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STEM-NET Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program

*******Request for Nomination from Campus Provost*******

- **Maximum Award:** \$30,000
- **Applications:** One per CSU campus
- **Project Period:** Up to 12 months
- **Application Deadline:** November 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- **Submitted By:** Campus Research/Sponsored Programs Office
- **Primary Goal:** Develop interdisciplinary research leading to external funding
- **Student Component:** Undergraduate research required/prioritized
- **Submit:** [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#)

Program Description:

Driven by an unwavering commitment to student success and in support of undergraduate student research opportunities, STEM-NET is transforming the CSU system into a preeminent champion of inclusive access to research and learning experiences that equip diverse STEM students for thriving careers in STEM-related fields. By empowering CSU STEM leaders in pedagogy, research, and grant-writing, STEM-NET ensures the continued success of both students and faculty.

STEM-NET strategically invests in research areas that increase the potential to garner externally sponsored grants and awards to support student retention and graduation and strengthen the STEM workforce in California. The transition towards interdisciplinary collaboration is manifold. It emanates from within the scientific community as research progresses and new scientific problems emerge that are not a single disciplinary perspective. In the last decade, numerous funding programs (e.g., NSF) have been launched across the United States, designed to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration in, for example, cognitive neuroscience, behavioral economics, and mathematical anthropology. **Several of these programs seek to catalyze and support the integration of interdisciplinary research.** One way to accomplish this goal is to provide SEED funding to faculty cohorts to increase the number of externally funded projects in the CSU.

As noted in the 2004 National Academies report, "Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

The STEM-NET Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program aims to support and encourage the development of interdisciplinary research and scholarship collaborations between faculty members from STEM and non-STEM disciplines. STEM-NET SEED grants will fund activities that support the submission of large external grants, aligned with STEM-NET's mission and vision.

The STEM-NET Steering Committee is seeking nominations from Campus Provosts for these grants. In subsequent years, the nature and amounts of available funding will depend on the direction taken by the Executive Director in conjunction with the Steering Committee.

1. Eligibility Checklist

- The program is open to tenured/tenure-track (T/TT) CSU faculty and full- and part-time lecturers.
- **The faculty team must include at least one faculty member outside the traditional STEM disciplines.**
- Only one application may be submitted per CSU campus.
- The project plan and budget must be directly linked to the data collection efforts needed for the future submission or resubmission of a research grant application external to the California State University (CSU) system.
- Funding must support a new project and may not be used to supplement an ongoing funded program.
- A substantial portion of the project budget should support undergraduate student research.

2. Budget Restrictions - Allowable / Not Allowable Table:

Budget Restrictions

Allowable / Required	Not Allowable
Faculty salary support of up to three semester units (AWTU) at \$2,488 per unit, per faculty member, during the academic year or summer.	Faculty overload.
Student salaries that follow the salary policies of the campus Human Resources (HR) department.	Travel funds.
A substantial portion of the budget should be devoted to supporting undergraduate student research.	Instrumentation.
	Indirect costs (IDC).

Note: Project plans and budgets should be directly linked to the data collection efforts required for a future external grant submission or resubmission.

3. Important Dates:

- Application materials are to be submitted by the **respective research and sponsored programs office** through the [online submission form](#) on or before **5:00 pm on Monday, November 16, 2026.**
- The Steering Committee will review nomination materials and submit recommendations for funding to the consortium Presidents of STEM-NET by **Friday, December 4, 2026.**
- Notification of award will be forwarded to campuses by **Friday, January 22, 2027.**
- Funding for selected proposals will be in place by **Monday, February 1, 2027.**

4. Nomination Materials (Please attach these documents through the [online submission form](#)):

- The proposal is not to exceed five (5) pages single-spaced (minimum font size 11) and should address the outline of the proposal detailed below. Budget and budget justification (not to exceed one page), and references do not count toward the five (5) page proposal limit.
- CVs (do not count towards the five-page limit) are not to exceed two (2) pages per faculty member and should include current or pending support.

5. STEM-NET Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program Grant Program Nomination Template

The proposal should include the following information:

- Faculty information (name, title, department, campus)
- Title of proposal
- Project Summary and Goals
- Background and Significance
- Research Questions/Project Objectives
- Student Engagement Plan
- Extramural Funding Strategy
- Budget and Budget Justification
- **Briefly describe how this project supports CSU FORWARD or advances another critical institutional priority or function.**

6. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight	What Reviewers Will Consider
Merit and Feasibility	30%	Creative and technical merit and approach; clarity of project objectives and appropriateness of the proposed methods; and achievability of the proposed tasks within the 12-month timeline and budget.
Student Engagement	30%	Quality and robustness of the plan for engaging and mentoring undergraduate students, including benefits to student learning and professional development. Proposals with a strong undergraduate student engagement component will be prioritized.
Potential for Extramural Funding	30%	Clarity and feasibility of the external funding strategy and the likelihood that the 12-month seed project will lead directly to proposal preparation and submission.
Qualifications & Impact	10%	Qualifications of the PI or team to execute the project and the potential for the research/creative work to have systemwide or societal impact across any discipline.
TOTAL	100%	

7. Application Checklist

Application Checklist

- Proposal Narrative: No more than five (5) pages, single-spaced, using a minimum 11-point font. The proposal should address all sections listed in the nomination template.
- Budget and Budget Justification: No more than one (1) page. The budget and budget justification do not count toward the five-page proposal limit.
- References: References do not count toward the five-page proposal limit.
- Faculty CVs: No more than two (2) pages per faculty member and must include current or pending support.
- Campus Nomination Confirmation: Confirmation that the application is the campus's single nominated submission for this program.

Submit no more than one proposal per campus through the [online submission form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2026.

8. Award Requirements

Post-Award Reporting Requirements and Deliverables

- Submit a six-month project report detailing status of the project and budget expenditures.
- Submit a final project report within 30 days of the project end date.
- Complete an external grant submission by Thursday, February 1, 2029.

Submission Deadline: Submit no more than one proposal per campus through the [online submission form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, November 16, 2026**.