

WELCOME

Office of Research

Internal Funding Opportunity: RSCA

We will begin at :10 after the hour.

Recording in progress during the presentation.

In-person brown bag workshop to follow.

Thank you for joining us.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Grant Program 2026-27

Phil Costanzo

Professor, Bailey College of Science and Math (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Chair of Grants Review Committee
Faculty Fellow for Office of Research



CAL POLY
Office of Research

NEXT WEEK

Join us for the Research Reception!

W 15 OCT 2025 at 3:00-5:00pm

Partners Pavilion 19A-0127

Faculty and staff are invited to join the Interim Associate Vice Provost of Research Dean Wendt as we celebrate and recognize research, scholarship, and creative activity across campus. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.



CAL POLY

INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & DUE DATES

1

RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (RSCA) GRANT PROGRAM

Applications due R 11 DEC 2025 at NOON. Please plan accordingly (falls during finals week).

2

TEACHER-SCHOLAR MINI (TSMG) GRANT PROGRAM

More details to come. Applications due R 9 APR 2026 at NOON.

3

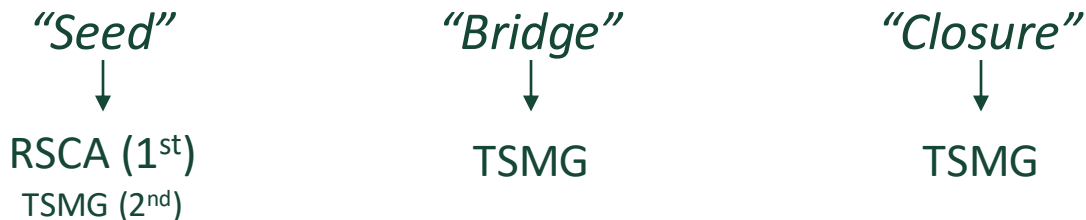
STEM NET EAGER SEED GRANTS/ STEM NET FACULTY FELLOW

Program dates to be announced.



WHICH PROGRAM SHOULD I APPLY FOR?

What type of funding do I need?



What does my project create?



PROGRAM DIFFERENCES

	RSCA	TEACHER-SCHOLAR
Amount	Up to \$18,000.	Up to \$11,000. (+\$4,000 student supplement)
Available faculty assigned time or compensation (semester conversion accounted for)	4 WTUs (semester) 2 WTUs and \$9,000 in additional compensation \$9,000 in additional compensation	2 WTUs (semester) \$6,000 per faculty (capped at \$9,000 for all co-PIs)
Requires tenured faculty to show that this research is a <i>new</i> scholarly direction. (" <i>Seed</i> ")	✓	
Can be a source of ongoing funding by augmenting currently funded projects to expand the scope of work. (" <i>Bridge</i> and/or <i>Closure</i> ")		✓
Funds the development of teaching, classroom, or curricular innovations.		✓
Allows conference travel.		✓
Provides add comp and assigned time to submit proposals to external agency.		✓
Access to external research consultants for proposal support.		✓



INTRODUCTION TO RSCA

The Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Grant Program, supported by funds from the Provost's Office and the Chancellor's Office, is intended to help faculty remain engaged in their disciplines beyond the classroom and to contribute new knowledge through robust programs of scholarship focused on strengthening California socially, culturally, and economically. The annual funding from the program is intended to provide more internal resources to help faculty pursue a broader array of professional activities.

From 2021-2025, RSCA received a total 293 proposals, of which 60 faculty were funding ~ 1.3M.

That funding resulted in 26 faculty generating 90 external proposal submissions with 19 individuals receiving ~ 5.7M.





Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Grant Program



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline is R 11 DEC 2025 at NOON



WHO MAY APPLY?

All faculty unit employees who hold an appointment for the duration of the award
(JUL 2026 - JUN 2027)



TYPES OF PROJECTS

All types of research, scholarly, and creative activities that are related to the generation of ***new*** knowledge and learning.



