



Cal Poly Humboldt Office of Research & Sponsored Programs



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2025 Student Research Competition trophies made by Humboldt Engineering students.

Don't Miss Out: The CSU Student Research Competition is Almost Here!

This is your reminder to attend the 39th Annual CSU Student Research Competition, held at Cal Poly Humboldt for the first time ever from April 25-26!

Over 200 student scholars from 23 CSU campuses will showcase innovative research, scholarship, and creative works across 10 categories—from Behavioral and Social Sciences to Engineering, Creative Arts, and more. Participants will present their research to an audience and juries of experts and non-experts, engaging in a lively exchange of ideas through presentations and Q&A sessions.

We're especially proud that the trophies for this year's winners were designed and fabricated by Cal Poly Humboldt Makerspace students, under the direction and mentorship of Engineering Professor Lonny Grafman, and the event logo was designed by Cal Poly Humboldt student Mariah Kirkpatrick.

We invite the community to join in celebrating the achievements of these exceptional students. For more details, including the event schedule, visit our [Student Research Competition website](#)!



Logo designed by Humboldt student Mariah Kirkpatrick.

Executive Director Corner

Navigating Change in Research Administration

So far, 2025 has been a whirlwind for those of us navigating the ever-evolving world of research administration. From shifting funding landscapes to new federal policies and unexpected challenges, this spring semester has tested our adaptability. Yet, through it all, one thing remains constant – our shared dedication to advancing research and creative projects at Cal Poly Humboldt.

As researchers, *you* are the driving force behind innovation. Your work fuels groundbreaking discoveries, enriches student learning, and expands the frontiers of knowledge, benefiting not only our campus but the broader community. At Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation, we recognize the critical role you play in this effort.

Our team is here to support you – helping faculty and staff secure funding, navigate compliance requirements, and keep research projects on track, even in uncertain times. We are committed to providing the resources, guidance, and advocacy you need to succeed. No matter what changes lie ahead, know that you are not alone. Together, we will continue to navigate challenges, seize new opportunities, and foster a thriving research community at Humboldt. Your work matters, and we are proud to stand beside you every step of the way.

With appreciation,

Kacie Flynn
Associate Vice President for Research / Executive Director, SPF



*Sponsored Programs Foundation
Executive Director, Kacie Flynn.
Photographer: Kellie Jo Brown.*

Research and Creative Projects for Equity and Justice (RCPEJ) Awardees

This year's Research and Creative Projects for Equity and Justice (RCPEJ) competition awarded Cal Poly Humboldt Faculty a total of \$40,000 to support one-time mini grants.

RCPEJ is funded by SPF and the Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation, and supports research and scholarship that benefits historically marginalized communities served by the university, with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC).

Dr. Catalina Cuellar Gempeler, Biological Sciences
Project: Culturally relevant Indigenous Youth summer STEM Internship

Dr. Yvonne Doble, Social Work
Project: Justice-System Impacted Student-Led Research Project

Dr. Mitch Mitchell
Project: A Decade of El Centro





Photos from ideaFest 2024 courtesy of Cal Poly Humboldt Photographer Kellie Jo Brown.

Save the Date: ideaFest 2025!

Sponsored Programs Foundation, Marketing & Communications (Marcom), and the Cal Poly Humboldt Library invite you to participate in the 12th Annual ideaFest, where more than 400 students, staff, and faculty from Humboldt will showcase research, performances, digital projects, and more.

New or previously presented professional posters or multimedia presentations are welcome. This year's ideaFest will be held on **Friday, May 2nd**.

IdeaFest is a great opportunity for students to showcase their research projects and discuss them with the community! The deadline to register will be Sunday, April 20. Resources for preparing for

ideaFest and putting together presentations can be found at [this link](#).

For more information, visit the [ideaFest website](#) or get in touch with IdeaFest Coordinator Jessica Welch at jessica.welch@humboldt.edu

Students are also encouraged to publish their posters in [Humboldt Digital Commons](#) as well as a research paper in [ideaFest Journal](#), Humboldt's own peer-reviewed academic journal. The deadline to submit an article to the journal is two weeks after the end of the fall and spring semesters. For questions, contact The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt at press@humboldt.edu.

2025 McCrone Awardees Announced!

Three distinguished faculty members have been selected as recipients of the McCrone Promising Faculty Scholars Award! Join us in congratulating **Dr. Alana Chin** (Biological Sciences), **Dr. Caglar Dolek** (Sociology), and **Dr. Allison Bronson** (Biological Sciences)! In addition, **Yaneyry Delfin Martinez** (Sociology) is this year's Graduate Fellowship recipient.

