Funding Opportunities in Sustainability

Western Washington University strives to be a national leader in campus sustainability. In 2011 the Sierra Club placed Western Washington as 14th in their fifth annual rankings of the “Coolest Schools” in the nation based on efforts toward solving climate issues and sustainable operation. Western is the first school to have a student-imposed green energy fee which funds various projects around campus, the first being the new water bottle filling stations. The Office of Sustainability website has more information on Western’s accomplishments and ongoing sustainability efforts.

Funding for projects focused on sustainability or environmental protection can come from a wide variety of sources including Federal and State agencies and private agencies as well.

Federal Funding

The Environmental Sustainability program from the National Science Foundation supports engineering research with the goal of promoting sustainable engineered systems that support human well-being and that are also compatible with sustaining natural (environmental) systems. These systems provide ecological services vital for human survival. The long-term viability of natural capital is critical for many areas of human endeavor. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics.

This program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society’s need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. There are four principal general research areas which are supported, but others can be proposed by contacting the program director by email at: 

bhamilto@nsf.gov

- Industrial Ecology
- Green Engineering
- Ecological Engineering
- Earth Systems Engineering

For more information regarding details within each of these areas of interest and instructions for the application process, have a look at the NSF Environmental Sustainability page. If your project doesn’t fit these criteria, NSF has many other funding opportunities in sustainability.
State Funding

Washington State is moving toward sustainability through many different programs. Although the programs come under different headings, they interconnect and affect each other. Examples of sustainability programs provided by the state are listed below.

In addition to the programmatic work, state agencies are moving to implement sustainability practices internally. The purpose of this website is to assist state agencies make the transition to sustainable state government.

Sustainable Economy – Promoting the growth and development of sustainable industries by helping to develop markets for alternative means of transportation, non-toxic recycled products, green buildings, and green energy.

Sustainable Environment – Preserving our forests, fish, wildlife, rivers, and oceans, protecting our air and soils from pollution, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Sustainable Society – Protecting the health and welfare of people, present and future, regardless of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, health, or economic status.

The Sustainable Washington website includes a number of resources, agency support and a full description of Washingtons’ priorities. The purpose of this website is to assist state agencies in making the transition to sustainable state government. The Department of Ecology has more information on sustainability for the public.

Private Funding

The Campus Green Builder (CGB) online portal to green building information for academic institutions provides a one-stop online resource on campus green building that is free and accessible to all higher education institutions. It provides access to financial resources for colleges and universities interested in green building, including links to green building financial analysis studies as well as strategies for energy cost savings. Grant and other funding-related information is grouped into the following categories:

- Strategies for Energy Cost Savings and Procurement
- Financial Studies, Reports and Guides
- Federal
- State
- Private
- Global
- Passed Opportunities

Not only does the Campus Green Builder website offer funding, the news page releases updates about other grants and funding available for a variety of projects.
There is consensus among economists and policy researchers that public investments in science and engineering yield very high annual rates of return to society. Furthermore, the activities supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) - fundamental research and education based at academic institutions - are generally viewed as among the most productive of all Federal investments.

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at NSF (SBE) supports the research that underlies such findings, as well as other research that builds fundamental knowledge of human behavior, interaction, and social and economic systems, organizations and institutions. It does this through its Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), and SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA).

To improve understanding of science and engineering, SBE provides tools for tracking the human and institutional resources vital to building the nation’s science and engineering infrastructure. It does this through its National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), which is the nation’s primary source of data on the science and engineering enterprise.

The White Papers Abstracts

In August 2010, the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate of the National Science Foundation invited members of concerned research communities to submit white papers outlining the future of their sciences on a decadal scale in a project named “SBE 2020: Future Research in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences.” Prospective authors were asked to describe foundational and transformative questions in the content of their science, the skills and capabilities required to pursue those questions, and the infrastructure of services and resources that would enable such research. Authors were encouraged to address one or all of these topics but to keep their focus on the big questions that transcended near-term funding cycles and were likely to drive next generation research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences.

This compendium of abstracts to the 252 unique contributions resulting from that invitation is an introduction to their answers. Most of the full texts of the white papers can be downloaded from the companion website where they can be searched by corresponding author (that is, the author who submitted the document), title, and abstract or download the complete PDF. This publication also provides the complete list of authors. Analysis of the white papers together with continued discussions with our colleagues at NSF and with the scientific community are steps in a longer process to identify topics and priorities for future research. We encourage readers of this publication to revisit the SBE 2020 website to find out more about what we are learning from these activities and about our future plans.
Department of Education Resources and Grants

ED’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. DOE provide a wealth of resources, including publications, statistics, journals, grants, news, and much more. Publications include newsletters, innovations in education, performance reports, strategic plans, and more. You can explore facts, figures, research, best practices, program evaluations and program performance on the research and statistics page.

