



Cal Poly Humboldt Office of Research & Sponsored Programs

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Mark Your Calendars For Our Upcoming Events!

14th Annual PI Research Celebration

Join us at the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka for an evening of food, drinks, and TED-style talks honoring Principal Investigators (PIs), their staff, student researchers, and friends of research!

Date & Time: Wed. Oct. 22 4:30-7:30pm; RSVP available as event nears- please watch for it through our [Research Portal announcements!](#)

McCrone Promising Faculty Scholars & Graduate Awards Reception

This year's recipients of the McCrone Awards will be honored with a reception on campus in the Great Hall. These awards recognize three promising junior faculty and one graduate student, and encourage their continued achievement.

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 4:00-6:00pm; RSVP available as event nears- please watch for it through our [Research Portal announcements!](#)



Check out our [interactive map!](#)

To add a project, please
contact Research
Development Support
Coordinator, Cara Peters
cap924@humboldt.edu



**The Team Review
Program** is designed to
facilitate review and
direct feedback on your
grant proposal from an
expert (or experts) in
your field. For more info,
click [here](#).

Curated Grant Lists

We maintain curated
grant lists that contain
funding opportunities
organized by theme or
college, including CAHSS
grants, CPS grants, CNRS
grants, social justice
and equity grants,
interdisciplinary grants,
and more!

These lists can be found
under the home icon tab
in [Pivot](#). In order to access
them, you'll need to sign
into Pivot using your
institutional login.



SPF Updates Will Soon Be Delivered Through Axios!

Starting this fall, SPF will begin using Axios HQ as a new platform for email communications alongside our existing research portal announcements! Adopting Axios will make it easier for us to keep the campus community informed on important updates from our office with more timely notices.

These emails will include content such as procedural updates, policy changes, and general office news. Our newsletter, which has traditionally included this type of content, will continue to be published, and will now focus on research news and successes, faculty achievements, and project highlights.

Anyone who is subscribed to our research portal will automatically be added to the Axios email list. If you're not yet subscribed and would like to ensure you receive these updates, you can sign up using this [quick tutorial](#).

Expanding Communications to Highlight Concluded Projects

We're pleased to share that our communications services now include announcements for projects that have recently concluded! Previously, we highlighted only newly awarded grants and projects in progress.

These new announcements will showcase project outcomes and successes, and may feature project photos, as well as links to related websites and research publications. By sharing these accomplishments, we aim to help amplify the impact of our staff and faculties' work, and recognize their valuable contributions.

Announcements may be posted to our social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram), newsletter, and/or Humboldt NOW's Faculty/Staff Achievements page. If you would like your recently completed project featured, contact Kumi Nakadate, Research Development Support Coordinator, at jkn24@humboldt.edu.



Upcoming Funding Deadlines!

There are several opportunities for research funding & awards that will soon be available on [Engagement Hub](#)! Keep an eye out for these upcoming funding opportunities:

Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Program (RSCA) AY 25-26

Supports research, scholarly, and creative activity. Projects may include support for activities such as a research study; writing scholarly papers, textbooks, or monographs; travel to archives or professional conferences; development of pilot studies; recitals, performances, or exhibitions; etc. All members of Unit 3 (Faculty, Librarians, Coaches, and Counselors) are eligible.

Deadline: September 18th

Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) AY 25-26

ARI funds are available to all tenured, tenure-track faculty, or research associates engaging in agricultural research, including forestry and aquaculture. Projects must be focused on applied research with strong industry collaboration, and a goal to positively impact California agriculture, natural resources and food systems.

Deadline: Dec. 8th

Where to Find Updates to Tax and Health Benefits on SPF Grants



Every year there are changes to our tax and health benefit rates. Although taxes went down a bit again this year, insurance rates for benefitted employees went up and new options have been added. Current rates are included on our updated version of the Internal Budget Template which can be found on the [SPF Forms Library](#).

If you have any questions/feedback regarding any of these updates, please feel free to give us a call!

(707) 826-4189

Don't miss any of our upcoming events! Be sure to sign up for Research portal announcements by clicking this [link](#).



Do you have travel claims, reimbursements, advances, etc., and you're unsure how to complete the forms?

SPF offers [Drop-In Zoom Hours](#) every weekday from 2:00-3:00pm.