The McCrone award recognizes Humboldt's junior faculty, acknowledges their potential in their field of research, and encourages their continued success. This year's recipients will be honored at a reception **4-6pm November 12, 2025, location TBD**.



Photo of 2024 McCrone recipient awards at last year's reception. Photo via Kellie Jo Brown.



2025 Student Research Competition trophy designed by Engineering students, featuring functional gears and a brain that lights up when gears are turned.

Best of luck to Humboldt students facing off in the 2025 CSU Student Research Competition!

Julian Jensen, Forestry

Advisor: Chris Lee

Prescribed Fire as a Potential Mitigation Strategy for Phytophthora ramorum and Field Accuracy Assessment of Identification

Cheyenne Ty, Abigail Penland, John Gerving, Martin Mendoza-Ceja, & Megan Pratt, Mathematics

Advisor: Kamila Larripa

Agent-based Modeling of Microglia Metabolic Pathways: Implications in Alzheimer's Disease

Will Streich, Economics

Advisor: Erick Eschker

Have Institutional Investors Entered the Humboldt County Housing Market?

Ben Hung & Zane Husome, Engineering

Advisor: Mayam Mousaviraad

Offshore Wind Secondary Entanglement

David Schmitz, Priscilla Gamez, & Rafael Bernard, Chemistry

Advisor: Frank Capuccio

Preparation and Evaluation of Polylactic Acid-Quinoa Composites

Rosa Cox,

Environmental Science & Management

Advisor: Alison O'Dowd

Aquatic Food Web Responses to the Largest Dam Removal in History: Implications for Salmonid Prey Availability in the Klamath River

Isabel Perez-Zoghbi, Chemistry

Advisor: Claire Till

Examining the Potential Interference of Scandium on Iron Uptake Mechanisms in Phytoplankton, through the lens of Nutrient Consumption

Harmony Switzer-Tryon, Psychology

Advisor: Gregg Gold

Emotional Intelligence Scores of Adult Children of Narcissistic Mothers

Garrett Kitchen, Sociology

Advisor: Jason Whitley

First Responders: Strain, Coping, and Camaraderie in Municipal Firefighting

Kamar Little, Film

Advisor: Paul Michael Atienza
California Winter

Navigating Federal Grants: Challenges & Strategies

At a recent town hall, Sponsored Programs Foundation provided an overview of the evolving landscape of federal grants, highlighting both challenges and strategies for researchers seeking funding.

Current Challenges in Federal Grant Funding

Federal funding for research faces growing uncertainty due to policy changes and shifting government priorities. The Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) reports that stop-work orders, slowed communication with federal program officers, and stricter limitations on no-cost extensions are becoming more common. Additionally, a cap on indirect cost (IDC) rates could impact graduate student recruitment and overall research sustainability.

Adding to these concerns, Executive Order 14222 mandates a review of existing grants and contracts, with potential terminations or modifications to reduce federal spending. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has also implemented a standardized 15% indirect cost rate, replacing negotiated rates, which could impact universities financially.

