The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and pressing sustainability and resilience challenges. The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) supports the development of a robust, diverse, and well-trained scientific workforce through programs and initiatives focused on sustainability and resilience. These include the James Smithson Fellowship Program, the Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program, and the USDA Farmer-to-Farmer Program. The ISE also collaborates with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science and Office of Research and Development to foster interdisciplinary projects that respond to complex social, economic, and environmental challenges.

The Office of Science of the US Department of Energy (DOE) is currently accepting proposals for the FY 2020 Solicitation for the Office of Science: Sustainable Energy Challenges and Opportunities. The main objective of the Symposium is to address critical knowledge gaps and promote the transition of scientific research into practical applications. Proposals should be submitted to the core clusters (Ecosystem Sciences, Evolutionary Studies, and Health and Safety) by March 1, 2020.

The Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) is launching a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on Education, Training, and Transition to Adulthood and Factors Impacting Well-being in Transition to Adulthood. The DCL aims to provide young adults, families, and caregivers with information and resources to support successful transitions. Proposals for the 2020 program are due by December 31, 2019.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is offering grants through its Smart Cities Partnership to advance urban sustainability and resilience. Proposals are due by March 1, 2020. The NSF also offers a Dear Colleague Letter on the Future of Urban Sustainability and Resilience, which includes opportunities for collaboration and the development of a faculty directory.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing free technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of state and local governments to develop and implement sustainable agricultural practices. Proposals for the 2020 program are due by March 1, 2020. The USDA also offers a Dear Colleague Letter on the USDA Farmer-to-Farmer Program to support international agricultural development.

As the year comes to an end, we wanted to send a few reflections on our year together and to also let you know how much we appreciate your commitment and engagement. During the entire year, the level of interest and importance that our campus community places on sustainability and resilience has continued to grow.

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

- Pamela Baker and Margaret Weiss, College of Education and Human Development
- Tom Barry, College of Science
- George Mason University Foundation, $10,000
- Autism Speaks, $64,200
- Autism Society of America, $30,000
- Virginia Department of Education & U.S. Department of Education, $750,000
- Community Programs & Services, $1,000,000
- Fyffe: Transforming STEM Learning, $365,000
- George Mason University Foundation, $10,000
- TrueRemove, $8,500,000

The James Smithson Fellowship Program, the Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program, and the USDA Farmer-to-Farmer Program are all opportunities to pursue early career opportunities in sustainability and resilience.

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