for problems in which, despite plenty of research attention, progress has been stalled. The workshop environment of the lab, which brings together researchers from various disciplines and backgrounds, helps encourage focused problem-solving and new ideas.

See an explanation of the process below:

- Participants apply individually in response to an Ideas Lab solicitation or program announcement.
- The application is short and focuses mainly on the individual's research expertise, ideas related to the research area, and experience working on teams (especially multidisciplinary ones).
- Once selected, participants convene for a workshop which spans over several days. This method is intended to remove participants from daily distractions of work and home. Participants are divided into teams to work on solutions for the problem. Costs of attending the workshop are covered by NSF.
- At the workshop, professional facilitators (mentors and speakers recruited by NSF) assign tasks and activities to help participants analyze the problem in a new way. They ask questions, offer guidance and feedback, and give short presentations to promote new perspectives.
- When the workshop ends, NSF invites selected teams to submit a full proposal based on the advice of mentors. These proposals are then reviewed by cognizant program officers, ideas lab panelists, or other external reviewers.

If you are a researcher interested in collaboration, multidisciplinary work, and creative and innovative problem-solving, you may consider participating in an Ideas Lab in the future. Additionally, if NSF selects your team to submit a full proposal, the likelihood of receiving funding is significantly higher than when

submitting a regular NSF proposal. Be on the lookout for future Ideas Labs calls, and read more about these unique opportunities in the [PAPPG here](#).

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