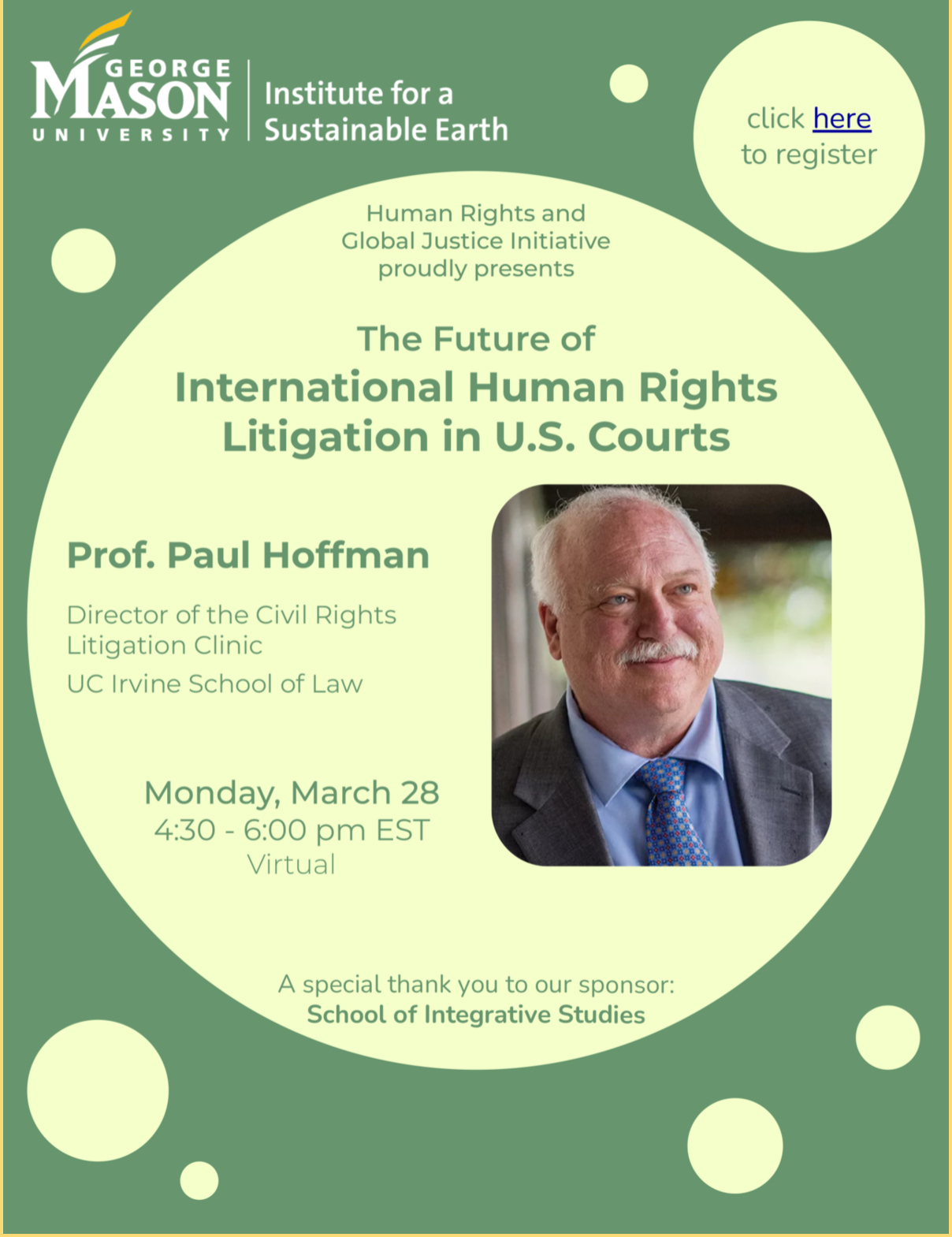
ISE NEWSLETTER March 14, 2022

Upcoming ISE Events

The Future of International Human Rights Litigation in U.S. Courts

Monday, March 28, 2022, 4:30pm - 6pm ET
Registration

Please join the Institute for a Sustainable Earth, the Human Rights and Global Justice Initiative, and the School of Integrative Studies for this discussion with Professor Paul Hoffman on the past and future of international human rights claims in U.S. Courts. In particular, Professor Hoffman will discuss the future of litigation under the Alien Tort Statute and efforts to use U.S. law to achieve corporate accountability for complicity in human rights violations.