Strategies for Researchers

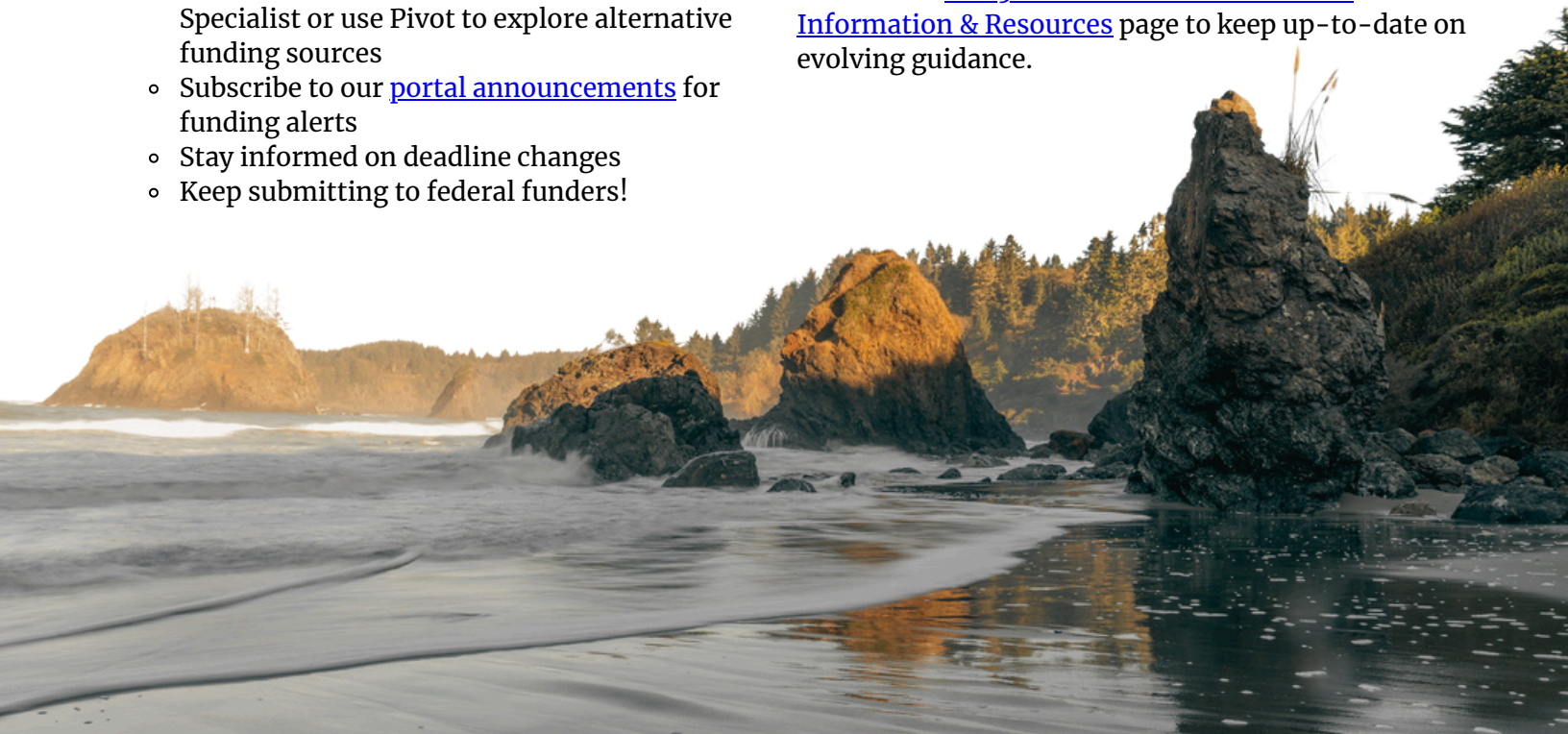
Despite these challenges, faculty and researchers are encouraged to remain proactive. Strategies include:

- Pre-Award Preparation:
 - Researchers should contact a Pre-Award Specialist or use Pivot to explore alternative funding sources
 - Subscribe to our [portal announcements](#) for funding alerts
 - Stay informed on deadline changes
 - Keep submitting to federal funders!

- Note that timelines may be delayed
- Sign up for federal agency alerts
- Active Grant Management:
 - Those with existing grants should continue their research unless a stop-work order is issued
 - Regular communication with program officers and careful financial oversight are crucial
 - Do not assume no-cost extensions will come through – plan accordingly
 - Be aware that notices of new, continuing, or supplemental funding may be delayed
 - Contact your Post-Award Grant Analyst to discuss any concerns or to relay any information from the agency
- Post-Award Considerations:
 - Delays in funding disbursement are likely, making careful budget management essential
 - Compliance with reporting requirements remains critical to avoiding disruptions. Submit formal objections to stop work orders

Moving Forward

The Sponsored Programs Foundation reassures faculty that while the situation remains fluid, they are committed to supporting researchers through these changes. Staying informed, maintaining patience, and adapting to new funding realities will be key to navigating the evolving grant landscape. We recommend following the [CSU Federal Updates](#) page and [COGR's 2025 Administration Transition Information & Resources](#) page to keep up-to-date on evolving guidance.



Four Faculty Receive Agricultural Research Institute Awards

The Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) made \$235,000 available to Cal Poly Humboldt faculty who submitted proposals which were selected through a competitive, peer-review process. Thank you to everyone who submitted and also to our reviewers!

ARI primarily focuses on finding immediate and practical solutions for high-priority challenges facing California agriculture and natural resources. ARI projects must have a strong link to agriculture, 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. Please let us know if we can help facilitate connections for projects that work directly to support our local farmers, foresters, and other local Agricultural industry partners.

Dr. Matt Johnson, Wildlife

Project: An investigation of Swainson's hawks as predators of rodent pests in California's Central Valley.

Dr. Kevin Fingerman, Environmental Science & Management

Project: Controlled burning of forest slash piles: tracking emissions and carbon flows

Dr. Kerry Byrne, Environmental Science & Management

Project: Impacts of restoration on beneficial and pest insect communities in a California coastal prairie

Dr. Justin Luong, Forestry, Fire, & Rangeland Management

Project: Assessing impacts of solar microgrids on rangeland forage, soils and plant biodiversity



Congratulations to Faculty Research Incentives Awardees!