The National Center for Education Statistics provides basic education facts, data summaries, recent research reports, research-based best practices, and school district demographics.

The department of Education also provides newsletters and journals, including:

- **ED Review** — bi-weekly update on ED activities.
- **ED RSS** — daily feed of ED news, funding, and teaching resources.
- **Education Research News** — education research, evaluation, and statistics.
- **Teaching Matters** — ED’s bi-weekly newsletter celebrating teachers and teaching.

Visit the website for a full list of newspapers and journals.

Grants

DOE also offers a substantial amount of grants ranging from educational practices to the integration of science and technology. To learn more about which programs are available, browse through the Guide to Education Programs or check out the ED grants forecast, which can help you identify competitions that may open soon.

Discretionary grant application packages lists most ED competitions that are currently open, with links to application information for each competition. Most ED competitions are announced in Federal Register Notices, which provide information on rules, deadlines, and how to apply. IES funding opportunities provides information on research funding opportunities run by the Institute for Education Sciences, including funding for unsolicited grants. Grants.gov lists discretionary grant competitions from across the federal government, including many ED competitions.

To learn more about application procedures, forms, and other topics relating to ED.gov grants, please visit the website.
New Reference Reports from the Department of Education

New reference reports aim to help researchers improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of their research. The newly released reference reports, which are part of NCEE’s technical methods reports series, provide new evidence about the usefulness of state assessment data in impact evaluations. The reports are specifically designed for researchers, methodologists, and evaluations specialists to use to improve the quality or lessen the cost of their research. To view, download or print the full PDF report of any of the following three reports, please follow the link in their title.

1. **Variability in Pretest-Posttest Correlation Coefficients by Student Achievement Level**

   This report examines the variability in pretest-posttest correlation coefficients for state assessment data on samples of low-performing, average-performing, and proficient students to determine how sample characteristics (e.g., achievement level) affect pretest-posttest correlation coefficients. As an application, this report illustrates how statistical power is affected by variations in pretest-posttest correlation coefficients across groups with different sample characteristics. The results confirm that pretest-posttest correlation coefficients are smaller for samples of low performers than for samples representing the full range of performers, thus, resulting in lower statistical power for impact studies than would be the case if the study sample included a more representative group of students.

2. **Estimating the Impacts of Educational Interventions Using State Tests or Study-Administered Tests**

   Identifies and describes the factors that could affect the precision of impact estimates when evaluations use state assessments instead of study-administered tests. The authors found that the impact estimates based on state assessments were not significantly different from the impact estimates based on study-administered standardized tests. However, they found significant differences in the precision of the impact estimates from models that used different combinations of the two types of tests to provide pre-test scores (scores from a test administered before the implementation of the intervention) and post-test scores (scores from a test administered after the implementation of the intervention).

3. **Whether and How to Use State Tests to Measure Student Achievement in a Multi-State Randomized Experiment: An Empirical Assessment Based on Four Recent Evaluations**

   Examines the sensitivity of impact findings to (1) the type of assessment used to measure achievement (state tests or a study-administered test); and (2) analytical decisions about how to pool state test data across states and grades. These questions are examined using data from four recent IES-funded experimental design studies that measured student achievement using both state tests and a study-administered test.

**Click here** for more information about NCEE’s efforts to promote methodological advancement by producing technical methods reports that explore applications of new technical methods, including the cost-effectiveness of alternative evaluation strategies.

Please **click here** to view the full announcement on the Institute of Education Sciences website.
Any successful project requires planning, development, implementation, and follow-through. Obtaining NIH funding for your research idea is no exception. The Grants Process At-A-Glance Chart below provides an overview of the steps required for an application to proceed from application planning and submission through award and close out. Look to the related resources on each page for special guidance from NIH experts that can help maximize your understanding of the grant process and help you submit a successful grant application. Click here to view this process on the NIH website.

**Planning, Writing, Submitting**

- **Planning**: Applicant should start early, collect preliminary data, and determine internal deadlines.
- **Writing**: Applicant often begins writing application several months prior to application due date.
- **Submitting**: Applicant organization submits most applications to NIH through Grants.gov.

**Receipt and Referral**

- Applications compliant with NIH policies are assigned for review by the Division of Receipt and Referral in the Center of Scientific Review.
- CSR assigns application to an NIH Institute/Center (IC) and a Scientific Review Group (SRG).
- Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigns applications to reviewers and readers.