Watershed Resiliency Planning: Lessons from the Danube

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 12pm - 1:15pm ET
Registration

The foreseeable increase of more intense storms, major weather events, and sea-level rise will result in higher levels of flooding across the greater Washington DC region. This is especially the case for communities of the region located directly along the Potomac River. The union of these phenomena will compel local governments of the region to think, plan, and implement more holistic and creative resiliency strategies.

For over 40 years, the City of Vienna, Austria, has pioneered a holistic approach to managing the Danube River that has made the city and region a global pioneer in flood management, resiliency planning, and livability. A consensus-based approach that fuses applied science, political compromise, and convergence of gray and green infrastructure planning has helped transform the Danube River from an environmental threat to an asset.

Please join the Office of Science and Technology Austria and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for a webinar on March 29, 2022, from 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM (ET). A panel of Austrian and U.S. scientists, researchers, and local technical experts will share their work to promote climate-resilient planning on the Danube and Potomac rivers — and potential lessons to be exchanged between the two concerning climate resiliency.

Solve Climate by 2030: Teach-In on Climate and Justice at Mason

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 4pm - 7pm ET (Virtual event)
Registration

Join us on March 30 to participate in the Solve Climate by 2030 – Worldwide Teach-In on Climate and Justice dialogues! Universities in all 50 states and in 50 different countries are hosting conversations with climate experts to discuss ambitious, yet feasible, actions to reduce carbon emissions by 2030 and prevent severe destabilization of the global climate.

George Mason University's Solve Climate by 2030: Teach-In on Climate and Justice virtual event will address several important topics pertaining to climate change and environmental justice. The student-moderated discussions will be interactive, solutions-oriented, and will feature Mason experts.

Schedule (all times ET on Zoom):

- **Climate Action: Where We are Now and a Hopeful Future** – 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.
- **Environmental and Climate Justice: Practical Knowledge for Action** – 4:45 – 5:30 p.m.
- **Say This, Not That: Develop Your Communications Skills for Action** – 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
- **Act Now! Opportunities for Student Action and Engagement** – 6:15 – 7:00 p.m.

WORLDWIDE TEACH-IN ON CLIMATE AND JUSTICE

MARCH 30, 2022
4 P.M. - 7 P.M. EST
ONLINE

REGISTER

go.gmu.edu/TeachIn

Join us to move beyond climate despair into realistic optimism.

Our one-day summit features four unique panels providing you with actionable knowledge to make an impact at Mason and beyond.

- Climate Action: Where We are Now and a Hopeful Future
- Environmental and Climate Justice: Practical Knowledge for Action
- Say This, Not That: Develop Your Communication Skills for Action
- Act Now! Opportunities for Student Action and Engagement

This summit is held in support of Bard College's Worldwide Teach-In on Climate and Justice, part of the Solve Climate by 2030 initiative.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | Institute for a Sustainable Earth

SOLVE CLIMATE BY 2030

Worldwide Teach-in Climate Justice

Climate Justice: Pasts/Presents/Futures

Friday, April 1, 2022, 2pm - 3:30pm ET
Registration

How does the changing climate reshape our understanding of the relationship between past and future? What conflicts emerge from these changes? What kinds of collective projects respond to them? What is the role of the humanities and interpretive social sciences in all of this?

On-going Histories of colonization, enslavement, economic exploitation, and geographically uneven development shape and inform current struggles over fossil fuel infrastructure, global climate finance, and climate adaptation. The Center for Humanities Research, the Institute for a

Sustainable Earth, and the School of Integrative Studies are bringing together the following scholars to discuss these challenges:

- Olúfẹmi O. Táíwò (Philosophy, Georgetown University
- Jamie Haverkamp (Anthropology, James Madison University
- Kai Bosworth (School of World Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University)

Panelists will draw on their recent and forthcoming books to explore the temporalities of climate (in)justice, in which they theorize reparations as a project of worldmaking in a time of climate crisis; the way that environmental populism challenges the climate movement's history of elitism while reproducing hierarchies of race, class, and nation; and how decolonial approaches to collaborative climate adaptation can overcome the friction between unequal parties to enable "adaptation otherwise." Together, they will explore how history shapes what can be done in the present to bring about more just climate futures.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY | Institute for a Sustainable Earth

Human Rights and Global Justice Initiative proudly presents

Myanmar Indigenous Agency in Global Human Rights & Environment Discourses:

Connecting Local Struggles with International Mechanisms

Thursday, April 07
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Jonathan Liljeblad, PhD, JD
Associate Professor, College of Law
Australian National University

To register:
https://gmu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMpdeGqpzwvGtKMHRRKltbmhIc3nmv1IoX6

A special thank you to our co-sponsor:
School of Integrative Studies

Announcements

American Climate Leadership Summit

George Mason University students and faculty invited to join the American Climate Leadership Summit 2022 (ACLS 2022), celebrating its 11th year!

