Faculty Funding Opportunities

Grant Development Program: Seed grants up to $25,000 to stimulate CSU faculty members and research associates to develop and submit full proposals to external funding agencies and organizations for ocean and coastal research and educational projects with the ultimate goals of increasing 1) the total amount of extramural funding for ocean and coastal related research and education and 2) the number of externally-funded ocean and coastal related PIs throughout the CSU. The 2024 RFP is posted, and proposals are due in September 2023. We have budgeted $200,000 and will make up to eight awards.

Rapid Response Funding: Awards up to $7,500 for projects that require a quick response outside of the existing annual COAST funding programs. Funds must be used to support activities associated with unexpected or sudden events. Examples of potential projects include oil spills, mass stranding events, pathogen outbreaks, natural disasters, unanticipated policy/management decisions, and sudden discoveries. The RFP for 2023-24 is posted, and proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. We have budgeted $60,000 and will make up to eight awards; we anticipate that at least half of them will fund El Niño-related projects.

Seminar Speaker Series: $1,000-1,500 awards to departments to host seminar speakers from other CSU campuses. This program is intended to increase the exchange of ideas among campuses and ultimately lead to increased collaboration across campuses. The RFA for 2023-24 is posted and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. We have budgeted for 10 awards.

Short Course, Workshop and Symposium Funding: Awards up to $10,000 to stimulate the development and hosting of short courses, workshops or symposia on any topic that falls within or is related to the scope of COAST. Proposed activities should promote inquiry, learning, and analysis with the intent to increase the skills, knowledge base and expertise of CSU faculty members. Benefits to CSU students and the larger scientific community with the ultimate goal of advancing scientific knowledge and broad understanding are also encouraged. The RFP for 2023-24 is posted, and proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. We have budgeted $20,000 and will make up to two awards.

State Science Information Needs Program: Funded with one-time state appropriations from 2019 and 2022, SSINP focuses directly and exclusively on supporting the state of California’s highest priority ocean and coastal related needs for scientific information. The goal of the program is to provide the science needed for informed policy development and evidence-based decision making in a timely and actionable manner. To date awards have ranged from $200K-500K. We anticipate releasing two more $1M-RFPs in the next 18 months.

Match for CA Sea Grant Opportunities: In 2023, COAST provided the required non-federal match for three projects awarded through the CA Sea Grant (CASG) Pathways to Inclusive Research Training program. Each project is receiving $18,750 from COAST and $75,000 from CASG (1:4). Similarly, COAST provided match for five New Faculty Awards in 2021. Each project received ~$30,000 from COAST and ~$60,000 from CASG (1:2).
Student Support

Dr. Kenneth H. Coale Graduate Scholar Awards: $4,000 awards to graduate students working on ocean and coastal related research projects. Awards can be used for living expenses, research-related expenses or both. The next call for applications will be released in September 2023.

Field Experiences Support Program: Awards up to $2,000 to increase participation in ocean and coastal field experiences by economically-challenged students. Students can request funding to allow them to

- Purchase personal gear needed to engage in field work.
- Travel to take a field course or conduct course-based field work.
- Pay fees and other costs for field courses (broadly defined).

Funds must be used to allow students to do something they wouldn't be able to do otherwise or wouldn't be able to do without creating significant financial hardship. Priority is given to students who have little or no field experience. *Applications for 2023-24 are currently being accepted on a rolling basis; $50,000 is available.*

Summer Internships: PAID summer internships with state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations and industry. Interns work side-by-side with professionals on current projects throughout California. They gain valuable experience and learn technical skills while working with professional marine scientists, field biologists, and policy experts. Opportunities for Summer 2024 will be announced in January 2024.

Travel Awards: Awards up to $1,000 for travel within the continental US and up to $1,500 for travel outside the continental U.S. to continuing CSU undergraduate and graduate students to attend and present the results of original ocean and coastal research at scientific conferences with the ultimate goals of 1) enhancing student experiences, 2) engaging the broader scientific community, and 3) highlighting the value of CSU research at state, national, and international levels. *Applications for 2023-24 are currently being accepted on a rolling basis; $40,000 is available.*

Undergraduate Student Research Support Program: This program provides funding to each campus annually to support undergraduate student participation in faculty-mentored ocean and coastal research. The goal of this program is to engage students interested in pursuing marine-related careers and provide them with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to join a highly skilled, technologically advanced workforce while promoting and supporting CSU faculty research. Campus Representatives are responsible for implementing this program on their campus. Funding for 2023-24 will be sent to the campuses in August 2023.

Match for CASG Opportunities: In 2022, COAST provided $25,000 in match for two Graduate Research Fellowships. CASG provided $140,000 in funding (1:5.6). COAST offered funding again for 2024 but no CSU students are submitting full proposals.