



9-2018

September and October 2018 news items

Office of Vice President for Research

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September and October 2018 archived news items

SFSA Preparation Workshop | Sept. 14

The Office of Vice President for Research will hold a free workshop for Support for Faculty Scholars Award application assistance, 204 Berhard Center, on Sept. 21, 2 to 3:30 p.m. .

NSF 2026 Idea Machine @ WMU!

CALLING ALL WESTERN MICHIGAN BIG THINKERS!

The National Science Foundation and Western Michigan University are giving students, faculty and other current learners (14+ enrolled in an accredited Michigan school) the opportunity to submit the next Big Idea.

The NSF encourages out-of-the-box thinkers to propose and submit innovative science, technology, engineering and math (STEM-related) ideas that relate to questions that cross traditional boundaries to influence future NSF research.

Thirty participants will advance in the global challenge and have the opportunity to win various scholarship amounts toward research and/or education.

Every innovative idea out of WMU, chosen by NSF, will receive \$1,000 to work with faculty and staff to further develop their research proposals. [2026 NSF Idea Machine](#) finalists have the opportunity to earn \$26,000 in scholarships and/or research stipends.

All entries must be submitted through both the official NSF Idea Machine process and sent to ovpr-marketing@wmich.edu to be considered for qualification.

INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION

[Downloadable instructions and guidelines](#)

[Downloadable flyer](#)

The [NSF 2026 Idea Machine](#) is a competition to help set the U.S. agenda for fundamental research in science and engineering. Participants can earn prizes and receive public recognition by suggesting the pressing research questions that need to be answered in the coming decade, the

next set of “Big Ideas” for future investment by the National Science Foundation (NSF). It's an opportunity for researchers, the public and other interested stakeholders to contribute to NSF's mission to support basic research and enable new discoveries that drive the U.S. economy, enhance national security and advance knowledge to sustain the country's global leadership in science and engineering.

Since Broncos have a lot of great big ideas, we would like to challenge our community to participate in this unique opportunity.

The NSF Idea Machine is open to anyone over 14 years of age. WMU would like to sponsor a competition to get the biggest boldest Bronco ideas into the Idea Machine. The competition is very simple.

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** A current Bronco student, staff or faculty member or teams. A potential future WMU student ages 14 and up in the state of Michigan (defined as enrolled in an accredited high school or community college).
2. The applicant gets their idea ready and submits to NSF via the official process by 11:59 p.m. EST on October 26, 2018.
3. The same entry to WMU must consist of a PDF file emailed to ovpr-marketing@wmich.edu no later than noon October 30, 2018 with the following:
 - a. The email from NSF showing "Congratulations! Your proposal has been received and submitted for the NSF 2026 Idea Machine."
 - b. Your submission which is obtained by using the download entry button after you have hit submit on the NSF Idea Machine web site.
 - c. A list of all team members by name and the email address, affiliation and phone number of the team leader.
4. The initial review process will be the NSF Idea Machine competition.
5. At the completion of the NSF review, a Blue-Ribbon panel of science and engineering experts from WMU faculty, alums and local companies will judge the entries.
6. All team winners will split the prizes from WMU as described below at the discretion of the identified Team Leader.

7. Staff winners who receive a research grant must work under a WMU faculty member unless they already have Principle Investigator status at WMU or are eligible for this status at WMU.

Prizes will be given out as follows:

STEP 1: NSF competition:

NSF STAGE 1: Any idea submitted to NSF AND WMU which is selected to be one of the approximately 30 representative entries selected by NSF entries and invited to submit video pitches, will receive support from OVPR to prepare their entry. These entries will automatically be one of the winners of the WMU internal competition.

NSF STAGE 2: Any idea, which makes it to the round of 12 ideas for a virtual interview, will receive support from OVPR to prepare their entry. They will also receive a prize of \$1,000 in the form of a scholarship for a high school student or undergraduate, a research stipend support for a WMU graduate student or research funding for faculty or staff to match the NSF award.

NSF STAGE 3: Any idea selected as a winning entry (2-4 expected from NSF) will receive an additional prize of \$26,000 (scholarship for a high school student or undergraduate, research stipend support for a WMU graduate student or a research grant for faculty or staff) to match the NSF award.

Should any idea submitted to WMU be placed by recommendation of NSF into a formal collaboration among the authors of multiple original, essentially identical entries, the WMU contest participants will receive a prize equal to their contribution to the collaboration among the authors / team leaders of the multiple original entries as defined by NSF.

STEP 2: WMU internal competition:

WMU will award up to four WMU internal competition prizes chosen by the WMU Blue-Ribbon panel. This is inclusive of any winners in the STEP1 NSF competition.

