The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and partnerships with others across the Mason community—and with other communities, policy-makers, and organizations—aiming to highlight the Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) at George Mason University. It features a host of incredible musicians, frontline activists, thought leaders, artists, and political figures from around the world, working together to create a moment of solidarity.

The COVID-19 and climate crises push us to ask: how do we chart a path forward for humanity? As we move towards a collective vision of recovery and justice, we want to build on the resilience, creativity, and ingenuity of millions of people in the developing world. Open to funding innovations in research and development, open science, and education, the Office of Science of the US Department of Energy is providing funding for research in the areas of social science and interdisciplinary science through its FY 2020 Solicitation for the Office of Science (Funding Opportunity) Financial Assistance Program. This solicitation also focuses on broadening participation goals. The objective of this solicitation is to support Coastal Research and Opportunities (Coastlines and People) projects that create and deploy AI tools to improve the way they monitor, model, understand, and ultimately manage Earth's natural resources for a more sustainable future.

In the second stage (Stage 2), recipients will be able to receive a full award—each with a budget of up to $1,000,000 for up to 12 months. In the first stage, proposals are invited from individuals or teams to solidify the team, mature the project plans, and prepare to submit a well-developed Stage 2 proposal. Proposals are due by March 31, 2021.

CIVIC is a research and action competition in the Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) domain designed to build a more cohesive research-to-practice innovation pipeline and foster a collaborative spirit. CIVIC will fund projects that can produce social impact and evidence to address and actively reduce housing insecurity and adverse health disparities due to a variety of contributing factors, such as differential access to health care, housing, and educational opportunities. CIVIC projects will engage and build capacity in communities and should partner to support novel solutions that move beyond traditional perspectives. Projects are invited to submit proposals that address community challenges and implement evidence of potential impact over a 12-month period.

In the first session of the Mason Online Pandemic Modeling Forum, Dr. Inder Paul Singh, Professor of Mathematics and Quantitative Finance, Computational and Data Sciences, College of Science, will be hosting the Mason Online Pandemic Modeling Forum. He has published several medical papers with his medical colleagues. He has been working on infectious disease transmission in rural areas, and epidemiological modeling of COVID-19 and geographic factors that characterize rural populations, what has been observed for other infectious diseases. In the first session, he will be sharing insights about the predictive model.

Faculty Excellence in Social Impact. Dr. Jenice View, Jennifer Lerch, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Elise Miller-Hooks, Volgenau School of Engineering, will be presenting on the proposal for the 2020 Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Maibach has been honored with the Social Impact Award in this year's B Corps Global Impact Prize and is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Change Communication program. His work focuses on the intersection of climate change communication and social impact, including the social inequities and disparities of impact caused by the pandemic.