The Faculty Research Incentives Program awarded Cal Poly Humboldt Faculty a total of \$22,392 in assigned time and \$16,000 in summer salary for a total Incentives Award of \$38,392 this academic year.

Recipients of awards are to use their assigned time/summer salary to develop full proposals to external funding agencies or organizations that will further Cal Poly Humboldt's strategic goals and objectives.

We look forward to working with them in the coming year! Please help us in congratulating the seven faculty awardees.

If you are interested in applying for an incentives award next year, please reach out to our Research Development Team for help finding an applicable grant for your research idea.

Dr. Jim Woglom
Art & Film

Dr. JuEun Lee
Engineering

Dr. Catalina Cuellar Gempeler
Biological Sciences

Dr. Qualla Ketchum
Engineering

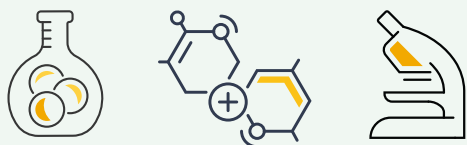
Dr. Kamila Larripa
Mathematics

Dr. Jianmin Zhong
Biological Sciences

Dr. Daniel Mar
Sociology



GOOD NEWS



Humboldt Achieves New Research Designation!

Cal Poly Humboldt has officially been recognized as a Research Colleges and Universities (RCU) institution by the prestigious Carnegie Classification, marking a significant milestone in the University's growing research and innovation efforts!

The Carnegie Classification is a widely used framework that categorizes colleges and universities based on their size, impact, and research activity. It helps policymakers, researchers, and institutions better understand and support research efforts across higher education. Humboldt joins 11 other CSU campuses in receiving the classification. Read more [here](#).

Humboldt NAS Faculty Receive Prestigious Leadership Award!

Drs. Cutcha Risling Baldy and Kaitlin Reed (Native American Studies) recently received the 2025 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award! The award recognizes their efforts to Indigenize Cal Poly Humboldt, and champion food sovereignty, land justice, and Indigenous science. Read more [details here](#)!

\$1B in Proposal Requests Marks SPF Milestone!

SPF recently hit the \$1B dollar mark in grant proposals submitted since 2012 (when we started tracking)! More quick facts on our success by the numbers can be found on [our website](#).

Schatz Energy Research Center Leads CSU List of Top Research Grants in 2024

The Schatz Energy Research Center recently received a \$23 million grant for its technical development role in the Tribal Energy Resilience and Sovereignty Project, making the number one spot on the CSU's Top 10 Research Grants in 2024! The project will provide reliable energy to, and address the frequent and prolonged power outages among, the Hoopa, Yurok, Karuk and Blue Lake Rancheria Tribes by setting up microgrids, control systems and a demonstration site. This work will reduce power outages by 90%, give the Tribes sovereignty and ownership over their own energy systems, offer career development opportunities for Tribal members, and boost educational outreach to local youth. Learn more [here](#).



Research Development Corner

Looking for funding?

We conduct tailored funding searches, help with the early stages of proposal development, and provide final editing services. We also offer Pivot trainings, team review facilitation, and much more!

Find contact info for the Research Development team on our [website](#).



Check out our [interactive map](#)!

If there are any research or projects that you would like to see added, you can leave suggestions [here](#).



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](#).



Spring Grant Writing Workshop

This semester we hosted another 6-part grant writing workshop, which was open to staff as well as faculty across campus, and designed for anyone new to grants and unsure where to start.

Sessions included a combination of lecture format, small group work, and guest presentations from Dr. Jim Woglom (Art + Film), Dr. Matt Johnson (Wildlife), Dr. Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler (Biological Sciences), Dr. Gregg Gold (Psychology), Dawn Arledge (California Center for Rural Policy), and Leslie Rodelander (Sponsored Programs). Topics explored each step of the grant-getting process, from developing a fundable project idea and finding the perfect grant, to creating a project budget and writing a winning grant proposal.

It was a pleasure helping participants develop their grant writing confidence and skills, and we look forward to assisting with their future research projects! We'd like to give a huge thank-you to all who participated in the workshops, especially our amazing presenters. If you're interested in participating in a future workshop, keep an eye on our [announcements](#).

Reminder: SPF Has Resources to Help Identify Alternative Funding

In light of recent Executive Orders, we understand that many of our researchers are concerned about potential impacts on federal grant programs. We would like to remind anyone needing assistance in identifying non-federal funding opportunities that SPF has resources and services to help!

