

2024 PIT-UN INTERNAL COMPETITION

Request for Proposals



CAL POLY

BACKGROUND

PIT and PIT-UN

Public Interest Technology (PIT) refers to the study and application of technology expertise to advance the public interest in a way that generates public benefits and promotes the public good, particularly for those members of our society least well served historically and today by existing systems and policies.

The [Public Interest Technology University Network](#) (PIT-UN) is a partnership of colleges and universities committed to educating students who can better apply technical understanding and practice to questions of individual rights, justice, social welfare, and the public good, particularly for those members of our society least well served historically and today by existing systems and policies.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

PIT-UN Network Challenge

The Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) Challenge seeks to encourage new ideas, foster collaborations, and incentivize resource- and information-sharing among a national network of universities working to create a robust Public Interest Technology field.

Previous grantees and projects can be viewed here: <https://pitcases.org/challenge/>

This is a *limited submission*, so there will be an internal competition to determine which submissions will be made on behalf of Cal Poly.



CORE OUTCOMES

PIT-UN Network Challenge

The PIT-UN Challenge will prioritize projects that center the needs of communities that have historically been denied access to new technologies, systematically left out of conversations at the intersection of technology and policy, and denied opportunities to join the technology workforce. PIT-UN will prioritize these projects in an effort to further the positive social impact of technology for all communities. Projects may demonstrate centering community needs by creating a space for communities to play a role in shaping these technologies' development.



2024 PRIORITY AREAS

Projects may include:

- Multi-institutional research projects focused on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, or data science.
- Public interest technology certifications, noncredit professional development opportunities, and degree completion projects for all levels of students.
 - New models of career training, placement, and/or financial support to develop the public interest technology workforce.
 - Partnerships with nonprofit, private sector, or affinity groups to educate current working professionals in public interest technology.
- Experiential learning opportunities that give students real-world exposure to the practice of public interest technology for undergraduate students.
 - Experiential opportunities, including clinics, labs, internships, or apprenticeships at the undergraduate level.
 - Fellowships with an expressed goal of inter-institutional research or dissemination.
- Toolkits and guides that include granular instructions to replicate initiatives yet are not case studies in implementations.
 - Guides should focus on tenure, internships, and hackathons.

1

Educational Offerings

that foster cross-disciplinary perspectives and credentialing

2

Career Placement/Pipeline

efforts to develop a public interest technology workforce in government, industry, and social impact organizations



ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals who serve as Principal Investigators (PI) shall be full-time faculty, MPP (management personnel plan), or staff employees at Cal Poly or Cal Poly Partners.
- A person may be listed as the PI on only one Challenge application, but individuals may be listed as collaborators on multiple applications.
- New Projects: projects that have not received prior funding from the PIT-UN Challenge
- Existing Projects: Projects that have received prior funding from the PIT-UN Challenge in 2019, 2020, 2021, or 2022, but have not received three years of Network Challenge funding can apply for additional funding to expand and/or scale their project (“previously funded projects”).

PROJECT TYPES

- We are inviting pre-proposals in two funding levels (level 1: up to \$90,000 and level 2: up to \$145,000) Budgets should be inclusive of an indirect rate, set at 20% of total direct costs.
- New projects: 1 will go forward at the \$145k level and 2 will go forward at the \$90k level
- Projects at the \$145k level must include at least 50% in-kind contribution funding
- Existing projects: Any number of these can be submitted at either funding level. Because there is no limitation, there is not an internal competition for these proposals. Please submit [a PIF](#) for these projects only.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Budgets will not be due as part of this internal competition/pre-proposal, but we will want to know what funding level you are seeking (\$90k or \$145k).
- All budgets should be inclusive of an indirect rate of 20% of total direct costs
- Salary, subgrants, travel, professional/consultant services, and community support will be allowable

PRE-PROPOSAL/INTEREST FORM

2024 Public Interest Technology Network Challenge Pre-Proposal Internal Expression of Interest

What is Public Interest Technology?

Public Interest Technology (PIT) refers to the study and application of technology expertise to advance the public interest in a way that generates public benefits and promotes the public good, particularly for those members of our society least well served historically and today by existing systems and policies.

More information about PIT and the Network Challenge grant program can be found in the RFP [here](#). Previously funded projects from all universities in the PIT Network can be found [here](#).

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Project Title:

PI (name, title, department):

Co-PI(s) (name, title, department):

Funding Level: Up to \$90,000 Up to \$145,000

If asked by the committee, could your project be potentially re-scoped to a lower funding level?

Priority Area: Educational Offerings Career Pipeline

Please provide a description of your project in no more than two pages (single-spaced). Your two pages should include the following sections:

Project Plan – Provide a brief overview of your project's objectives, method and process to meet those objectives; evaluation plan with measurable outcomes and/or indicators of success.

Impact – Please describe the rationale for the project and explain how the project appears likely to meaningfully advance the field of Public Interest Technology and further the goals stated in this RFP.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion – Answer the following questions: (1) In what ways will your project's objectives and method address major barriers to equity and access related to Public Interest Technology? (2) What record do you or your team have of serving ethnically, racially, socioeconomically diverse and underrepresented populations?

Partnership – List partnerships you have formally engaged or plan to formally engage to undertake this project and describe their anticipated role. Engagement with partners is not necessary at this stage, but partner engagement will be necessary by the full proposal deadline of May 17, 2024. For each partnership or planned partnership, describe how you have cultivated/will cultivate a meaningful and



THIS IS DUE ON MONDAY, APRIL 15 AT 8:00 AM

Email sfabro@calpoly.edu



**ACCESS THE FORM (MUST BE SIGNED IN
TO YOUR CAL POLY ACCOUNT)**

[Pre-Proposal Form](#)



REVIEW CRITERIA

- Partnerships (up to 20 points)
- Project Plan (up to 10 points)
- Impact (up to 25 points)
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (up to 35 points)
- Budget and Institutional Support (up to 10 points)
- [View rubric here](#) (must be signed in to your Cal Poly account)

KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

- **Pre-proposal due on Monday, April 15 by 8:00 AM to Stephanie Fabro at sfabro@calpoly.edu**
- By April 24: Finalists notified
- May 8: Routing deadline (scope of work, budget, and budget justification due)
- May 15: Full proposal due
- May 17: National deadline
- September: National decisions announced
- October 1: National grant term starts

Documents:

- [Pre-proposal form](#)
- [Evaluation Rubric](#)
- [National RFP](#)

KEY RESOURCES

- Wednesday, April 3 at 10 AM: PIT-UN “Ask an Expert” [webinar](#)
- Tuesday, April 9, 11:30 AM: Campus [Zoom Info Session](#) hosted by Matthew Harsh (PIT-UN campus designee) & Elise St. John (2022 grantee)

More information:

- [FAQ and additional resources](#)
- [Previous grantees and projects](#)

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Stephanie Fabro at sfabro@calpoly.edu

To schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/sfabro/30min>