**Peer Review**

- **Initial Level of Review**: SRG members review and evaluate applications for scientific merit.
- **Priority Scores**: Available to Principal Investigator on eRA Commons.
- **Summary Statement**: Available to Principal Investigator on eRA Commons.
- **Second Level of Review**: Advisory council/board reviews applications.

**Award**

- **Pre-Award Process**: IC grants management staff conducts final administrative review and negotiates award.*
- **Notification of Award**: NIH Institute/Center (IC) issues and sends Notice of Award (NoA) to applicant institution/organization.
- **Congratulations!**: Project period officially begins!

*NIH Requests additional information needed just-in-time for award.

**Post-Award Management**

Administrative and fiscal monitoring, reporting, and compliance.

**NOTE**: Timeline is based on the standard grants process. It does not reflect a shorter timeframe for grants undergoing expedited review (e.g., AIDS).
Art Works

Art Works is the official blog of NEA, offering a wide variety of topics and discussions. Recent posts include, Art Talk with Theaster Gates, Taking Note: An Economic Study of Symphony Orchestras, and Art Works Podcast: Robert Battle. For more information about the blog, visit the Art Works website.

Arts Magazine

NEA Arts Magazine is the quarterly magazine of the National Endowment for the Arts. This quarters’ issue features the theme of ‘Innovation’ and explores this topic through interviews with a diverse roster of artists from the fields of theater, dance, design/architecture, music, filmmaking, visual arts, and graphic arts. Here in their own words are their answers -- thought-provoking, challenging, and yes, innovative.

The dictionary defines innovation as "something new or different introduced." This simple definition, however, belies the complexity of the subject. For starters, just how measurably new does a dance style or way of painting or design methodology have to be for it to be considered innovative? Is innovation one of those things where you just know it when you see it? Does there have to be consensus across a discipline? And how exactly is innovation related to creativity? Which one's the chicken, and which one's the egg? Does innovation have any relationship to tradition or collaboration? And if -- as the zeitgeist has it -- innovation is crucial to our collective future, is it a skill we can even teach the next generation?

More information about the magazine as well as a full description of each of the contributing artists is available on the NEA Magazine website. Also, the NEA offers the full version of this issue in PDF format.

Free Podcasts

A free podcast will be released each Thursday featuring one-on-one interviews with everyone from NEA Jazz Masters to leading arts experts to National Medal of Arts winners and more. Listen to the podcasts here. Recent podcasts include:

- Robert Battle, Artistic Director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
  Robert Battle discusses his first season as artistic head of the Alvin Ailey company. [33:04]
- Meredith Monk, Composer, Choreographer, Performer
  Meredith Monk reflects on her 45 year career as a performance artist. [41:35]
- Meejin Yoon, Architect and public artist
  Meejin Yoon talks about creating work at the intersection of art, architecture, landscape, and technology. [27:29]
- Jack DeJohnette, 2012 NEA Jazz Master
  The 2012 Jazz Master discusses his approach to music. [23:57]
In an effort to assure broad dissemination of agency activities, NEA webcasts a variety of meetings, forums, and events. Below are links to the archived webcasts:

**NEA Heritage Fellowships Concerts 2011**
The 2010 and 2011 NEA National Heritage Fellowships Concerts have been webcast from the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland. Emceed by American Routes host Nick Spitzer, the concerts celebrate the recipients of the NEA National Heritage Fellowship, the nation's highest honor in the folk & traditional arts.

**Creative Placemaking**
On September 14, 2010, the Arts Endowment and the Canadian Embassy co-hosted and webcast "Creative Placemaking," a panel discussion of the role of the arts and the creative community in creating livable, sustainable communities.

**Cultural Workforce Forum**
On November 20, 2009, academics, foundation professionals, and service organization representatives, along with NEA senior staff and discipline directors, met in Washington to discuss improving the collection and reporting of statistics about arts and cultural workers, and to develop future research agendas and approaches.

**Survey of Public Participation in the Arts Forum**
On December 10, 2009, the Arts Endowment hosted a three-hour roundtable discussion about the the 2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts, the nation's largest and most representative study of adults' arts participation habits.

**National Council on the Arts Public Meetings**
The NEA's presidentially-appointed advisory board meets three times a year to hear from NEA staff, arts leaders, and review funding and policy recommendations.

**Proposals to External Agencies**

- **University guidelines state that:** All proposals (grants, contracts, research related, non-research related) to external agencies exit the institution through the RSP after budget review by the director and approval of the Vice-Provost for Research.

