



NASA Kansas Space Grant Consortium

Call for Proposals

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Enhancement



Proposals Due: August 23, 2024

Background

The NASA Kansas Space Grant Consortium (KSGC) is funding a program aimed at the development of new and innovative ideas to notably enhance our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Improving the way the consortium finds, engages, and supports underrepresented minorities and women is the priority.

In summary, this call offers funding to affiliates to develop and implement special DEI-focused projects. Selected projects will improve overall consortium DEI metrics and, just as important, identify ways for all other affiliates to significantly improve their DEI.

There is \$50,000 of NASA funding available to support one or more affiliate projects. The majority of activity should be planned to take place between September 2024 and June 2025. Proposal requirements follow:

- Efforts should be aligned with NASA and Mission Directorate priorities.
- At least 20% of the NASA funds must be expended on student internships, fellowships, or scholarships. Student participants receiving direct support must be U.S. citizens
- Projects should target at least 19% underrepresented and 55% female participation.
- A 35% cost-share rate on NASA funds must be shown in the budget.

Cost-share funds can be real-dollar, in-kind, or waived/reduced indirect costs provided by the institution, industry, or private sponsors. The use of federal dollars to meet cost-share requirements is not allowed.

Submitted project proposals will be competitively evaluated based on the following:

- Project's uniqueness, sustainability, scalability, and portability
- The proposal's value and return on investment
- Immediate and likely long-term impact on DEI metrics
- Potential impact on Kansas interests (e.g., economic, keeping STEM graduates in Kansas, etc.)
- Milestones and SMART goals that demonstrate project achievements
- The budget's clarity and appropriateness

Proposals that simply augment existing Space Grant or other standing activities will likely not be competitive. New and innovative approaches that notably improve statewide DEI are needed.

Activities, that align with NASA and mission directorate interests, could include:

- Initiating innovative new pilot or prototype STEM-focused projects that enhance DEI
- Partnerships with community colleges or Kansas industry
- Establishing new university STEM pipeline programs with underrepresented high-schools
- Independent reviews of an existing affiliate or consortium programs for bias or obstacles to improving DEI
- New ways to find, inspire and involve URM/women in NASA programs
- New incentive programs to boost the DEI of existing consortium and NASA projects

- Partnering with other organizations pursuing STEM-focused DEI improvements and infrastructure
- Assisting faculty, including underrepresented and female faculty, who will have relevant and significant DEI roles
- Curriculum, course, or student-centered projects to enhance DEI

The submitted proposal must:

- Be less than 10-pages in total length
- Use 12-pt Times New Roman font & 1-inch margins
- Describe plans to complete all reporting and longitudinal tracking requirements, including the collection of participant data (e.g., full name, gender, ethnicity, address, the field of study, etc.) and compliance with Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data management expectations
- Include the impact on women and underrepresented minorities
- Outline specific metrics that demonstrate achievements (e.g., project S.M.A.R.T. goals, measurable outcomes, and milestones)
- Include a clear and appropriate budget and narrative
- Include a signature from an appropriate submitting official certifying the proposed commitment to cost-share

Feel free to contact your Affiliate Representative or the KSGC Director, Linda Kliment (Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu), with any questions. Consult NASA's Learning Resources website, for additional helpful information (<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources>).

Submissions & Awards

Submit proposals to NASA in Kansas (nasainkansas@wichita.edu) and Linda Kliment (Linda.Kliment@wichita.edu), as a single PDF document of less than 1 MB size, via email any time before the deadline. Proposals will be reviewed and awards announced as quickly as possible, conditional on funding availability.

Appendix - Additional Helpful Information

NASA Mission Directorates

Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate

Results achieved by NASA's aeronautical innovators through the years directly benefit today's air transportation system, the aviation industry, and the passengers and businesses who rely on those advances in flight every day. As a result, every U.S. commercial aircraft and U.S. air traffic control tower uses NASA-developed technology to improve efficiency and maintain safety.

<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/armd/>

Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

The Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate manages human exploration system development for lunar orbital, lunar surface, and Mars exploration. Artemis missions will open a new era of scientific discovery and economic opportunity on the Moon while validating operations and systems and preparing for human missions to Mars. Programs in the directorate include the Space Launch System rocket, Orion spacecraft, supporting ground systems, human landing systems, spacesuits, and Gateway.

<https://www.nasa.gov/exploration-systems-development-mission-directorate/>

Science Mission Directorate

The Science Mission Directorate is an organization where discoveries in one scientific discipline have a direct route to other areas of study. This flow is something extremely valuable and is rare in the scientific world. From exoplanet research to better understanding Earth's climate to understanding the influence of the sun on our planet and the solar system, the directorate's work is interdisciplinary and collaborative.

<https://science.nasa.gov/>

Space Operations Mission Directorate

The Space Operations Mission Directorate maintains a continuous human presence in space for the benefit of people on Earth. The programs within the directorate are the heart of NASA's space exploration efforts, enabling Artemis, commercial space, science, and other agency missions through communication, launch services, research capabilities, and crew support.

<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations/>

Space Technology Mission Directorate

Technology drives exploration and the space economy. NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate aims to transform future missions while ensuring American leadership in aerospace. The directorate develops, demonstrates, and transfers new space technologies that benefit NASA, commercial, and other government missions.

<https://www.nasa.gov/space-technology-mission-directorate/>

S.M.A.R.T. Goals

S.M.A.R.T goals are:

S = Specific

M = Measurable

A = Appropriate and attainable

R = Realistic and results focused

T = Timely and trackable

Specific: Be precise about what you are going to achieve.

- Specify target
- Specify intended outcome
- One outcome per objective
- Avoid vague verbs (e.g. know, understand)
- Make sure the objective is linked to the goal

Measurable: Set criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set.

- Use measures as indicators of program success
- If possible, establish a baseline

Appropriate: Align with the needs of the target audience.

- Meeting the objective will advance the goal
- Identify a specific target audience
- Are inclusive of diversity within your group

Realistic: Do you have the resources to make this objective happen?

- Are important to stakeholders
- Are adequately resourced
- Can be achieved (e.g. The baseline the previous year was 2%. Is a 1% increase in one year realistic?)

Timely: A goal should be carried out within a specific time frame.

- Provide timeframe indicating when objective will be met

Here is an example of a few S.M.A.R.T. goals:

- By January 2023, at least 25 middle-school STEM teachers will have participated in the program
- At least 50% and 19%, respectively, of the participants will be women and underrepresented
- Follow-up surveys, 3-months after the workshop, will verify that at least 90% of the participants are using NASA and workshop material and experiences regularly in the classroom.