Join ecoAmerica and 1,000s of diverse leaders and students from across the nation at ACLS 2022, March 28th-31st! Learn the latest updates and collaborate with a diversity of local and national leaders on ways to raise American climate ambition, restoration, and justice, no matter if you are a seasoned advocate or new to the issue. Hear from speakers **Samantha Montano**, **PhD**, Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, **Hon. Sheldon** Whitehouse, U.S. Senator (D-RI), United States Senate, **Katharine Hayhoe**, **PhD**, Endowed

Chair in Public Policy + Public Law at Texas Tech University, and **Rev Lennox Yearwood Jr**, President + Founder, Hip Hop Caucus and many more.

In an effort to further diversity participation and ensure youth participation, the George Mason University community is welcomed to participate for free! This includes full attendance for the *All Access Summit Pass*, exclusive access to the National Health + Faith Climate Forums, main sessions, engagement activities, plus attendance at the American Climate Leadership Awards. To access these complimentary registrations, please contact the ISE's Dr. Jeremy M. Campbell (jcampb30@gmu.edu) for a discount code to use during registration.

Undergraduate Research Position: Data & Diversity in the Arlington Public Schools

In partnership with Mason's Institute for a Sustainable Earth, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) of the Arlington Public School District seeks to hire a research assistant who will be charged with locating, organizing, and harmonizing data sets that will allow district administrators to better analyze student, parent, and community data. In addition, this role will assist the Office of DEI in establishing systems for collecting data and generating reports.

This position is well suited for an advanced undergraduate student in data analytics, computer science, modeling, communications, or education who is seeking to make a positive impact. Applications may be submitted via handshake.gmu.edu (search for Job #6050630), and applicants must verify their eligibility for the Federal Work-Study award as well. The position is open until filled, so please act quickly!