- **Dr. Ghali, the Vice Provost for Research, is the institutional official authorized to sign external grant proposals, contracts and other research related agreements on behalf of the university.**

- **Anyone within the university community strongly considering submitting proposals for external funding are asked to notify the RSP early. Advanced notification of deadlines will allow the staff at RSP to review the guidelines and locate necessary forms and other materials in a timely manner. The more time the RSP has to review proposals the better chance there is of processing accurate proposals. Ideally RSP would like advance notification a month prior to the program’s deadline with the completed proposal in our hands at least three working days prior to the deadline.**

For more information see: [http://www.wwu.edu/depts/rsp/propdev.html](http://www.wwu.edu/depts/rsp/propdev.html)
The National Endowment for the Arts is leading a new task force of 13 federal agencies and departments to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. "Human Development" is a framework that researchers, policymakers, and practitioners use to devise research and programs that help people lead full lives from early childhood through old age. While many studies have found links between the arts and positive cognitive, behavioral, and social outcomes, most of this research is small-scale and short-term. There are major gaps in federally sponsored arts research. For example, there is no large-scale research on the arts and creative thinking, a critical asset in today's global economy. There are research gaps on how the arts influence both youth and aging populations. And there is no nationally representative research on how the arts affect people with illness, injury, or disability. Until now, arts research has not been part of significant research on human development, and there has been little coordination among federal agencies, researchers, and practitioners to rectify this problem.

Taking a collective leap forward, the members of the NEA Interagency Task Force will work together to help fill the research gaps and build a stronger evidence base to inform future policy and practices nationwide. The task force will:

- host a series of quarterly webinars on compelling research and practices;
- coordinate the distribution of information about funding opportunities for researchers and providers of the arts, health, and education across the lifespan;
- conduct or commission a gap-analysis and literature review of federally sponsored research on the arts and human development;
- identify and leverage joint research funding opportunities across agencies;
- host a convening with researchers and practitioners for professional development and capacity-building in the field of arts and human development

Participating federal agencies and departments in the task force are:

- HHS/Administration for Children & Families
- HHS/Administration on Aging
- Department of Education/Office of Innovation & Improvement
- NIH/National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine
- NIH/National Institute on Aging
- NIH/Office of Science Education
- NIH/Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research
- NIH/National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
- NIH/National Institute of Mental Health
- Institute of Museum & Library Services
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
- National Science Foundation/Science of Learning Centers
- National Endowment for the Arts
Challenge Grants help to preserve collections, expand educational resources and facilities, and enact programs that foster research in the humanities.

Exhibitions Today includes a number of exhibitions that travel across the country and, in some cases, even around the world.

Media Log: NEH-Supported Film, Television & Radio Programs includes NEH-funded media programs that underscore NEH's commitment to funding diverse, quality programming.

EDSITEment is a constantly growing collection of the most valuable online resources for teaching English, history, art history, and foreign languages. In addition to bringing together the best of the humanities on the web, it also features a powerful search engine and lesson plans for classroom and family use.

U.S. Newspaper Program aims to preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present.

National Digital Newspaper Program continues the work of the U.S. Newspaper Program by making available online a digital resource of United States newspapers from the nineteenth century to the present.

Prize-winning Research NEH-supported books have earned 18 Pulitzer Prizes and 20 Bancroft Prizes.

Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions enable scholars to pursue independent research in the humanities while benefiting from collegial association with those in other areas or disciplines of study.

Web Sites for NEH-Supported Films Some films produced with NEH support offer companion websites.

Online Humanities Projects A number of projects funded by NEH exist solely online.

Papers Projects preserve correspondence and papers of ten presidents and many literary and historical figures.

Reference Materials Many highly acclaimed—and reader-friendly—reference materials have been produced with NEH support.

Visit the NEH website for advice about applying for grants and grants management as well as the current news and publications.
NSF Upcoming Deadlines

April 1
- Sustainability Research Networks Competition
- Communications, Circuits, and Sensing-Systems (CCSS)
- Electronics, Photonics, and Magnetic Devices (EPMD)

April 9
- Computing Education for the 21st Century

April 10
- Dimensions of Biodiversity

April 16
- Planning a Partnership Model for a Giant Segmented Mirror Telescope

April 17
- Chemistry and Materials Research in Cultural Heritage Science (CHS)
- Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service (SFS)

April 18
- Integrative Paleoanthropology Grants (IPG)
- Macrosystems Biology

April 23
- Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) and HBCU Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (RISE) (CREST)
- Nanotechnology Undergraduate Education (NUE) in Engineering