Please visit our website to explore some of our [funding resources](#), or contact a Research Development Support Coordinator for targeted funding search support: Jacob Dudzik at Jacob.Dudzik@humboldt.edu or Cara Peters at cara.peters@humboldt.edu

In addition, our office has a membership with the Grants Resource Center, which regularly sends a summary of federal and non-federal opportunities. Any grants that are broadly applicable will be passed along through our Research Portal. To sign up for these notifications, a quick tutorial on how to subscribe can be [accessed here](#).



SUBAWARD OR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT?

Subawards are issued when a person or entity external to Cal Poly Humboldt is collaborating with a Principal Investigator (PI), and their work represents an intellectually significant and clearly separable portion of the overall project. Some important things to know about subawards:

- Subawardees usually have an identified PI, administrative and programmatic decision making authority, and control over the methods and results of the work.
- If there is co-authorship or intellectual property, or IRB or IACUC Is required, then a subaward is probably necessary.
- Terms and conditions of a prime award apply to a subaward.
- In addition to direct costs, the subawardee institution receives indirect cost at their federally negotiated rate (for federal awards) or the rate determined by the program or funder

Independent Contractor Agreement (ICA):

Sometimes, a PI may need to hire an individual or a company to perform a service or task that is necessary for a project. These services can include things like record searches, chemical testing of samples, graphic design, videography, or project evaluation. ICAs may also be called consulting agreements, professional service agreements, or

simply as service agreements. Some important things to know about independent contractors:

- The contractor is NOT a full partner in the project; they are simply providing a professional service needed for the project
- The contractor has professional autonomy; they can carry out their work without PI oversight
- The contract typically does not include terms and conditions from the prime award
- No indirect cost is assessed on top of the cost of the work

SPF's Role in Handling Subawards and ICAs

A Pre-Award Specialist can help determine the appropriate classification of external collaborators. If a Subaward is necessary, SPF requires a commitment letter, an authorized budget, and scope of work from the Subawardee institution prior to routing the proposal.

If a professional service requiring an ICA is being budgeted, no quote or bid is required at the time of routing, though the PI should establish cost with the contractor. Once a proposal has been funded, the PI's Post-Award Grants Analyst will coordinate with our Contract Specialist and Compliance Officer to issue the appropriate agreement.

Pre-Award Corner

Are you thinking about submitting a grant?

SPF is available to assist you at each step of the way. We will help develop a budget, create a strong proposal, navigate funder requirements, and submit to the funding agency.

Find the contact information for your Pre-Award Specialists on our [website](#).



Interested in the difference between an independent contractor agreement and a vendor agreement?

Please refer to our Fall 2024 [newsletter article](#) "Choosing Vendor vs Independent Contractor Agreement."

For questions related to contracts, please contact Brittany Bauserman, Contracts Specialist, bac38@humboldt.edu

Post-Award Corner

Our focus for Post-Award grants management encompasses three areas: training, monitoring, and reporting.

Post-Award services provide support to your project throughout the life span of your grant.

Find contact info for your Grant Analyst on our [website](#).



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. Take advantage of these open drop-in sessions if you don't feel confident with the information that you're submitting (including ProCard reconciliations).

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

Important Updates Regarding Accounts Payable Processing

Since P2P launched, we've seen increased confusion and frustration surrounding the supplier payment process. To address these issues, we've taken steps to strengthen our support. Since November, we've hired a full-time SPF Purchasing Coordinator, and in March, we will be adding a second full-time Coordinator dedicated solely to processing requisitions for the auxiliary.

In the meantime, here are a few key reminders, suggestions, and offers for assistance to help navigate the current challenges:

- **Supplier Payment Processing Times:** Currently, the average processing time for supplier payments is **5-7 weeks**, but this can be significantly longer if the supplier has not completed their registration. If you submitted a payment request (e.g., Payment Request Form, invoices, PO Request Forms, Non-Student Stipend Forms) more than five weeks ago and the payment has not been received, **please contact the SPF Purchasing Coordinator for assistance. Avoid emailing AP directly**, as this diverts their time away from processing payments.
- **Submitting Payment Requests:** When submitting payment requests for **SPF transactions**, **continue using DocuSign Forms** found in the [SPF Forms Library](#). These forms automatically route to all necessary SPF signers and are then delivered to CSUBuy Legacy or CSUBuy P2P after pre-screening for compliance.
- **CSUBuy P2P Punch Out Orders:** If you are shopping through a punchout in CSUBuy P2P for SPF transactions, **always assign the cart to SPF Purchasing Coordinator Jorge Pelayo**. Do not "submit" your own SPF requisitions. This is because SPF has additional compliance requirements to be completed prior to submitting the order.
- **Processing Order & Supplier Registration:** Both DocuSign PowerForms and assigned carts in CSUBuy P2P are processed in the order received—as long as the supplier has completed their registration. If a supplier has not completed registration, SPF will work with them to the extent possible or refer them to the Chancellor's Office Supplier Support Team for assistance.
- **SPF AP Zoom Drop-In Hours:** SPF hosts a daily AP [Zoom Drop-In Hour](#) (see Zoom link in sidebar on left) from 2:00-3:00 PM, weekdays) to assist with completing DocuSign PowerForms, entering chartfield information, ProCard reconciliation, and addressing AP and procurement questions. Please take advantage of these open drop-in sessions if you don't feel confident with the information that you're submitting. **The more corrections we can make with you on the front end, the quicker your reimbursements will be processed.**

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further support.