25Live Guide – Feature Your Sustainability Events

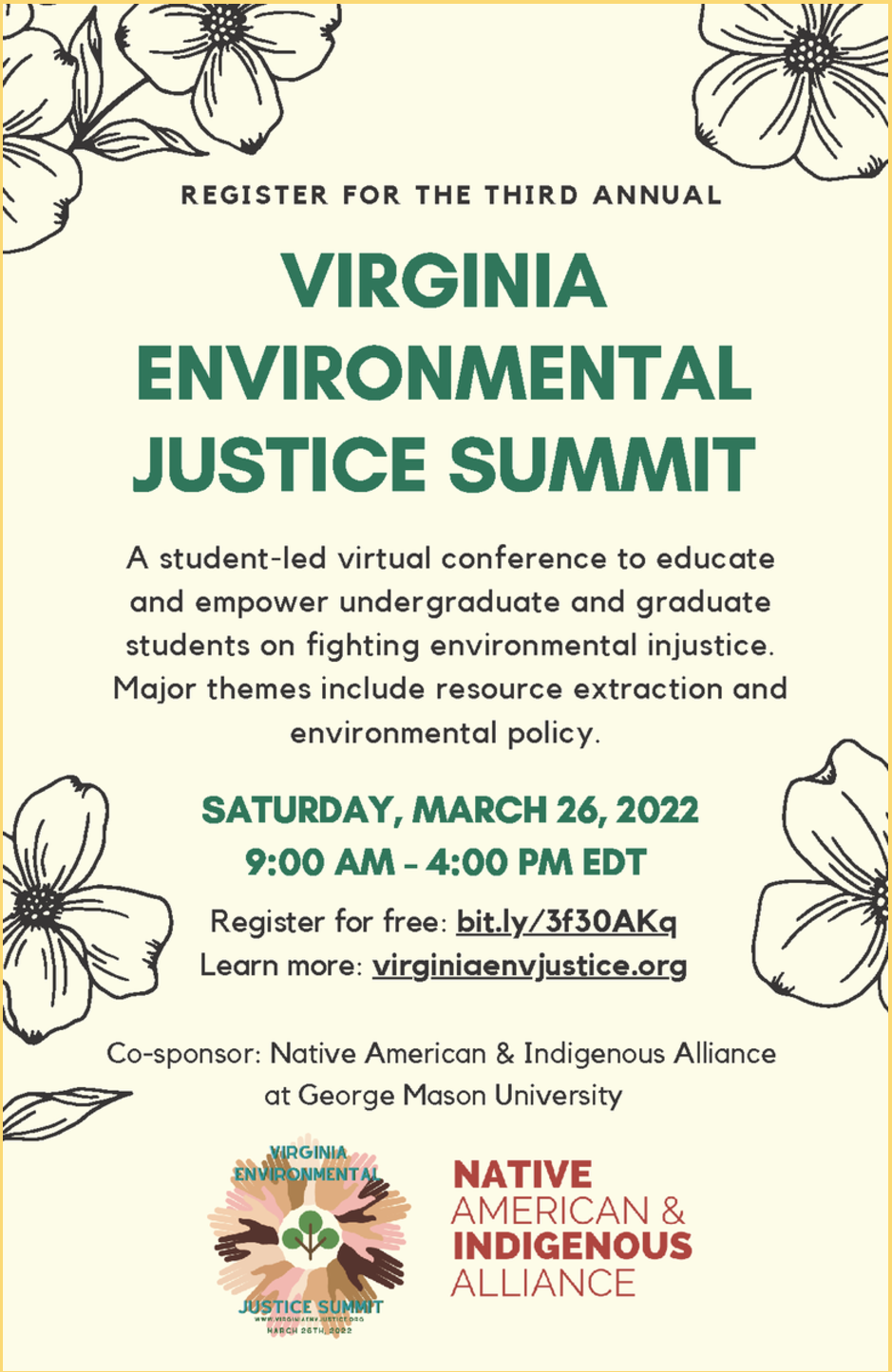
The Office of University Events, the Institute for a Sustainable Earth, and the Office of Sustainability collaborated to develop this 25Live Guide to increase the visibility of and engagement with your sustainability-focused events at Mason. 25Live is Mason's institution-wide event and academic scheduling system which dovetails with unit calendars such as Today@Mason. Please use this 25Live Guide to ensure your sustainability-focused events, whether they are in-person or virtual, are featured on Today @ Mason and through ISE and the Office of Sustainability.

ISE Faculty Profiles

The ISE faculty directory is a tool for you to find others with complementing expertise and for

external and internal audiences to find you! If you haven't yet submitted your research profile information for the directory, **please complete your profile here**.

Upcoming Mason Events



Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities Lunch and Learn Series

The Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities (C-RASC) is organizing a Lunch and Learn Series aimed at bringing people together from across Mason and beyond in an informal atmosphere to enhance knowledge, build collaborations, and drive research development. So, grab your lunch and join C-RASC for a range of presentations on resilient and sustainable related topics of interest. They are designed as Brown Bag Presentations with scholars internal to Mason and webinar presentations with scholars and collaborators external to Mason.

Spring Semester Schedule:

March 16 at 12:00 PM ET
Registration

Dr. Stephanie Dailey, George Mason University “Law Enforcement Use of Force: A Virtual Reality Simulated Experiment”

March 30 at 12:00 PM ET
Registration

Dr. Amir Golalipour, Federal Highway Administration “Progress Toward More Resilient Transportation Infrastructure”

April 13 at 12:00 PM ET
Registration

Dr. Rebecca Sutter, George Mason University “Cross-Sector Collaboration with the Public Health Department”

April 20 at 12:00 PM ET
Registration

Dr. Brie Haupt, Virginia Commonwealth University “Cross-Sector Collaboration with the Public Health Department”

From Great Ideas to Global Impact: A Talk with Andrew Byrnes

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 2pm - 3:15pm ET
Registration

Join Mason's Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy (C-IP2) and Business for a Better World Center (B4BW) for a discussion on translating ideas into impact with Andrew Byrnes. Technology executive, attorney, and investor Andrew Byrnes will discuss the path from developing innovative ideas to achieving broad impact, including key legal issues and business imperatives.

Leveraging experiences from his decades-long career in the private and public sectors working alongside innovators and entrepreneurs, Byrnes will offer insights on leadership, building highfunctioning teams, engaging policymakers, and other critical stakeholders, and navigating existing and emerging regulatory regimes and challenges. There is no cost to attend, but preregistration is required.