RSCA ELIGIBILITY

- All faculty unit employees.
- Must hold an appointment for the duration of the award (JUL 2026 - JUN 2027).
- **Funding is intended as “Seed” funding for *NEW* scholarly directions.**
- Proposals seeking “Bridge” and/or “Closure” funding should apply to the TSMG program.
- Applicants may only submit up to two proposals per RSCA funding cycle
 - ❑ one as the PI and one as a Co-PI
 - ❑ two as a Co-PI**Submitting two proposals as PI is not allowed**
- We encourage tenure-track faculty to be the lead PI if possible and appropriate.
- Applicants cannot submit a proposal as a PI if they have received two RSCA awards in the preceding 5 years; this limit does not apply to submissions as Co-PI.
- Applicants can only re-submit the same proposal three times – one original submission and two resubmissions.
- Applicants may apply for RSCA and TSMG, but scope of work **MUST** be different and clearly defined.



TYPES OF PROJECTS FOR RSCA

- All types of research, scholarly, and creative activities.
- Proposed projects must be related to the generation of **NEW** knowledge and learning.
- This includes, but is not limited to, empirical and theoretical research, applied design and development, scholarship of teaching and learning, writing of books, and the production of art.
- Grants will not be awarded for instructional improvement, course development, or evaluation. If the scholarship is pedagogically focused, *which is a fundable research type*, **it is incumbent upon the applicant to make this clear.**

RSCA: IMPORTANT

- The award maximum is **\$18,000.**
- Projects may begin on 1 JUL 2026
- Projects must be completed by 30 JUN 2027
- Deadline is R 11 DEC 2025 at NOON
- New! Must include NSF style CV from Science CV <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>
- For submission use Cal Poly InfoReady Review Application at CalPoly.InfoReady4.com
- For more information, please find the rubric and rating definitions at research.calpoly.edu/rsca

USE OF RSCA FUNDS

- Faculty assigned time (Max. 4 WTUs maximum)
- Additional compensation (Max. \$9,000 per project and per individual)
- Support for student assistants
- Support for temporary personnel (e.g., consultants, collaborators)
- Supplies, services, and equipment
- Travel to conduct research (*no conference travel allowed*)
- Incentives for research subjects

RSCA REVIEW CRITERIA

Standardized criteria

- Intellectual merit (5pt max)
- Objectives (4pt max)
- Budget justification (3pt max)
- Benefit to Cal Poly (2pt max)
- Benefits beyond the University (2pt max)

Additional criteria

- Eligibility Verification
 - ❑ PI(s) is/are qualified (Y/N)
 - ❑ Change in focus (for tenured)
- Potential to attract future funding (+1)
- Support of fields and disciplines with minimal access to external funding (+1)
- Involvement of students (+1)
- Have you previously received RSCA/TSMG funding before? (Y/N) Have you submitted an external proposal since the closure of your RSCA award?

RSCA REVIEW PROCESS

- In order to ensure proposals are equitably reviewed, the committee uses a review model based on **full time equivalent (FTE) faculty** across the six colleges, ensuring proposals are reviewed against other proposals in the same college.
- Each proposal is reviewed and scored by at least three (3) committee members, with one member being from the applicants' home college.

RSCA AWARD DATA OVER LAST 3 YEARS

College	Instructional Faculty FTE 2025-26	2023-24 \$	2023-24 # Proposals	2024-25 \$	2024-25 # Proposals	2025-26 \$	2025-26 # Proposals
CAED	8.4%	\$17,900	1	\$18,000	2	\$18,000	1
CAFES	11%	\$35,960	2	\$17,976	1	\$35,772	2
CENG	19.8%	\$47,500	4	\$99,515	7	\$52,540	3
CLA	28.2%	\$94,012	7	\$77,868	6	\$79,382	5
BCSM	24.6%	\$55,898	4	\$71,900	4	\$69,502	4
OCOB	7.3%	\$17,900	1	\$19,200	1	\$30,500	2
Library	.9%	\$2,114	1	\$8,910	1	\$3,726	1
TOTALS	100%	\$271,284	17*	\$313,369	18*	\$289,422	17*

*Please note, some projects have PIs and Co-PIs from multiple colleges. For these instances, each college involved in a single proposal receives a count in the chart above. The totals in the proposal column reflect the total awards per cycle.