TRIO Students take group photo at Cal Poly Humboldt. Photo via Jen Dyke.

TRIO Works! Education Programming Spotlight

Cal Poly Humboldt proudly hosts four academic outreach and support initiatives collectively referred to as our TRIO Programs; Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.

TRIO programs were established by Congress in 1965 as the first national college access and retention programs to address access barriers to education in America. On a campus level, they provide vital outreach and support services designed to help students progress through the academic pipeline, from high school to post-baccalaureate programs.

The goal of **Talent Search** is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school, enroll in and complete a postsecondary education, and find meaningful employment. It does this by identifying students who have the potential to succeed in higher education, and providing them support and encouragement through various means, including tutoring, career exploration, financial counseling, mentoring programs, and workshops.

TRIO Upward Bound is a college preparatory program, designed to generate the skills and motivation necessary for postsecondary educational success among limited income high school students whose parents do not hold a four year college degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the number

of students who succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound is the longest standing TRIO program on campus, and has been serving Humboldt and Trinity county high school students since 1966!

The focus of **Student Support Services** is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. These services provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

The **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program** is designed to prepare eligible undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. The goal is to increase Ph.D. attainment by students from disadvantaged backgrounds that have demonstrated strong academic potential. Institutions work closely with participants as they complete undergraduate requirements, encourage their enrollment in graduate programs, and then track their progress through to the successful completion of advanced degrees.

A video on our TRIO programs was recently produced as part of SPF's research video series, and can be found on our [YouTube channel](#).

Student Corner



Left: Lily Olmo prepares to sample the outcoming flow of Brackish Pond (Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary) to see which fish are moving through pipe. Top right: A river otter in Kloop Lake (Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary) eating a Yellowfin goby. Bottom right: Lily Olmo and undergraduate technician Alena Arnold identify and measure fish in Brackish Pond.

Student Spotlight: Lily Olmo

Lily Olmo is a Natural Resources graduate student concentrating in Fisheries Biology. She works within Dr. Jose Marin Jarrin's Marine Fisheries Ecology Lab, and is a current National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

Lily's pull toward her current field of study was influenced by her childhood, where she spent time in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and was fascinated by the ocean and its wildlife. She enjoys that her research allows her to draw on her curious and outdoorsy nature to answer research questions that are significant to our local ecosystems.

Lily's research specifically focuses on three artificial (human-created) wetland fish communities located in and around Humboldt Bay. Her study seeks to understand which fish are present and at what life-stages, their health, and how they interact with their respective habitats. This research is important because it helps determine the effectiveness of

artificial wetlands in sustaining and conserving the biodiversity in these ecosystems.

Much of Lily's time is devoted to her field work, and she is immensely grateful for the support she receives. For example, she often works with Dr. Jeff Black (Wildlife), who lends his conservation expertise. Lily also leads an all-female team of undergrad technicians and she is particularly proud to be able to provide them with training and mentorship.

Outside of her studies, Lily is a part of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) local chapter, where she assists with social media coordination and mentors undergraduates. After graduation, she plans to enter a PhD program at Oregon State University, and hopes to eventually work as a Biologist in a federal agency, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Pitch Fest Winners Bridge Campus and Community

Congratulations to the winners of the second annual Pitch Fest, an event held in collaboration with Founders Mark, providing College Corps Fellows the opportunity to pitch innovative, community-driven projects in a Shark Tank-style competition.

Fellows worked in teams as part of the Humboldt College Corps class (AHSS 480) to build projects alongside Community Partners, identify existing needs at their Sites, and formulate actionable solutions to those needs. Preliminary reviewers selected eight finalists to proceed to the final round of Pitch Fest, and the following teams were awarded microgrants to fund their projects:

- **Brunner Family Farms** (Malcolm Ridings & Lindsey Gaspers) – An Outhouse for Outside Learning
- **Bureau of Land Management** (Nick Salgado-Stanley & Niz Kears) – B.A.R.K. Rangers: Promoting a Responsible Pet Recreation at Headwaters Forest Reserve
- **Coastal Grove Charter School** (Makena Martin, Gia Gruenhagen, Jaelyn Flores & Heather Garalde) – The Sound of Coastal Grove, Music Program
- **Trinidad Coastal Land Trust** (Mary Loso, Hala Quinlan & Jael Villamil) – Beach Wheelchair Program



