

NEWS

ENGINEERING RESEARCH
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Samuel Ginn
College of Engineering

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Announcements

Graduate Engineering Research Showcase (GERS)

On **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** from 11:30am to 5:00pm, the college will host our annual Graduate Engineering Research Showcase (GERS) event in **Huntsville**. This year the event will focus on the Space frontier and will feature keynote speaker Joseph Pelfrey, Director for the Marshall Space Flight Center and an SGC OE alum. See the [event website](#) for more information including registration, directions, and an agenda.

2024 Auburn Research Symposium

Additionally, on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** beginning at 8:00am, undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral researchers in a multitude of disciplines will present their research and scholarly discoveries through oral and poster presentations at the **Melton Student Center**. Visit the [Research Symposium website](#) for more.

Funding Opportunities

Future Manufacturing (FM)

National Science Foundation

Due April 11, 2024

Areas of interest: cybermanufacturing, eco-manufacturing, biomanufacturing

Future Manufacturing (FM) supports proposals with innovative approaches to invigorate the manufacturing ecosystem through research, education and training that will enhance US leadership in manufacturing. Proposals that provide new capabilities for companies and entrepreneurs; improve health, quality of life, and national security; expand job opportunities to a diverse STEM workforce; and reduce adverse impacts of manufacturing of the environment are encouraged. The focus of the FM program is to enable new, potentially transformative, manufacturing capabilities rather than improve current manufacturing.

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

Science & Engineering Research Program

W.M. Keck Foundation

Due: May 1, 2024 by 4:30pm (PT)

Areas of interest: see these [grant abstracts](#) for examples of previously funded projects

This research program seeks to support projects pioneering in biological and physical science and engineering research, including the development of new technologies, instrumentation, or methodologies. Grants range from \$1M to \$5M and are awarded to projects that are innovative, distinctive, and interdisciplinary. Projects with high-level risk due to unconventional approaches and those that fall outside the mission of public funding agencies are also funded. Full proposals will be invited for submission in Phase II (July-August).

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

Strategies

NSF Updated PAPPG: Mentoring Plan

The National Science Foundation has updated their [PAPPG](#) effective **May 20, 2024**. The entire document has been edited to clarify or enhance the intended meanings of certain sentences or sections. Website and document references have been updated to reflect current information, and data or terminology used in other NSF documents or systems has been updated to ensure consistency. Several of the major changes to the PAPPG will be discussed in further detail in upcoming newsletters.

NEW in 2024

- **Graduate students will require a description of mentoring activities** in all proposals that request funding to support them, in addition to postdoctoral students. These activities should be submitted in the Mentoring Plan section under supplementary documentation in Research.gov.
- Plans for postdocs and graduate students do not need to be separate, but the plan may specify how different components of the mentoring plan will be implemented for the two types of researchers.
- After awards are administered, each individual postdoctoral scholar and graduate student supported by the award (i.e., received one person month or more during the reporting period) must have an [Individual Development Plan](#). These must be updated annually and will map the educational goals, career exploration, and professional development of the individual.

Reminders

- [Mentoring Plans](#) are limited to one page and must describe the mentoring that will be provided to all postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported by the project, including those residing at subrecipient or collaborating organizations.
- Do not use this plan to circumvent the 15-page Project Description limitation.
- Mentoring activities provided to postdocs or graduate students should be evaluated under the Broader Impacts review criterion.
- Examples of mentoring activities include
 - career counseling;
 - training in preparation of proposals, publications, and presentations;
 - guidance to improve teaching and mentoring skills;
 - guidance of effective collaboration with researchers from other backgrounds and disciplines;
 - and training for responsible professional practices.

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