For exceptional ideas submitted to the NSF Idea Machine: For high school or community college students: the winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship for their first year in attendance at WMU. For WMU undergraduate or graduate students: the winner will receive a \$1000 fellowship to do a paid research fellowship at WMU with the advisor of their choice by mutual agreement. For WMU faculty or staff: the winner will receive a grant of \$1,000 for their research. In addition, if more than four applicants are NSF winners, all will receive the \$1000 prize, and the top four ideas will receive the research award. Should the winner choose to work on their idea at WMU,

an additional \$5000 research award will be provided. These funds can pay for a stipend for a student winner (high school, undergraduate, community college or graduate student) to work with a WMU faculty advisor of their choice by mutual agreement, or provide a faculty or staff winner with \$5000 to pay a student (undergraduate or graduate student) to work with them on their idea.

Eligibility:

All current faculty, staff and students (undergraduates or graduate students) at WMU must be at the University in their role at the time of award for either step of the competition. The WMU internal competition undergraduate research award can be used for the summer after graduation.

Should an undergraduate student graduate prior to completion of the award, the award can be used towards graduate school if the student is accepted into a WMU program.

Future Broncos applying (age 14 and up and enrolled in an accredited high school or community college at time of submission) must reside in the State of Michigan at the time of submission to the WMU internal competition and must be enrolled in an accredited high school or community college.

All [NSF eligibility requirements](#) must be met: see the NSF web site for details but key rules are copied below from the NSF web site:

- All contestants (including individual entrants and all team members) must be at least 14 years of age on September 1, 2018
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or residing legally in the U.S. on September 1, 2018.
- Only one entry per individual or team is permitted.
- A contestant may submit an entry as an individual or as a member of a team, but not both.
- A contestant may only be on at most one team.
- Entries may be submitted by individuals or by teams comprised of up to five individuals, one of whom must be designated as the team leader. For team submissions, the team leader will be responsible for determining the division of any prize money.
- The judges' decisions cannot be appealed.

DISCLAIMERS: WMU may modify or cancel the review process should an insufficient number of entries be received. Should more than four entries to WMU be selected in the NSF competition (Step 1), no additional prizes will be awarded in the Step 2 WMU competition.

Innovation Networking Session on PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018 **(new date)**

Fetzer Center, Room 2020

3:30 to 7 p.m.



Recently, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), were found in the soil, groundwater, or surface water of more than 30 sites in 15 communities across the State of Michigan. Additional emerging environmental contaminants, including pharmaceuticals, personal care products and endocrine disrupting compounds have also found their way into the environment. Such contaminants continue to pose serious risks to human health and the environment. Thus, there is an urgent need to understand their impact.

This innovation networking session on PFAS and emerging contaminants, aims to bring together WMU researchers who are interested in learning about ongoing research work in this field, forging collaborations, and identifying funding opportunities.

Who should attend:

All WMU researchers who are interested in learning about funding opportunities and meeting potential collaborators are invited to attend.

Why attend:

- Network with faculty engaged in research in the area of PFAS and other emerging contaminants

- Learn about funding available
- Meet potential collaborators

Tentative Schedule:

3:30 to 4 p.m.	Registration
4 to 4:10 p.m.	Opening Remarks
4:10 to 4:40 p.m.	Ms. Sara Pearson — Environmental Perspectives of Emerging Contaminants
4:40 to 6:10 p.m.	Mr. John Yellich — Where Will All the Concern for PFAS Take Michigan Scientists and Where Does it Start? Dr. Matt Reeves — PFAS Plume Characterization and Monitoring Dr. Elke Schoffers — From Environmental Contaminants to Health to Implicit Bias: Meet Your Brain Dr. Ed Martini — Agent Orange, Dioxin and the Politics of Uncertainty Dr. Jian Yao — The Effects of PFAS Treatment on Plant Growth and Development
6:10 to 6:20 p.m.	Break
6:20 to 7 p.m.	Networking and funding opportunities

Food and beverages will be provided.

Contact [Denise Wheatley](#) with questions.