April 24
- Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program (PASI)

May 1
- Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)

May 7
- CubeSat-based Science Missions for Geospace and Atmospheric Research

May 10
- Coupling, Energetics, and Dynamics of Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR)

May 11
- Decadal and Regional Climate Prediction using Earth System Models (EaSM)

May 14
- Cyberlearning: Transforming Education (Cyberlearning)

May 15
- Partnership for International Research and Education (PIRE)

May 21
- Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences: Investigator-initiated research projects (MCB)

May 28 & 29
- Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (TUES)

NEH Upcoming Deadlines

March 1
- Summer Seminars and Institutes
- Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers

March 6
- Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities

May 1
- Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

May 4
- Challenge Grants

May 19
- Preservation and Access Research and Development
Awards

Lynn Pilliteri, Biology Department  
*RUI: Stomatal Differentiation*  
National Science Foundation  
$80,669.00

Craig Moyer, Biology Department  
*Ecology of Microbial Mats*  
National Science Foundation  
$602,606.00

Patricia Ashby, Child Development Center  
*HECB Child Care Grant*  
Higher Education Coordinating Board  
$10,844.32

Ruth Sofield, Environmental Sciences  
Department *Snowmobile-Related Pollutants*  
Winter Wildlands Alliance  
$4,000

Janelle Leger, Physics-Astronomy  
Department *CAREER: Ionotropic Applications*  
National Science Foundation  
$102,144.00 Year 2 Funding

Donald Alper, Canadian American Studies  
*National Resource Center ‘11-’12*  
University of Washington  
$72,746.00

Upcoming RSP Deadlines

**Pilot Project and Grant in Aid**  
- April 10 V.P. for Research  
- April 24 Notification

**Research and Creative Opportunities**  
**Grants for Undergraduate Students**  
- March 29 Announcement appears in Western Today  
- April 19 Chairs  
- April 26 V.P. for Research  
- May 30 Notification

**Fund for the Enhancement of Graduate Research**  
- March 29 Announcement appears in Western Today  
- April 5 Chairs  
- April 12 Deans  
- April 19 V.P. for Research

June 1 Notification  
For more information, please refer to the *RSP Calendar of Internal Deadlines 2011-2012*

Conducting Funding Searches

RSP subscribes to the University of Illinois’ IRIS (Illinois Researcher Information Service) online database for funding searches.

The IRIS Database contains funding opportunities in every field from agriculture to zoology, deadlines in over 25 subject areas.

Our office is available to help you learn how to search funding databases in order to find the best opportunities available to you. We are also available to conduct searches with you by appointment. If you are interested in learning how to search for funding opportunities please contact Tracey Finch at Tracey.Finch@wwu.edu or x6578.
RSP Update: Undergraduate Research Grants

The Research and Creative Opportunities Grants for Undergraduate Students will now be processed through the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Office. The due dates will stay the same (see the schedule below) but proposals should be submitted to 480 Old Main, Mail Stop 9033. You can contact the office by phone at (360) 650-2292 or by email at wendy.knight@wwu.edu with any questions or concerns you may have. You can also access the full description of the grant and proposal guidelines through the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Office website.

Fund for the Enhancement of Graduate Research

Eligibility: All students currently enrolled, and in good standing, in graduate programs at Western Washington University are eligible to apply for research funding. Students may apply at any time during their graduate curriculum and may apply for funding more than once.

Purpose of Awards: Graduate student research awards are designed to assist students in accomplishing their thesis work. Awards may be made for equipment, computer software, consumable items, travel, etc. Requests should be confined to activities or equipment that are central to the student’s thesis work and which are not available to the applicant through the Department. Any permanent equipment acquired using award funds remains University property. The maximum single award per student is $1,000.

Procedures for soliciting awards: Applications for funding are due to the Department Chair who will forward them to the Vice Provost for Research. The applicant should prepare a 1-2 page rationale for the funding request and submit this with the completed cover sheet to their advisors. The advisors will provide comments regarding the suitability of the projects for funding as well as the likelihood that the students will realize the goals.

Procedures for awarding funds: The Vice Provost for Research will appoint an advisory committee to screen and to prioritize the applications. Final funding decisions will be made by the Vice-Provost for Research.

As the Advisory Committee reviews applications for funding, it will consider the following criteria: Is the proposal well-defined and clearly presented? Are the proposed activities or purchases essential to the student’s thesis? Is the project manageable within a reasonable time frame for the funding requested? Matching funds from departments are encouraged.

Deadline: April 19, 2012