Second annual Pitch Fest participants. Photo via Roman

- **Open Door Community Health Center** (Gavan Jones & Levit Cantú) – Building a Greenhouse at Fortuna Wellness Garden

Additionally, the following teams received funding through Director's Choice Awards from Sponsored Programs Foundation:

- **Humboldt Botanical Gardens** (Oliver Scott & Ceedric Henry) – Creating a Map for the Humboldt Botanical Garden
- **Trinidad Coastal Land Trust** (Mary Loso, Hala Quinlan & Jael Villamil) – Beach Wheelchair Program

We are extremely proud of these Fellows for their dedication and commitment to strengthening our local community. To learn more about Humboldt College Corps, visit their [website](#).

Schatz Energy Research Center Tool Supports Forest Management and Policy

As wildfires continue to plague California, one of the critical questions facing state policymakers today is how to effectively manage forests to minimize wildfire risk, support appropriate forest product development, and reduce emissions and air pollution.

In response, the Schatz Energy Research Center created a tool – the California Biomass Residue Emissions Characterization model, or C-BREC – to help forest managers assess the climate and air pollution impacts of using different pathways to manage the woody waste that remains after a forest management operation.

This material may be burned in open piles, left to decompose in the field, or taken off-site to be used for energy or durable wood products. Each of these possible outcomes has wildfire, air quality, and emissions impacts.

The C-BREC model is currently being used to inform policy frameworks governing the management of this woody biomass. This includes the state's biomass feed-in tariff programs and its low carbon fuel standard, as well as the US Inflation Reduction Act's tax incentives for biomass energy. For more information, follow the link to Schatz's [website](#).

Compliance Corner

The primary objective of the SPF Compliance Office is to provide information, training, and internal controls that are needed to meet the laws, rules, and policies governing sponsored research at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Find the contact information for the Compliance staff on our [website](#).



Facilities & Administrative Costs Policy

Indirect Revenue Distribution Policy

Purchasing / Procurement Policy

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)

Policy on use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

For more info, click [here](#)

Updated Indirect Cost (IDC) Rate Effective 7/1/2024

Indirect Costs (IDC), also known as Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs, are expenses that support the overall operation of an institution but are not directly attributable to a specific project. Common IDC categories include administrative support (Post-Award staff), Accounting and Payroll services, research labs and specialized facilities, insurance coverage, and independent audit services. If you're wondering what indirect costs cover and how they originated, [this short video](#) might be of interest to you.

The Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) has a federally negotiated IDC rate approved by our cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. This rate is periodically renegotiated and applies to federally funded projects across all agencies. The IDC rate negotiation process is lengthy and typically takes up to a year to complete; our agreement was initiated in November 2023 and, following the standard federal timeline, was finalized in March 2025.

Effective July 1, 2024, the new indirect cost rates are:

- 45% for all on-campus programs
- 26% for all off-campus programs

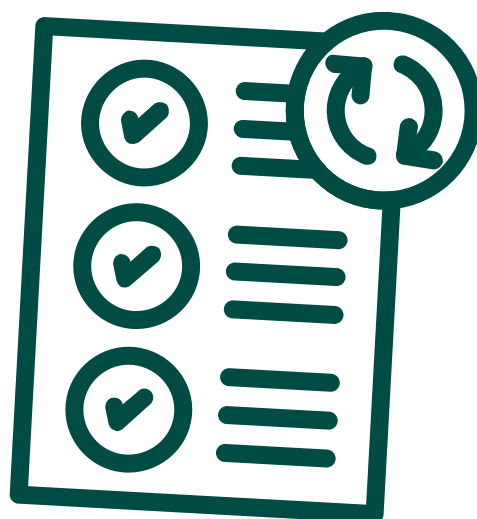
These rates will apply to new proposals moving forward. Proposals routed or submitted before July 1, 2024, will be adjusted to the new lower rate during award negotiations by your Pre-Award Specialist.

This change will also apply retroactively to existing federal projects with an IDC rate above 45% and a performance period starting after July 1, 2024. In these cases, our office will soon contact Principal Investigators to discuss the re-budgeting process to adjust indirect costs accordingly.

Our Institutional Routing Form (IRAF) and internal budget templates will be updated accordingly. As a reminder, any proposal requesting an IDC rate lower than the federally negotiated rate must receive prior approval from SPF as part of the Institutional Routing process.

