Higher Education Incentives (HEI)

Applications Open: October 23, 2020  
Application Deadline: December 11, 2020  
Award Announcements: February 19, 2021

Awards*:

Multi-institutional Awards**: up to $15,000  
Major Awards: up to $10,000  
Minor Awards: up to $5,000  

*Based on availability of funds.  
**Projects demonstrating collaboration between two- and four-year campuses or multiple four-year campuses will be eligible for the multi-institutional award.

Current & Past Award Recipient

Purpose: The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium invites proposals for value-added, higher education teaching/training projects related to any space or aerospace discipline. This is a seed-grant program for faculty implemented undergraduate education projects which support the most innovative ideas on how to increase the space and aerospace content of undergraduate university and college offerings.

Projects should:

- have an emphasis on space sciences, aerospace engineering, or any other space-related discipline or interdisciplinary STEM field.  
- be intended for education and/or training of undergraduate students, with an emphasis on faculty enhancement and curriculum development in undergraduate education.  
- align with the NASA Mission Directorates (For more information on NASA Directorates, see spacegrant.carthage.edu/about/mission/directorates).

Application Requirements:

- WSGC affiliate member universities or colleges are eligible. Industry, nonprofit associations, and nonmembers can propose programs and work jointly with one of our academic members, providing the educational activity occurs at a member campus (e.g., visiting lectureship, an extension course, nonprofit group offering).
• Students funded through this grant must be U.S. Citizens.
• Affiliate member institutions must have affiliate award agreement documents on file with the WSGC Program Office.
• Higher Education Incentives must align with at least one of NASA’s Mission Directorates: Aeronautics Research, Human Exploration and Operations, Science, and/or Space Technology.
• The Consortium especially encourages applications from women, minorities and persons with disabilities.
• Minimum 1:1 match

To Apply:

• Register on the WSGC website (https://spacegrant.carthage.edu/forms/account/login). Returning applicants will be prompted to update registration information annually.
• Sign in and submit the Grant Application Form (applicants may apply to multiple funding programs) and supporting documents.

Supporting Material Required with Application: Submit a proposal addressing each of the seven elements listed below. Be sure to clearly identify each element within the proposal. Applicants will be asked to upload the proposal at the bottom of the application. The proposal should not exceed 15 pages, including figures.

1. Introduction/Summary: Summarize the project in one page or less. Important issues to address here and in the body of the proposal are how this project will provide curriculum development, faculty enhancement, or in any other way provide training for undergraduates in the space sciences, aerospace engineering, or other space-related discipline. NASA guidelines require that every proposal demonstrate how the proposed activities align with the goals and objectives of one or more NASA Directorates or Centers. Please be specific (Aeronautics Research, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, Science, Science Technology, Other). Because the WSGC is required to demonstrate the alignment of each of our projects with NASA Directorate or Center goals, proposals that do not demonstrate such alignment will not be funded. Provide references of related work. Be aware that not all of the WSGC review panel members are likely to be experts in this area, so make sure to provide fundamental information on the project topic.

2. Background: Summarize the current and previous research on the topic to be covered by the grant and indicate its importance to the field. If the applicant has received previous funding from the Higher Education Incentives program, the proposal must demonstrate that the past project has met the goals and objectives of Higher Education Incentives program. The applicant should provide specific information on how the curriculum development, faculty enhancement, or in any other way provide training for undergraduates in the space sciences, aerospace engineering, or other space-related discipline led to larger proposal submission(s), broader collaborations, etc. As this is a seed grant program, priority for funding will be given to those projects that can demonstrate strongest growth in Wisconsin’s aerospace infrastructure. Also include the previous support from the WSGC Higher Education Incentives Program (title, date, amount).

3. Proposed Activities: Describe
   • Purpose – include audience, educational objectives
   • Method – what activity(ies) will be included
   • Expected Outcomes – anticipated value, added benefits
   • Types of presentations and/or papers which will be a by-product of this project.

Be sure to provide fundamental information on the project. The proposed project should provide value-added, higher education teaching or training in an innovative way, and the proposal should document how these goals will be achieved. It is important to note that it is expected that faculty spend considerable time updating courses as a normal part of their duties. Proposed work falling under the purview of normal course development or improvement is unlikely to be funded.
4. **Evaluation Plan:** Provide a brief self-evaluation plan, including how the program will be continued after WSGC funds are no longer available. Provide a dissemination plan for sharing project results with WSGC affiliate members and campus stakeholders. Include sufficient detail to allow reviewers to assess the viability of the plan.

5. **Timeline/Schedule:** Please provide dates indicating when the project start and finish date, as well as any important milestones. Applicants will be required to submit an Interim Report and a Final Report. Periods of performance may not extend beyond March 31, 2022.

6. **Budget/Use of Funds:** Provide a budget summary using the [Grant Proposal Budget Template Form](#) for the proposal that describes in detail the use of funds for the proposed project including labor (people, hours, rates and total), travel (location, transportation costs, hotel costs, meal costs), participant support costs, materials and supplies, and any other costs (with equivalent detail). Indirect charges are limited to matching funds.

   All funds should be expended prior to March 31, 2022.

   

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<th>Proposed Budget Template</th>
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   * A minimum 1:1 project match is required. Add more match columns if there is more than one source of matching funds. Indicate the source of each match.

   ** The Higher Education Incentives Program will normally provide funding for labor, including collaborators and students.

   *** WSGC financially supports travel to and from the Wisconsin Space Conference only if expenses are included in this budget proposal. Travel will be considered if it is fundamentally important to the project. Out of country travel cannot be funded. Please delineate between air, ground, lodging, and meal expenses.
WSGC will not fund overhead. Any institutional overhead must be applied as matching funds. Given budget limitations, we will likely not support any amount for equipment or rental of facilities. We highly recommend alternative means to purchase equipment or materials needed for the project and apply them as matching funds.

7. CV/Personnel*: Please include an updated two page CV. *Note: This grant only allows one Principal Investigator to be listed on the application. Include brief qualifications for any personnel included in projects. WSGC requires a list of all students receiving funds through this grant to be submitted as outlined in the Award Agreement Letter. Students register on the WSGC application website under Program Applications/Professional Student Programs.

Award Acceptance Requirements: As part of the award acceptance, awardees will be asked to attend the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference as outlined in the award agreement and submit the following documents on the WSGC application website under Manage Applications/Current Grant Cycle Applications.

- Award Agreement Letter
- Institution W9
- Media Release Form
- One-Paragraph Biography
- PI Professional Photo
- Quarterly Invoices/Cost-Share Report with Supporting Documentation
- Office of Education Survey must be completed by December 15, 2021
- Interim Report (if period of performance is greater than 6 months)
- Summary/Final Report (due 30 days after the project end date)
- Present project at the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference
- 2-3 project photos featuring faculty/students/program participants
- Alumni Story

Please direct questions about the Higher Education Incentives Program to:

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This funding opportunity is made available for the pursuit of space-related research and/or activities through the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program: NASA Educational Cooperative Agreement #80NSSC20M0123. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this award is 43.008. Award recipients are subject to the terms of this award.

All awards are fully competitive awards of opportunity in which applications are reviewed by the WSGC Technical Advisory Panel and other experts as needed. Awards are made by the Assistant Director based on recommendations from the Associate Director.

Please follow us for program updates