

**California Space Grant Consortium  
STEM Pipeline Program  
Announcement Date: December 13, 2023  
Proposal Due Date: February 16, 2024  
Performance Period: March 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024**

The California Space Grant Consortium (CaSGC) will provide “seed” support for the spring and summer semester of 2024 to CaSGC affiliate institutions (non-UC campuses) for a number of innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Pipeline projects relating to “Human Capital” pipeline issues within NASA and the nation. CaSGC is especially interested in projects that include an actionable plan to serve underrepresented, low-income, rural, first-generation, and/or female students.

STEM Pipeline and Informal Education projects can focus on activities such as competitions, camps, mentoring, outreach, or other projects that happen either in or out of school, as long as the proposed project aligns with the intent of the grant and benefits multiple students and/or educators. CaSGC is particularly interested in projects contributing to NASA's missions and/or utilizing NASA content and resources. All proposals must align with NASA’s activities, interests, or programs. Some websites for general NASA opportunities and resources can be found at the following links:

- NASA STEM Engagement - <https://www.nasa.gov/stem/>
- NASA Science resources: <https://science.nasa.gov/learners/wavelength>.

**Program Goal:** To contribute positively to the STEM Pipeline through inspiring, engaging, educating, and training students in the STEM fields, preparing pre-service teachers to become effective STEM educators using NASA content & resources, and sharing NASA content & resources with in-service teachers for inclusion in their classrooms.

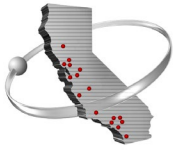
**Program Overview:** Projects will be funded up to \$15,000. Proposals that include an “actively engaged” community college partner will be funded up to \$20,000. An actively engaged community college has faculty and students contributing to the university project and visiting the university campus. Our Funding is available for up to four awards. This opportunity is open to the 17 (non-UC) affiliates only. All funds must be spent by 9/30/2024. As with all Space Grant Funds, no indirect costs are allowed, and funds may only support students/faculty/staff that are U.S. citizens.

**Program Objectives:** To creatively leverage limited Space Grant funds by “seeding” projects that:

- Innovatively address a critical STEM pipeline need in California;
- Promote interdisciplinary (science and engineering) teaming;
- Seek partnerships across the pipeline (Informal Education & Public Outreach, Precollege, and Higher Education) with special attention to the inclusion of community colleges, particularly Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs);
- Incorporate novel approaches to encourage the participation of science and engineering students from underrepresented ethnic<sup>1</sup> or gender groups. Diversity efforts can include reaching out to

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<sup>1</sup> Underrepresented minorities in STEM include Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Pacific Islander students.



student and STEM diversity organizations on your campuses to recruit underrepresented students.

Those organizations include, but are not limited to:

- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
  - National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
  - Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
  - Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
  - Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (oSTEM)
  - American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)
  - Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA)
  - California Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CAMP);
- Obtain matching resources from industry, state agencies, educational institutions, and community organizations;
  - Provide a means for efficient and effective dissemination of results (through websites, social media, newsletters, journal articles, and presentations, for example); and
  - Take responsibility for documenting the quantitative outcomes & impacts of your project and providing timely responses to CaSGC performance data requests for our annual NASA report.

### **STEM Pipeline Project Examples:**

The CaSGC STEM Pipeline Program is different from the CaSGC Workforce Development Program in that the STEM Pipeline Program includes Informal Education & Public Outreach, Precollege, and Higher Education program elements whereas the Workforce Development Program is directed only at Higher Education. Examples of STEM Pipeline Projects include:

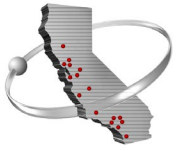
- Partnerships with informal education<sup>2</sup> organizations (e.g. science centers and museums) to:
  - Engage and educate students, educators, and the public on aerospace-specific STEM content areas. Includes providing your own aerospace-related content expertise as well as drawing from NASA lesson plans and classroom activities<sup>3</sup>.
  - Provide STEM experiential learning opportunities using an inquiry-based/project-based learning approach.
- Partnerships with organizations on your campuses that focus on encouraging underrepresented precollege students (minorities & women) to select STEM careers.
- Partnerships with Colleges of Education to support new and/or revised STEM courses targeted to College of Education students (i.e., STEM courses for non-STEM majors) and involvement of STEM subject-matter experts with College of Education workshops.
- Professional Development opportunities targeted at middle-school in-service educators.