For questions regarding indirect costs and how they may impact your proposals, please contact one of our Pre-Award Specialists:

- Pia Gabriel – pg12@humboldt.edu
- Jocelyne Takatsuno – jt366@humboldt.edu
- Kaz Wegmuller – jkw77@humboldt.edu





Reminders for Summer Hiring!

Planning a new hire or a change to a current employee's category or time base? These reminders will keep you on track!

All HR Actions should be made in KRONOS. We offer the following interactive training videos, or reach out to us directly for 1:1 assistance!

- [Hire a Brand New Employee](#)
- [Hire an Existing SPF Employee](#)
- [Add/Remove Multiple Projects](#)
- [Pay Rate Change](#)
- [Time Base or Category](#)
- [Separate an Employee](#)

The [HR Actions Overview](#) training provides additional information, or see [All HR Actions](#) for more in-depth training. All PIs and/or hiring managers are expected to complete training before submitting an HR Action for the first time.

New Hires:

After an HR Action to hire has been approved by SPF, your new employee(s) will be required to complete on-boarding forms through KRONOS as a "New Hire Checklist." This includes updating personal information, as well as completing legal documents such as income tax withholding forms and federal form I-9. They will need to schedule a Zoom or in-person meeting with a front office staff

member once that's completed to verify their identity and authorization to work in the U.S.

Separating Employees:

Similarly, an approved HR Action to separate an employee (in non-sensitive situations) will send the employee a Termination Checklist. In the event that you have a sensitive separation, contact SPF's HR Coordinator to discuss the details before submitting the HR Action.

Termination Checklist includes:

- Verification of returned: Computer equipment, keys, (Parking) Permits, Procard/Travel Card
- Verification that no transactions with Accounts Payable are pending
- Completed Humboldt Exit Form
- Acknowledgment of HR as the main point of contact for benefits/retirement questions

Please alert SPF's front office of the employee's separation as soon as it is known so we can begin processing their final check as quickly as possible.

For questions regarding any of the above information, reach out to HR Coordinator Lizzy Peterson lp216@humboldt.edu.

Front Office Corner

Front Office staff act as the first point of contact to assist faculty, staff, and students.

We strive to offer excellent customer support to direct you in whichever services you may be seeking from our office.

Find contact info for the Front Office staff on our [website](#).



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](#).

Featured Funding Opportunities

Climate Change and Human Health Seed Grants | Burroughs Welcome Fund

Promotes new connections between scholars, practitioners, and/or educators working to understand and mitigate the impacts of climate change on human health. Also of interest is work piloting new approaches toward reducing the impact of health-centered activities, for example, developing more sustainable systems for health care. Another interest area is preparation for the impacts of extreme weather and other crises that can drive large scale disruptions that will immediately impact human health and delivery of health care. Awards \$2,500–\$50k.

[Application Deadline: July 24, 2025](#)

Environment Grants | Doris Duke Foundation

Supports initiatives that increase land conservation and stewardship across the U.S. to protect biodiversity, bolster the resilience of natural areas and advance climate change mitigation. Another focus is conservation efforts that advance equity, in particular for communities that identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color. Recent awards have ranged from \$100k - \$1.2 mil.

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

Food Sovereignty Grants | CS Fund and Warsh-Mott Legacy

Supports work grounded in traditional agricultural knowledge and agroecological practices. Focuses on three cornerstones of agrobiodiversity and food system resilience: preserving native and traditional seeds, building healthy and fertile soils, and protecting and restoring the populations and diversity of native pollinators. Average grant is \$20k.

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

Exploring Equitable Futures | Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Seeks projects that seed new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come. Supports visionary thinkers—scientists, anthropologists, engineers, technologists, creatives, and others—who are imagining what the world might look like in the next 10 to 100 years, and exploring how those futures may unfold in ways that could slow down or speed up our collective efforts to dismantle structural racism and improve health equity. No award limit - applicants should request the amount needed to complete the proposed project

[Rolling application closes October 15, 2025.](#)

Targeted Grants in MPS | Simmons Foundation

No award limit; applicants should request the amount needed to complete the proposed project. Supports high-risk theoretical mathematics, physics and computer science projects of exceptional promise and scientific importance on a case-by-case basis. Provides funding for up to five years.

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

Education Grants | Hearst Foundation

Funds higher education programs, college access and college success programming, professional development for educators, science education programs that focus on developing career pathways in science, technology, engineering, environment and math, and programs educating the next generation of health professionals, such as nursing and mental health.

[Applications accepted on a rolling basis.](#)



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and their amazing Staff on their many accomplishments
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Cal Poly Humboldt
**Office of Research
& Sponsored Programs**

1 Harpst Street, SBS 427

Phone: 707-826-4189

Fax: 707-826-4783

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

