Subject: OGSR Newsletter - April 2026
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 06:32:01 Pacific Daylight Time
From: Office of Graduate Studies and Research
To: Mar Roig Ripoll

California State University SAN MARCOS | OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Announcements

CSU GUIDE. We've previously announced the call for submissions for CSU Growth in Undergraduate Innovation, Discovery, and Engagement (GUIDE) Program. Proposals are due internally on Wednesday, **April 8** at 11:59 PM and should be submitted through InfoReady. Proposals will be reviewed internally by the Grants and Contracts Development Advisory Committee.
Investigators whose proposals are selected internally will have the opportunity to revise and strengthen their submissions before the Chancellor's Office deadline on June 1. There are two remaining webinars in the series hosted by the Chancellor's Office (4/28 and 5/5). Fortunately, the Chancellor's Office has said the remaining webinars are about grant writing more broadly, and they will use GUIDE as an example for how to review an RFP and write a compelling proposal. Anyone is welcome to attend those!

Professional Advancement Travel Resources (PATR) is available to support students, faculty, and non-MPP stateside staff in their professional development journeys. The application will close on **April 13**. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to enhance your career and academic objectives!

Federal Funding Office Hours. Please mark your calendars to join us for the upcoming Federal Funding Office Hours: **April 21 and May 19**, from 12-12:45 PM, in The Hub – ADM 2302.

Student Travel Funds. The Graduate Research Dissemination Fund and Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Fund are designed to help students capitalize on scholarship and creative activity completed at CSUSM. Funding for students may range from $50 to a maximum of $500 in allowable costs. Please encourage your students to apply!

Chancellor's Office - Learning Innovation for Future-Forward Teaching. Learning Innovation for Future-Forward Teaching (LIFT) is a new CSU initiative supporting faculty to embed durable skill development into undergraduate courses. Deadline **June 1**. This is not a limited submission, however applicants are encouraged to consult with their department chair, dean and campus leadership in advance of submission.

Project Services Update. PIs may be aware of the implementation of a single, Universal card for travel as well as stateside and auxiliary purchasing. PIs may be issued a Universal card. For any sponsored projects-related purchasing, we encourage you to continue to handle purchase requests as you have up until this point, by completing a Purchasing Request Form on our site.

Limited Submissions

W.M. Keck Foundation Research Program
The W.M. Keck Foundation has a window of concept counseling for which CSUSM may present a research concept. Funding priorities include:

- High-impact research in basic physical, life, and biomedical sciences, including instrumentation and engineering in service of basic science
- Pioneering, fundamental discoveries in important and emerging research areas
- Novel approaches that are distinctive, innovative, field-expanding, and challenge existing paradigms
- High-risk, high-reward proposals are welcome

Those interested in consideration for internal selection, please submit a one-page proposal to grants@csusm.edu by **April 30 at 11:59 PM**. Concept papers will be reviewed by the Grants and Contracts Development Advisory Committee.
Concept Paper Contents:

- Project Title
- Full name of Principal Investigator
- An overview of the proposed project emphasizing any unique aspects and pilot studies
- Methodologies
- Key Personnel
- Knowledge Gap: what is the basic scientific question to be answered?
- Impact: if successful, what will be enabled and who will benefit?
- Innovation: how is the proposed work distintive, innovative, field-expanding, or paradigm shifting?
- Fit: Please see Keck funding guidelines for details on what they do and do not fund (scroll to the bottom of the site).
- Budget: broken down, if possible, by major areas, e.g. personnel, equipment, consumable supplies, etc.
- If a reference is necessary, use a footnote and abbreviate it as (Author, Science, 323, 45, ‘11). DO NOT USE (Jones et al., 2011). Please avoid any illustrations.

Proposals

Congratulations to all who submitted proposals recently:

Dr. Kenny Ballou | CSTEM/Computer Science | National Science Foundation | Software and Hardware Foundations (SHF) | *SHF: Formalizing Weakly-Relational Domains into Automated Theorem Provers*.

Dr. Yasmine Farley | SASS Career Center | SDSU Research Foundation San Diego Workforce Partnership (Dept of Labor) | *SDSU In-School Youth.*

Drs. Betsy Read and Sujal Phadke | CSTEM/Biological Sciences | Revive and Restore.

Dr. Fernando Amador, Jennifer Ho, and Sean Visintainer | CHABSS/History and Library | University of California, Los Angeles | Modern Endangered Archives Program | *Preserving the Indigenous Lineage of Moya, Mexico.*

Dr. Ali Ahmadinia | CSTEM | Jobs for the Future | Advancing AI-Reslient Early-Career Pathways | AI Studio Pathway: Work-Based Learning and Dual Enrollment for an AI-Ready Workforce.

Drs. Reza Kamali and Soudeh Khoubrouy | CSTEM/Electrical and Computer Engineering | National Science Foundation | Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM) | *S-STEM: Scholarship-Supported Pathway for Next-Level AI Proficiency with Integrity and Critical Thinking to Advance Workforce Readiness (AI-PIC)*.

Dr. Jennifer Ostergren | CEHHS | San Diego County, California Endowment | San Diego County Regional Health and Human Services Workforce Initiative.

Dr. Yanyan Li | CSTEM/Computer Science and Engineering | NSF | CyberAICorps Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS) | *Collaborative Research: CyberAI Innovation: Agentic AI-driven Adaptive Refinement and Customization of Cybersecurity Learning Materials.*

Awards

Congratulations to those who received awards recently:

Dr. Justin Perron | CSTEM/Physics | Army Research Office | LQC: LPS Qubit Collaboratory | *Hands-on Quantum: Innovative Laboratory Design for Resource-Limited Universities.*

Dr. Jesus Cordova | CSTEM/Chemistry & Biochemistry | California Lutheran University subaward, National Science Foundation | Chemistry of Life Processes | *RUI: Atomic Level Mechanism of NIS Synthetases.*

Heather Burkland | Energy Management & Utility Services | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab | *Enabling Interopeable Demand Flexibility in Commercial Buildings.*

Dr. Diego Sustaita | CSTEM/Biological Sciences | California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt subaward, California Department of Fish and Wildlife | Cannabis Research and Innovation Funding Opportunity | *Extending the California Biodiversity and Climate Sentinel Site Network through the California State University*.

Featured Funding Opportunities

Program: Grants for Arts Projects
Sponsor: National Endowment for the Arts
Synopsis: Activities funded through Grants for Arts Projects (GAP) enable Americans throughout the nation to experience the arts, foster and celebrate America's artistic heritage and cultural legacy, and benefit from arts education at all stages of life. We also support arts and health programs, including creative arts therapies, that advance the well-being of people and communities.
Deadline: July 9, 2026

Program: Collaborative Research Sponsor: National Endowment for the Humanities
Synopsis: The Collaborative Research program aims to advance humanistic knowledge by supporting teams of scholars working on a joint project leading to a tangible interpretive product. Teams may propose research in a single field of study or interdisciplinary work. NEH encourages projects that incorporate multiple points of view and pursue new avenues of inquiry.
Deadline: September 16, 2026

Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program
Sponsor: USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Synopsis: The program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities.
Deadline: December 31, 2026

More funding opportunities in Pivot. Use your institutional login to access the tool!

April Highlights

Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities, & Innovation

Congratulations to the Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities, & Innovation winners and runner-up honorees! These outstanding presentations will

represent CSUSM at the 40th Annual CSU Student Research Competition at San José State University in Spring 2026. This prestigious event showcases top research and creative work from all 23 CSU campuses, and **CSUSM will proudly host it in 2027**.





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