

**WISCONSIN SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM**  
**Report from Dr. Jeffrey Clark, Associate Director for Research (for 2023-24)**  
**April 14, 2023**

**Research Infrastructure Program (RIP) (Multi-institutional Awards up to \$15,000, Major Awards up to \$10,000, and Minor Awards up to \$5,000):** In 2023, we received 10 RIP proposals (6 for major awards and 4 for Early-Stage Investigator awards). The ESI proposals came from three partner institutions: Marquette University (2), Carthage College, and MSOE. The Major Awards proposals from three partnering institutions: UW-La Crosse (2), UW-Milwaukee (2) and Marquette University; and we received one proposal from a UW Madison-affiliated research group (Collaborative Science Environment). We received proposals from two non-white applicants in this grant cycle, which is down from four last year.

The funding level for the RIP program is \$45,000 for five awards: two major awards (\$10,000 each), two minor awards (\$5,000 each), and one multi-institution award (\$15,000). Since we did not receive minor or multi-institutional awards, we redirected funds and supported two Major Awards and three Early-Stage Investigator awards. The proposals were evaluated by a team of four reviewers from participating WSCG schools, the Associate Director of Research, and by the Assistant Director of WSGC.

The proposals awarded all directly support the strategic plan goal A.6 (highly visible research) and since they all involve mentoring undergraduates, they also indirectly contribute to goal A.4 (team-based research experiences for undergraduates). One proposal worth highlighting is “Exploring CO2 Sensitivity in Behaviorally Inhibited Rats: Consequences of Extended Space Travel” by Dr. Terrill (Carthage College). This proposal is not only well aligned with NASA’s mission directorate on Human Exploration and Operation, but it also leverages collaborations within the home institution and other nearby institutions which forwards WSCGs strategic goal A.6.1 (interdisciplinary/collaborative research). Another strength of this proposal is the use of undergraduate research teams thereby contributing to A.4 as mentioned above. If brought to fruition, this work could lead to a multi-institutional proposal in the future.

**Undergraduate Research Program (UGR) (Award up to \$4,000):** In 2022-2023, we received 11 proposals from students from eight partnering institutions: UW Madison (4), UW White Water, UW La Crosse, UW River Falls, Carthage College, UW Stevens Point, UW Oshkosh, and Marquette University. The applicant pool consisted of eight men and three women. Two of the applicants are non-white. The pool also has a good diversity of STEM fields, with 6 coming from physics (3) and astronomy (3) and five from other disciplines like environmental science, geosciences, and genetics. None of the applicants are from two-year institutions.

The funding level for the UGR program is \$40,000 for **ten** awards. Applications have not yet been evaluated. Depending upon the proposal budgets it may be possible to fund all eleven.

Respectfully submitted,

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