If you can't make these hours, or the daily office hours, contact our Front Office at (707) 826-4189 or hsuf@humboldt.edu

GOOD NEWS

StartUp Humboldt Opens: A New Home for Innovation

Entrepreneurship has a new home in Humboldt! The StartUp Humboldt Innovation Hub has officially opened in the heart of Arcata, offering a collaborative space where students, faculty, staff, and local entrepreneurs can bring bold ideas to life. Designed to spark innovation and cross-disciplinary creativity, the hub supports startups, prototypes, and early-stage ventures with workshops, events, mentorship, and access to tools and resources. Open to all disciplines, it welcomes scientists, artists, coders, strategists, and creators of all kinds. This regional effort is powered by Cal Poly Humboldt, College of the Redwoods, Lost Coast Ventures, North Coast SBDC, the Institute for Entrepreneurship Education, and SPF. Learn more [here](#)!



Humboldt Instructor Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

Humboldt photography instructor Justin Maxon has been named a Guggenheim Fellow! This prestigious honor recognizes Maxon's outstanding creative achievement and places him among other visionaries shaping the future of art and scholarship. Justin's fellowship project is an applied research initiative expanding on his previous work that examined systemic failures in fentanyl addiction care. The project will create training materials for medical professionals to establish best practices for fentanyl addiction treatment, engage stakeholders in developing policy recommendations, and create a traveling exhibition designed to educate and spark conversation. More details [here](#).



Humboldt Researchers Lead Study on World's Largest River Island!

Drs. Silvia Pavan and Pedro Peloso (Zoology) are leading an international biodiversity study on Marajó Island in the Amazon. Partnering with U.S. and Brazilian researchers, the team is using genetic data to explore how animals arrived, adapted, and evolved on the island. The project supports global biodiversity science and conservation while providing hands-on research experience for Cal Poly Humboldt students. It also contributes to the creation of a new historical DNA lab on campus. Learn more [here](#).





New Research Truck Available for SPF Fieldwork!

Planning fieldwork that requires rugged transportation or towing capacity? Facilities Management now coordinates the rental of the Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) research vehicle (#189), a 4-wheel drive truck designed for off-road research needs.

This vehicle seats up to five adults and offers a powerful 14,000 lb towing capacity, perfect for hauling trailers, boats, or heavy equipment to remote field sites.

Before You Reserve:

All drivers- faculty, staff, and students- must complete the following steps **prior to key pick-up**:

- Pass a DMV background check
- Complete the Defensive Driver Training course in CSULearn

How to Reserve:

Vehicle #189 is reserved exclusively for SPF-funded programs and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations must be made in advance by a Principal Investigator for an HMSPF-supported project.

Once driver requirements are met, you can request use of the vehicle by submitting the [SPF Research Truck Rental Request Form](#).

This new resource supports safe, compliant, and efficient travel for field research. If you have any questions, please contact Facilities Management or the SPF team for guidance.

New Webpage: SPF ProCard Guidelines & Resources

We're excited to announce a new webpage dedicated to supporting SPF ProCard holders! Whether you're a seasoned user or new to the process, this resource is designed to make managing your ProCard purchases easier.

Located on our website, the [Procurement Card Guidelines page](#) provides clear, SPF-specific guidance on using your ProCard appropriately within the context of grant-funded projects. It outlines allowable and restricted purchases, documentation requirements, reconciliation tips, and direct links to helpful templates and forms.

This new resource was developed in response to common questions and feedback from SPF cardholders and aims to minimize confusion while promoting consistent practices across departments and projects. If you're unsure about purchasing procedures or just need a refresher, this is the perfect place to start.

Please bookmark the link and share it with your colleagues and project teams. For questions or suggestions, reach out to the SPF Procurement team: Jorge Pelayo, jp670@humboldt.edu, or Troy Gingerich, tv1@humboldt.edu.

Meet the Newest Additions to Our Team!

Our team is growing to help serve you better! We're excited to announce the addition of several new team members across different branches of our office!

The Accounts Payable (AP) team has welcomed two new Purchasing Coordinators and two AP Technicians, now overseen by Peter Zerkel, who recently transitioned into the role of AP Technician Lead. Research Development is pleased to be joined by a new Support Coordinator, and our Human

Resources team has expanded as well with the addition of a Payroll/Benefits Specialist, and an HR Generalist.

To learn more about our new staff and what they do, check out their blurbs! We're thrilled to have each of them on board and look forward to the expertise and support they'll bring to our office.



Jen Andersen,

Payroll/Benefits Specialist

Contact for: Questions about health and retirement benefits

Fun Fact: Jen can do a great impression of The Cowardly Lion's cry.



Jorge Pelayo

Purchasing Coordinator

Contact for: Questions about CSUBUY or P2P payments

Fun Fact: Jorge is a sneakerhead! He owns a combined total of 20 Jordans and Nikes. Eight of those pairs never leave their box.



Samuel Thorn

Accounts Payable Technician

Contact for: Questions regarding ProCards, travel reimbursements or advances

Fun Fact: Before he became an accountant, Samuel was a chef at high-end hotels in Los Angeles.