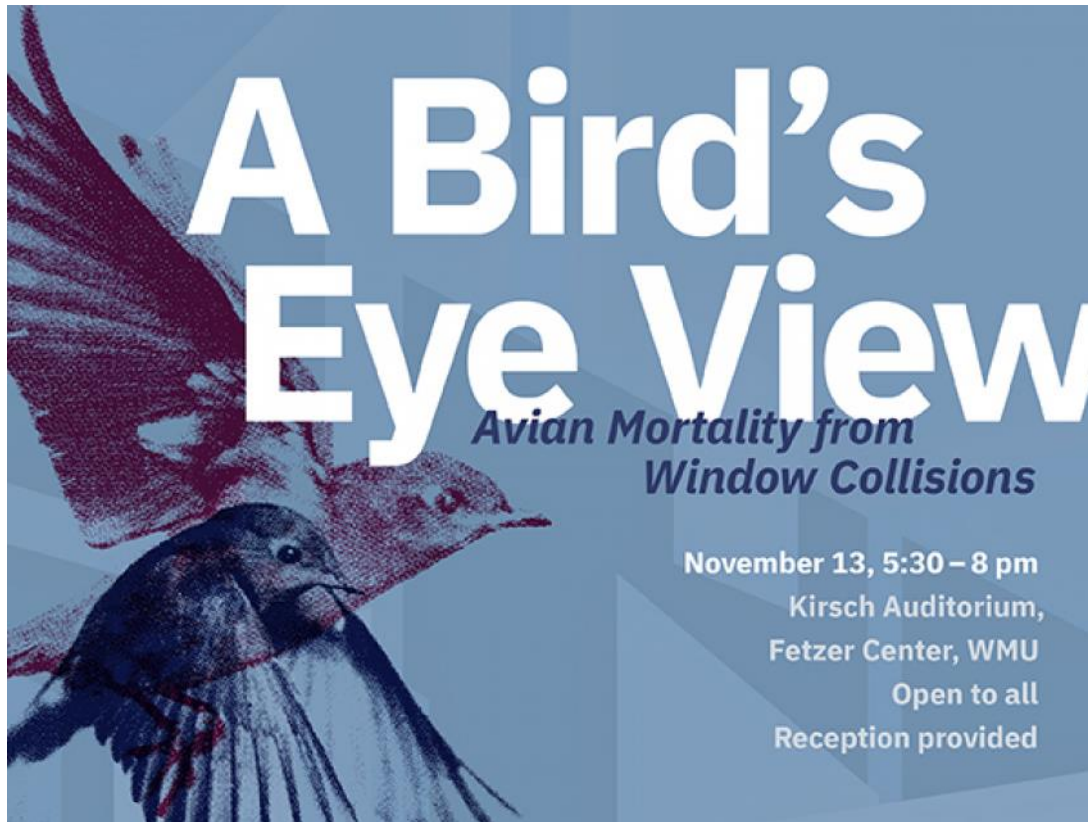
Register no later than Nov. 12



A Bird's Eye View

Contact: [Diana Hearit](#)

Oct. 9, 2018



Birds don't see glass. They perceive windows as passageways to fly through or as habitat to fly into when windows mirror the sky and trees behind them. Learn about avian mortality and work of WMU student researchers, [Dr. Sharon Gill](#), associate professor in biological sciences and Dr. Gail Walter, Audubon Society of Kalamazoo.

November 13, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Kirsch Auditorium Fetzer Center

Open to the public. Reception to follow.

APLU's Council on Research Names Second Cohort of CoR Research Leader Fellows

OCTOBER 2, 2018

The Association of Public and Land-grant (APLU) Universities' Council on Research (CoR), which is comprised of senior research officers at the nation's public research universities, has named seven rising research leaders to its second cohort of [CoR Research Leader Fellows](#). The fellowship enables individuals who aspire to become vice presidents, vice chancellors, or vice

provosts for research to develop critical new knowledge and skills. The fellows, who join the eight inaugural fellows selected in 2017, were selected earlier this summer and introduced at the 2018 CoR Summer Meeting in Bozeman, Montana.

“We are delighted to welcome such a strong second cohort of CoR Research Leader Fellows,” said Arizona State University Executive Vice President and Chief Research and Innovation Officer Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan, who serves as Chair of the CoR Executive Committee. “We thank CoR members in advance for providing mentorship, hosting campus visits, and taking an active role in the growth of our seven new fellows.”

The CoR Research Leader Fellowship assists rising research leaders with developing expertise in areas outside of their current research-related responsibilities. Because many universities have segmented research support organizations, rising research leaders often oversee relatively confined areas such as research administration, research development, research compliance, research communication, economic development, or sponsored programs. The fellowship allows rising research leaders to gain expertise outside of their respective portfolios and to foster connections with CoR’s extensive network of senior research officers through site visits and participation in CoR meetings. The fellowship is 18 months in duration.

“Congratulations to the new fellows!” said APLU Executive Vice President Howard Gobstein, who leads the association’s research policy and STEM education efforts. “APLU is pleased to host the CoR Research Leader Fellowship as a key effort to help build our members’ institutional capacity and prepare the next generation of public university research leaders.”

The 2018 CoR Research Leader Fellows are:

- **Randy Duran**, Director, Office of Research Engagement, Louisiana State University
- **Kimberly Littlefield**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, University of North Carolina Greensboro
- **Eric Muth**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Clemson University
- **Sherine Obare**, Associate Vice President for Research, Western Michigan University
- **Shashank Priya**, Associate Vice President for Research and Director, Strategic Initiatives, Pennsylvania State University
- **James Reecy**, Associate Vice President for Research, Iowa State University
- **Karin Scarpinato**, Executive Associate Vice President for Research, Florida Atlantic University

Applications for the third cohort of CoR Research Leader Fellows, to be introduced at the 2019 CoR Summer Meeting, will be accepted starting in spring 2019. Please contact APLU’s Assistant Director of Research Policy [Sarah Rovito](#) with any questions about the fellowship.

- COUNCIL ON RESEARCH