TIPS FOR RSCA PROGRAM APPLICATION

- When creating your project budget, we recommend starting with the Excel budget template before filling out the budget fields in the InfoReady application. The Excel budget template has formulas in it to automatically calculate the total budget amount, ensuring you do not exceed \$18,000. The InfoReady template is created by the Chancellor's office and some of the fields are confusing- we attempted to clarify the budget fields with the creation of an Excel template. *Fill out the budget detail tab, and then refer to the InfoReady inputs tab when completing the application in InfoReady.
- **Budget template must match fields entered into InfoReady.**
- We encourage increased clarity in the budget justification (payrate, hours, duration).
- The [Cal Poly Student employee handbook](#) says the allowable pay range for students is \$16.50 up to \$24.00 per hour.
- Student stipends are also an option when offering an educational opportunity.
- Faculty compensation, can be based on your hourly rate to use as a guideline. See <https://preaward.calpoly.edu/selected-sponsored-project-costs>

TIPS FOR RSCA PROGRAM APPLICATION

- Read the RFP! To achieve the most possible points in the review of your application, please refer to the scoring sheet. Be strategic in addressing the RFP and allocating appropriate space to the review criteria
- View abstracts from past awardees on our website: <https://research.calpoly.edu/rsca> (view each year's awardees and then scroll to the bottom of the page for "view the proposal abstracts").
- Consider asking previous awardees for drafts of their proposal.
- Have your peers review your application before submitting.
- Remember that you are writing for an audience that may not have expertise in your field. If you are using technical terminology, please write your proposal so that reviewers can understand and make an informed decision.
- Clearly articulate what the research objective of the proposal is.
- Burden falls to the proposal writer to provide clarity and importance.

TIPS FOR RSCA PROGRAM APPLICATION

- Use figures, **Bold**, *italics* and underline appropriately.
- In cases of multiple PI, we would encourage tenured faculty to let newer faculty be the lead PI

Case studies

- Miranda Yin, OCOB: Was rejected in 23-24 cycle. Reviewed feedback & reached out to committee for review of resubmission. Funded in 24-25 cycle
- Phil Costanzo, BSCM: Funded as PI for EFI in 2008. Funded as co-PI in 2017. Funded as co-PI in 2019. Rejected in 2021. Did not meet criteria for ***new*** research.
- Shanju Zhang, BSCM: Funded in 2024-25 as tenured faculty. Demonstrated ***new*** ideas. Project resulted in multiple papers and external funding is being solicited.

ACADEMIC SENATE GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Darin Bennett**, College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
- **Phil Costanzo**, Bailey College of Science and Mathematics (Committee Chair)
- **Bruce DeBruhl**, College of Engineering
- **Rafael Guerra**, Orfalea College of Business
- **Alex Parker**, Cal Poly Solano Campus
- **Emily Ryalls**, College of Liberal Arts
- **TBD**, Professional Consultative Services (PCS)
- **TBD**, College of Architecture and Environmental Design
- **Alyson Engel**, Associated Students, Inc. (*ex officio*)
- **Dean Wendt**, Dean of BCSM & Interim Associate Vice Provost, Research (*ex officio*)



CONTACT US

For assistance with these application programs, please contact:

Office of Research

- Web: research.calpoly.edu/rsca
- E-mail: research@calpoly.edu
- Phone: (805) 756-1508
- Building 1, Room 107



OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Questions?

Brown bag lunch and workshop to follow



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