Troy Gingerich

Purchasing Coordinator

Contact for: P2P payment questions and registrations

Fun Fact: When Troy was a Humboldt State University student in the 80s, he played trumpet in the HSU Jazz Band.



Samantha Stocks

Accounts Payable Technician

Contact for: Questions regarding ProCards, travel reimbursements or advances

Fun Fact: Samantha enjoys making costumes - she made the cactus costume pictured!



Kumi Nakadate

Research Development Support Coordinator

Contact for: Help finding funding, Pivot trainings

Fun Fact: Kumi was a mezzo soprano in her childhood choir.

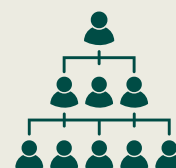


Easton Connell

Human Resources Generalist

Contact for: Employment verifications, leaves, workers compensation

Fun Fact: Easton once ran a local radio show featuring a rotating cast doing blind read-throughs of vintage drama scripts.



To access our updated org chart, please visit our [About Us](#) page!



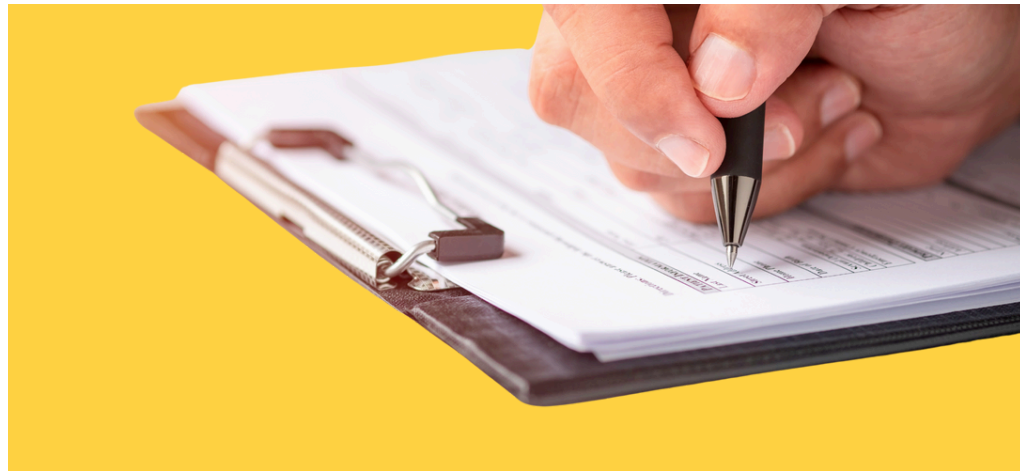
Stay up-to-date on opportunities for funding via Engagement Hub!

We regularly post opportunities for research funding & awards through our [Engagement Hub](#) portal - make sure you're visiting often to stay in the loop!



For quick info about hiring requirements, check out the Hire an Employee page on our [website](#).

For Frequently Asked Questions about Enrollment, check out our [Hiring FAQ page](#).



New Candidate Info Form for Volunteers and Brand New Hires

If you've ever hired a new employee, you might recall forwarding a link to your candidate (prospective employee) to initiate their campus affiliation. This process involved collecting personal information and selecting the job title "Job 99-999 Sponsored Programs Foundation." Previously, SPF relied on campus systems to gather this information and to create a username and campus ID for the individual.

Now, SPF has introduced a dedicated Candidate Information Form, which streamlines the process and clearly separates SPF candidates from those affiliated with the university.

This form is intended exclusively for volunteers, new employees, and returning staff who will be working on SPF grants. If you're unsure whether this applies to your new hire, please reach out to HR Coordinator Lizzy Peterson at lp216@humboldt.edu, or HR Generalist Easton Connell at eac52@humboldt.edu for guidance.

SPF's New Health Benefits Portal is Now Live!

In May 2025, SPF launched its annual Open Enrollment period, allowing benefit-eligible employees to submit their health benefit elections for the upcoming plan year beginning July 1, 2025. At the same time, we transitioned from our previous benefits platform, Ease, to a new system called Employee Navigator (EN).

Eligible employees received automated emails from EN with instructions to create their accounts. The majority successfully completed their first open enrollment using the new system. Employee Navigator is now the central platform where benefit-eligible employees can view and manage their benefit elections and related information.

If you have any questions, please contact Estela Pasquini (formerly Castellanos) at 707-822-7251 or estela@pauli-shaw.com.

SPF Staff Member Honored With National Research Administration Excellence Award!

We're proud to share that SPF Specialized Funding Analyst Mailani Souza received a National Council of University Research Administrators Emerging Excellence Award! This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding contributions by early-career research administrators.

