

# NEWS

ENGINEERING RESEARCH  
ADMINISTRATION



AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY

Samuel Ginn  
College of Engineering

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## Announcements

### Faculty Registration for Sustainability Collaboration Breakfast

Today is the **last day** for faculty with an interest to collaborate with industry regarding sustainability to register for the CDCR's Careers in Sustainability Industry Day event breakfast session taking place:

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

8:30-10:30 am

Grand Hall of Brown-Kopel

There are 40 spots reserved for faculty, who may come and go as they are available. Faculty will have the opportunity to interact with representatives from the following companies:

- Mohawk Industries: Manufacturing
- Liberty: Utilities & Renewable Energy
- Southern Company: Utilities & Renewable Energy
- ExxonMobil Corporation: Oil & Gas
- LineWorks Engineering, LLC: Engineering & Construction
- BASF: Manufacturing
- Hargrove Engineers + Constructors: Civil Engineering
- Fleetzero: Energy
- Southface: Environmental Services

Register for free using [this Qualtrics survey](#). Contact information collected from the survey will be shared with the companies to promote interactions. Contact [Apyrl Mullins](#) for more information.

## Funding Opportunities

### Secure Compute Environment Testbed for a National Secure Data Service (SCET)

**Due** February 28, 2024

Advanced Technology International

**Areas of interest:** computer science and software engineering, electrical and computer engineering

The objective of this project is to design and build a secure compute environment testbed that will be leveraged as part of an overall effort to test linkage and access infrastructure to support the National Secure Data Service Demonstration (NSDS-D) project. This compute environment will increase NSDS-D abilities to process and analyze data, maintain data security, and expand research access as well as serve as a testbed for an

infrastructure for a potential NSDS. This environment will also allow testing of privacy-preserving technologies as required under Section 10375 of the CHIPS and Science Act. This project will test the required infrastructure for the activities under an NSDS-D. Membership in America's DataHub Consortium (ADC) is not required for submission. However, if chosen, the selected organization must join ADC.

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

## Alabama Water Resources Research Institute: Competitive Grants Program

**Due:** March 15, 2024 (4:45 pm CDT)

Alabama Water Resources Research Institute and US Geological Survey

**Priority funding areas:** climate change and resiliency, coastal water research and policy, groundwater resources and contamination, infrastructure water management, innovative technologies, surface water quantity and quality

This call has two opportunities: **one for faculty and affiliates** and **another for Auburn University PhD students**. The program aims to support research and training that responds to the state's priority water resource concerns and needs. For faculty and affiliates, typically 3 research proposals are funded each year for up to \$35,000 for 1-year projects to begin 9/15/2024. For PhD students, the total funding amounts to \$7,500. A 1:1 match with non-federal dollars is required for both opportunities.

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

## Southeastern Universities Graduate Research Symposium

**Due** April 1, 2024

Southeastern Universities

**Areas of interest:** graduate students

This open call for SUGRS includes paper and poster presentations and applies to all graduate students enrolled in any college or program, on-campus or online. Events will be both in person and virtual **April 15-April 26, 2024** at the following partnering universities:

- Auburn University
- University of Alabama
- Baylor University
- University of Georgia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- University of Tennessee

Proposal abstracts may represent completed, in progress, or proposed research. Students may work individually or in groups and may submit more than one proposal.

Read more about this opportunity on the SUGRS website [here](#). To submit a proposal on their website, navigate to the Open Call tab in the top menu.

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## Strategies

### Taking Advantage of the Funding Solicitation

When it comes to funding solicitations, many proposal authors miss out on realizing its full potential. However, by getting back to basics and following the directions of the solicitation, authors can take advantage of its two key functions by using it as:

- an **organizational template** for the project narrative, and as
- a **pre-submittal template** for reviews and edits that aligns the narrative with the guidelines and review criteria.

Using the solicitation as an organizational template helps authors arrange their project descriptions around core goals and fully respond to objectives of the program. This makes it easier for reviewers to follow along. Similarly,

structuring pre-submittal reviews after the solicitation guides reviewers to consider the proposal through the lens of the funding agency's goals and mission.

Remember, the funding agency wants your proposal to succeed because it spells mutual success for them! This is why funding solicitations are written with very detailed directions and why many funding agencies offer webinars and workshops to help proposal authors take full advantage of them. By using the funding solicitation in these two key ways, authors can improve the success of their proposals and their research careers.

*Adapted from the January 2024 edition of the Research Development and Grantwriting Newsletter.*

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