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<sup>2</sup> For Informal Education / Public Outreach, the metrics used to determine the success of your project include:

- a. Number of visits to any websites set up for your project,
- b. Numbers of General Public and student participants,
- c. Production of articles and features in the media (state your project is sponsored by California Space Grant),
- d. Attendance at any community projects, and e. Participant testimonials regarding your program.

<sup>3</sup> For an example of NASA lesson plans and classroom activities, please visit:  
[http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/Alpha\\_index.html#.VBspllfYg8](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/Alpha_index.html#.VBspllfYg8)



- Precollege and Higher Education STEM Challenges—creative applications of NASA-related STEM that encourage learners to demonstrate knowledge of STEM while enhancing innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- Higher Education curriculum development and dissemination with increased participation of community colleges.

### **Project Reporting:**

Principal Investigators for awarded proposals will be expected to:

- Have each student involved in the project fill out the CaSGC awardee form at: **[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024STEMPipeline\\_Workforce\\_Awardee](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024STEMPipeline_Workforce_Awardee)**  
We recommend making this a condition before providing funding to the students. The CaSGC office will work with you to inform you which students from your campus have filled out the form.
- Fill out the relevant project report form as needed for NASA. CaSGC will send online links to report forms directly. We expect to request this data in late Summer 2024.
- Send a financial report at the end of the project showing all expenses made against the award; total expenses should equal the award amount. Can be in the form of a spreadsheet or pdf.

### **Proposal Submission:**

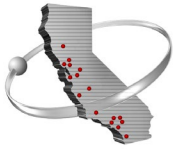
- This opportunity does not require official submission through a university contracts & grants office. The CaSGC STEM Pipeline Program will be handled entirely within the CaSGC organizational structure. However, if your university requires submission through a contracts & grants office or similar entity, please adhere to those requirements.
- This CaSGC STEM Pipeline Program is open to any faculty at current California Space Grant affiliate institutions (non-UC); We encourage junior faculty to apply.

### **Funding Requirements:**

- As with all Space Grant Funds, no indirect costs are allowed, and funds may only support students/faculty/staff that are U.S. citizens.
- Student awards from this grant may be no more than \$3,000 per student.
- A detailed budget justification must be included in your proposal to receive funding under this program.
- No equipment, food, or clothing may be purchased with Space Grant funds under this solicitation.
- Supplies up to \$4000 can be purchased.
- Funds for this opportunity must be spent by 9/30/2024.

### **Proposal Elements:**

- 1) Cover Page: Include proposal title, principal investigator name and contact information (one page).
- 2) Proposal Main Body (3 pages or less)—Includes:
  - a) Abstract (as submitted online)
  - b) Background



- c) Proposal goals and any milestones
- d) Implementation plan, including interdisciplinary teaming
- e) Plans to encourage diversity & inclusion
- f) Description of matching resources
- g) Evaluation plan
- h) Plans for dissemination of results & documenting quantitative outcomes.

This section must be brief, three pages or less. Projects seeded by these CaSGC funds must meet the rigorous standards of evaluation and reporting associated with the National Space Grant program.

- 3) Detailed Budget Breakdown & Justification: Space Grant funds may only account for a part of the total budget of the project. Total budget may include a portion of PI's salary to show matching funds applied to the project. Projects will be funded up to \$15,000. Proposals that include an actively engaged community college partner will be funded up to \$20,000. Budget must delineate funds requested from CaSGC and any funds that will be applied as matching. There should be a clear correlation with the Proposal Main Body. This section is one page.
- 4) If applicable, a summary of the outcomes of your past California Space Grant STEM Pipeline projects. Please include number of students involved, diversity statistics, partners, publications, outreach, and use of a multiplier approach (if applicable) where funded students reach out to a larger number of unfunded students. This section is one page.

**Proposal Evaluation Criteria:**

- Originality
- Project Outcomes, Documentation, and Dissemination of Results
- Interdisciplinary Teaming
- Diversity (Individuals or Organizations)
- Matching Resources
- Budget Justification
- Past Project Performance, where appropriate (as described in element number 4 above)

**Proposal Submission (on or before February 16, 2024):**

- 1) Email your proposal in pdf format to

John Kosmatka, PhD, Director, CaSGC  
jkosmatka@ucsd.edu

Amy Arkwright, Program Manager, CaSGC  
aarkwright@ucsd.edu

Note: Each faculty member is limited to one proposal submission, either STEM Pipeline or Workforce Development. **If you have already been awarded recent Space Grant funding, we highly encourage you to share this opportunity with other relevant faculty at your institution.**