Since joining SPF in 2022, Mailani has quickly distinguished herself through her thoughtful leadership, sharp analytical skills, and problem-solving ability. Mailani's technical expertise as a "forensic accountant" is remarkably advanced for someone with just a few years in the field, with skill in untangling and managing even our most complex awards that has far surpassed typical expectations for her level of experience.

Mailani is also known for her exceptional ability to foster effective collaboration with both Principal Investigators and our Post-Award Team. These qualities have been particularly impactful in ensuring accurate budgeting, timely invoicing, and ensured financial integrity.

In addition to these strengths, Mailani is an excellent mentor. She has a natural talent in tracking down and



SPF Funding Analyst, Mailani Souza. Courtesy campus photographer, Kellie Jo Brown.

resolving financial discrepancies, and is able to train and coach her teammates to do the same. Her ability to teach and mentor in this critical area has greatly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the Post-Award team, helping shape an audit-ready culture.

Congratulations, Mailani, on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for your amazing work and continued dedication!

Congratulations to Humboldt's CSU Student Research Competition Awardees!

This past April, Cal Poly Humboldt proudly hosted the 39th annual CSU Student Research Competition! More than 200 undergraduate and graduate students from all 23 CSU campuses came together to share their original research and creative projects.

The competition is a showcase of the scholarly and artistic achievements of CSU students. Participants present their work before a panel of judges, gaining valuable professional experience while competing for top honors in their fields. Humboldt students earned several awards across a range of disciplines, a testament to their dedication and hard work. Please join us in applauding their accomplishments!

Watch for the upcoming competition, and encourage promising students to apply!

2nd Place, Behavioral, Social Sciences, and Public Administration

Harmony Switzer-Tryon, Psychology: Emotional Intelligence Scores of Adult Children of Narcissistic Mothers

2nd Place, Interdisciplinary

David Schmitz, '24, Chemistry: Preparation and Evaluation of Polylactic Acid-Quinoa Composites

Honorable Mention, Behavioral, Social Sciences and Public Administration

Garrett Kitchen, Sociology: First Responders: Strain, Coping, and Camaraderie in Municipal Firefighting

Featured Funding Opportunities

Russel Sage Foundation | Behavioral Science and Decision Making in Context

Supports research on the causes and consequences of social, political, and economic inequalities in the U.S, and the extent to which those inequalities affect social, political, psychological, and economic outcomes. Recent awards have ranged from \$26k- \$180k.

[Letter of Intent Deadline: Oct 27, 2025.](#)

Charles Koch Foundation | Future of Work Grant

Supports social entrepreneurs working to transform key institutions, particularly in business and postsecondary education, to promote work that fosters mutual benefit and a sense of purpose. It invests in initiatives that create new educational and training pathways, helping individuals find meaning in their work. The program also backs networks developing scalable, career-connected learning opportunities, as well as tools that support talent strategies centered on aptitudes, mindsets, and skills. No funding cap specified. Recent awards have averaged around \$500k.

[Proposals accepted on rolling basis.](#)

Open Philanthropy | Scientific Research Program

Primarily supports biomedical research, but the funder's interests are not limited to any particular field, disease, condition, or population. Seeks to identify scientific research that has the potential for high impact and is under-supported by other funders. Broadly interested in research that may lead to improved understanding of topics related to human health, and that could affect a large number of people. Recent awards have ranged from \$30K to \$5.9mil.

[Pre-proposals accepted on rolling basis.](#)

American Council of Learned Societies | Digital Justice Seed Grants

Supports digital humanities and social science projects that ethically use digital tools to engage with the histories and interests of people of color and other marginalized communities. Aims to reduce inequities in access to digital resources, especially for scholars using underutilized sources or working at less resourced institutions. Awards \$10k-\$25k.

[Deadline: November 20, 2025](#)

Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation | Humanities

Supports institutional humanities projects at universities and other cultural organizations in areas like history, literature, philosophy, languages, ethics, arts theory, comparative religion, archaeology, and humanities-adjacent social sciences. Grants generally fund single-year projects (not multi-year) of up to around \$25,000.

[Letters of Intent accepted on rolling basis.](#)

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation | Public Understanding of Science & Technology

The purpose of this program is to give people a keener appreciation for the increasingly scientific and technological world in which we live by building bridges between the two cultures of science and the humanities. Project types that are currently open and accepting letters of intent include Books, Radio, New Media, Youtube & TikTok, and Television. These areas support work that makes science and technology accessible to general audiences. Recent awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$1.1mil.

[Letters of Intent accepted on rolling basis.](#)



**The Office of Research wants to welcome back all of our amazing
PIs and friends of research!**

1 Harpst Street, SBS 427

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<https://research.humboldt.edu/>



**CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
SPONSORED PROGRAMS FOUNDATION**