In the News

- Exhibit highlights the vulnerability of forgotten digital information, The George News, March 10, 2022.
- DOD funds Mason Scientists' breakthrough breast cancer prevention and treatment research, College of Science News, March 9, 2022.
- First-Ever Multi-Campus 'Teach In' Explores in Depth the Crisis in Ukraine, Schar School of Policy and Government News, March 9, 2022.
- Duke professor highlights racism in the birth process, The George News, March 8, 2022.
- Mason study finds that firefighters with poor sleep habits have worse overall health, Research News, March 7, 2022.

Funding Opportunities

NEW: ORAU-Directed Research and Development (ODRD) Program Call for Proposals

Directed Research and Development (ODRD) program is a research and development program that supports collaborations between Oak Ridge Associated Universities researchers and faculty at member universities. George Mason University is a member of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and this funding opportunity is only open to the ORAU members. Led by ORAU subject matter experts and leveraging the talents and expertise of member universities, ODRD projects strengthen and expand the scientific and technical capabilities of both parties.

The FY23 research areas are *Climate and Environment, Health Equity, and Future of the STEM Workforce*. Proposals are due in June 2022, and must be submitted by ORAU staff. Awards are made in August. Projects run October 1 – September 30.

NEW: Virginia Sea Grant Funding Opportunity: $1M for collaborative research on water adaptation and resilience-enhancing innovations

This call seeks university capacity to partner with the private sector, collaborate on R&D, assess both the impact the innovation had on improving adaptation and resilience of a coastal waterfront property and validate the full extent of the business products' performance, and potentially work directly with the company on product development. The SIQs should speak to both the university's interests and experience in collaborative research (e.g., research partnerships with the private, public or non-profit sectors, product development) and the capacity (human resources, facilities, programs and expertise, policies, etc.) to conduct the specific research on flood management, protection of buildings and properties, and water quality maintenance in a coastal rural context. **Learn more about this opportunity here**.

- **Funding source**: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- **Anticipated funding amount**: $1,000,000
- **Deadline**: Statement of Interests & Qualifications: March 31, 2022

NEW: Department of Energy Funding Opportunity: Deploying Solar with Wildlife and Ecosystem Services Benefits (SolWEB)

This funding opportunity will award $10 million for innovative solutions and strategies that maximize benefits and minimize impacts to wildlife and ecosystems from solar energy

infrastructure. DOE is interested in projects that will produce results with broad relevance to solar stakeholders by establishing methods, technologies, models, best management practices, or resources that facilitate ground-mounted photovoltaic energy generation, including utility-scale and community solar, or concentrating solar-thermal power that is compatible with surrounding wildlife. DOE is also interested in assessing and optimizing ecosystem benefits that solar energy facilities can provide, such as soil formation, pollination of food crops, and carbon sequestration. These research activities will help reduce barriers, costs, and timelines for the deployment of large-scale solar energy necessary to meet the Biden Administration's goals for achieving a decarbonized electricity sector by 2035. **Learn more about this opportunity here.**

- **Funding source**: U.S. Department of Energy and other funding sources
- **Anticipated funding amount**: $10,000,000
- **Deadline**: April 11, 2022

Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites grant applications for Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers (EHS CC). As intellectual hubs for environmental health science research, the EHS CC is expected to be the thought leaders for the field and advance the goals of the NIEHS Strategic Plan. The Core Centers provide critical research infrastructure, shared facilities, services and/or resources, to groups of investigators conducting environmental health sciences research. An EHS CC enables researchers to conduct their independently-funded individual and/or collaborative research projects more efficiently and/or more effectively. The overall goal of an EHS CC is to identify and capitalize on emerging issues that advance improving the understanding of the relationships among environmental exposures, human biology, and disease. The EHS CC supports community engagement and translational research as key approaches to improving public health.

- **Funding source**: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- **Anticipated funding amount**: Up to $3,400,000
- **Deadline**: April 14, 2022

NEW: NSF Civic Innovation Challenge

The Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) is a research and action competition that accelerates the transition to practice of foundational research and emerging technologies into communities through civic-engaged research. By addressing priorities at the local scale that are relevant across the US, CIVIC is laying the foundation for a broader and more fluid exchange of research and technology capabilities and civic priorities through joint partnerships involving civic stakeholders and the research community. CIVIC funds projects that pilot state-of-the-art solutions over 12 months, following a six-month planning phase, and have the potential for lasting impact in the partnering community as well as the potential to be scaled and implemented in other communities.

- **Funding source**: National Science Foundation
- **Anticipated funding amount**: Stage 1 Planning Grants up to $50,000, Stage 2 Full Awards up to $1,000,000
- **Deadline**: Stage 1: May 5, 2022, Stage 2: February 1, 2023.

Partnerships for Innovation

The Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) Program within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) offers researchers from all disciplines of science and engineering funded by NSF the opportunity to perform translational research and technology development, catalyze partnerships and accelerate the transition of discoveries from the laboratory to the marketplace for societal benefit.

- **Funding source**: National Science Foundation
- **Anticipated funding amount**: Up to $550,000
- **Deadline**: July 13, 2022

NSF Critical Aspects of Sustainability (CAS): Innovative Solutions to Climate Change

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) encourages the science and engineering communities to develop forward-thinking research that will demonstrably aid in the Nation's goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and developing approaches for adapting to the change that is already occurring. CAS: Innovative Solutions to Climate Change is a call to action that encourages the submission of certain types of proposals to appropriate existing NSF core programs to lay the foundation for disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and to answer fundamental questions related to novel approaches and solutions to climate change.

- **Funding source**: National Science Foundation
- **Anticipated funding amount**: Up to $100,000

Student Opportunities

NEW: Paid Environmental Work for Mason Students: Watershed Education Program

Tues. March 22, 2022, 4:30pm OR Wed. March 23, 2022, 4:30pm

Mason students are invited to join the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) Field Interpreter team to deliver award-winning Watershed Education Programs in local parks. Mason students will engage 7th graders in Chesapeake Bay related activities including collecting and identifying stream organisms, testing water quality-chemistry, assessing biodiversity, watershed and habitat characteristics at Burke Lake, and Lake Accotink in Springfield. This is a tremendous way to enhance science communication skills while working with a fun team. All training is provided, background checks required.

Work Hours: Weekdays mid- April. – May 6th. 8:30am - 1:30pm, Students work on days they are available. Preference is given to students with availability on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays.

Qualifications:

- Must have at least 1 weekday available (more preferred) from 8:30am-1:30pm
- Interest in engaging youth in hands-on, outdoor environmental activitie
- Environmental Enthusias
- Students must provide transportation to local parks. Carpooling is encouraged.

Grads: $15/hr
Undergrads $13/hr

PROGRAM ORIENTATION on Zoom
Tues. March 22rd. 4:30pm OR Wed. March 23rd4:30pm

FIELD TRAINING: Friday April 1st. 8:00am -12:30pm Burke Lake Marina. 7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

For the Orientation Zoom Link: Email Program Manager Matt Helfinstein matt@helfinstein.com **and Dr. Cindy Smith** csmitc@gmu.edu

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RAY Diversity Fellowship Program

Deadline: March 27, 2022
Application

The RAY Fellowship Program aims to increase and facilitate conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy-related career pathways for emerging leaders of color. The RAY Fellowship Program is a two-year paid fellowship designed to equip recent college graduates with the tools, experiences, support, and community they need to become leaders in the conservation and clean energy sectors.

College Scholarships for Conservation and the Environment

Deadline: April 1, 2022
Application

The Educational Foundation of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annually offers four $1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors or college freshmen for college study. The scholarships support studies related to natural resource conservation. Applications must arrive at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) office by April 1, 2022.

Environmental Justice Video Challenge

Deadline: April 1, 2022

The EPA and its co-sponsors are sponsoring the Challenge, aimed to enhance communities' capacity to address environmental inequalities. In Phase 1, students will submit a video that demonstrates innovative approaches to identify and characterize an environmental justice issue(s) in a community using data and publicly available tools. Challenge winners will receive up to $20,000, as well as other benefits. Details on Phase 2 of the challenge will be shared at a later date.

For any questions, contact: EJVideoChallenge@epa.gov

CREF Compost Research Scholarship

Deadline: April 15, 2022

The Compost Research & Education Foundation (CREF) is offering scholarships to undergraduate through PhD students, studying at a college or university in the US, interested in doing a compost-related research project. The scholarship is for $4,000, and also includes an invitation to present research findings at a US Composting Council Annual Conference during a CREF research session.

The goal of this scholarship is to bring assistance to students doing compost-related research and to spark interest in future careers in the composting industry.

Learn more about the scholarship requirements and to apply: HERE

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community–and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations–so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

The ISE Newsletter provides up-to-date information on conferences, funding opportunities, and research pertaining to environmental science and sustainability. The biweekly newsletter aims to facilitate information sharing among researchers, practitioners, and relevant local, national, and international organization.

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