

OPD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2026

Dear Chairs and Center/Institute Directors:

For updates and guidance related to Federal Executive Orders and other federal actions affecting federally funded research, please visit the [2025 Federal Transition and University Guidance webpage](#).

Please share these funding opportunities and related research news with your faculty.

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Research News

[The most updated list of research news can be found on our website.](#)

Request for Internal Comments: RFI DOE/NNSA Transformational AI Capabilities for National Security

The Genesis Mission will build an integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform to harness federal scientific datasets to train scientific foundation models and create AI agents to test new hypotheses, automate research workflows, and accelerate scientific breakthroughs. In furtherance of the Genesis Mission in the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)'s unique mission space, NNSA seeks to integrate cutting-edge AI capabilities into NNSA's critical operations to accelerate nuclear weapons development timelines, ensuring our deterrent remains responsive, effective, and state-of-the-art against evolving global threats. In addition, NNSA also plans to integrate AI into its nuclear nonproliferation missions, ensuring robust monitoring of threats across the globe. This RFI specifically seeks input to inform the strategic planning and design of the long-term Genesis program. NNSA intends to establish broad, long-term collaborations to support the Genesis program. This RFI is specifically targeted at understanding the capabilities available in the market and identifying innovative approaches to support the NNSA's long-term objectives for this critical national security initiative. Stony Brook University will be submitting an institutional response, and the Office for Research and Innovation invites your feedback to help shape that response. Your perspective is essential to

enhancing our submission, which should reflect the depth, real-world experience, and full breadth of expertise of the Stony Brook research community.

Deadline: Anyone who is interested in providing input may add comments through our [Request for Internal Comments on DOE/NNSA RFI document](#) by **January 9, 2026 at 11:59 pm (deadline has been extended)**. If you prefer to submit comments anonymously, please email us at OPD_OVPR@stonybrook.edu and we will be sure to incorporate them into our institutional response.

NAC-CESU Opportunity: Data Analyst Opening with Schoodic Institute

The Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park is hiring a 2-year Data Analyst position that will work closely with the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Division to compile, analyze, and publish long-term monitoring data collected in national parks in the Midwest Region.

Deadline: January 9, 2026

[See the Data Analyst Opening with Schoodic Institute post on the NAC-CESU website](#)

NSF seeks input on the TIP workforce development roadmap

The U.S. National Science Foundation Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (NSF TIP) recently published a [Roadmap for Workforce Development: Building Pathways and Innovations for the Critical and Emerging Technology Workforce](#) (Workforce Development Roadmap) that aims to offer an actionable agenda to invigorate and empower the ambition of all Americans to join the workforce in critical and emerging technology sectors, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology and quantum technology, or related jobs. NSF TIP is seeking community input on the Workforce Development Roadmap.

Deadline: Responses will be accepted until Jan. 15, 2026, in the [Workforce Development Roadmap form](#), by emailing TIPWorkforce@nsf.gov, or by mailing your response to the attention of Mary Crowe, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.

Solicitation for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Radiotracer Implementation

The PET Core is experiencing a temporary slowdown in our current tracer production workload, due mainly to a gap between the recent or pending conclusion of funded studies and the start of new ones. We would like to take advantage of this time to focus on implementing new radiotracers for human use at Stony Brook.

We invite members of the Stony Brook community to share a list of [¹¹C] or [¹⁸F] radiotracers they would like to see made available through the PET Core.

All submissions will be reviewed by the PET Core team. Final selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Current PET Core usage
- Estimated cost of tracer development
- Number of potential users
- Likelihood of obtaining funding for related studies
- Feasibility of recruiting relevant patient populations
- Feasibility and expense of synthesis
- Potential to attract external collaborations (academic or industry)

Please send all suggestions to William (Bill) Stanley at William.Stanley@stonybrookmedicine.edu
Suggestions will be accepted through **January 15, 2026**

NORDTECH Accepting Applications for Mentor Host Sites for the Summer Internship Program 2026

NORDTECH is now accepting applications for mentor host sites for the NORDTECH Summer

Internship Program (SIP). With more than 100 intern applicants already in the pipeline, they are actively seeking additional host sites to meet the demand. This fully funded collaborative initiative between NORDTECH and the Griffiss Institute provides students with hands-on experience in cutting-edge research and technology development across the defense, semiconductor, microelectronics, and emerging technology sectors.

Deadline: To express your interest in mentoring an intern at no cost, please [submit your mentor host site application by Friday, January 30, 2026.](#)

McAllister & Quinn Weekly Opportunity & Strategic Intelligence Overview

Every week, [McAllister & Quinn](#)'s Research Universities Practice sends out a weekly opportunity overview. These comprehensive lists encompass research and development opportunities relevant to R1 and R2 institutions across the Federal government. Visit [OPD's Grant Proposal Resource Repository](#) for the [latest overview](#) and an archive of previous overviews and other resources.

Call for Reviewers

If you are interested in serving as a reviewer for future Seed Grant Programs and Limited Competitions, we invite you to submit your interest via our new [Call for Reviewers](#).

Upcoming Workshops

Below are upcoming internal and external workshops.
[The most updated list of events can be found on our website.](#)

Internal Workshops

Winter 2025 NIH R-Series Academy

Hosted by: The Office of Proposal Development

When:

Workshop 3: Developing Non-Technical Components - January 20, 2026 | 10 to 11 am (Zoom)

Workshop 4: Meet and Greet with NIH R-Awardees - February 5, 2026 | 1 to 2 pm (Zoom)

[Learn more and register for the NIH R-Series Academy \(SBU Faculty Only\).](#)

SUNY AI Symposium

Hosted by: The Office for Research and Innovation and the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Institute (AI3)

When: April 14 to 15, 2026

Where: Stony Brook University

[Learn more about the SUNY AI Symposium](#)

External Workshops

Microelectronics Commons Annual Meeting

Hosted by: National Security Technology Accelerator (NSTXL) (DoD)

When: February 18 to 20, 2026

Where: Washington, D.C.

[Learn more and register for the Microelectronics Commons Annual Meeting](#)

NSF-ERVA Wave-Based Computing Workshop

Hosted by: NSF and Engineering Research Visioning Alliance (ERVA)

When: February 24 to 25, 2026

Where: Washington, D.C.

[Learn more about and apply to participate in the NSF-ERVA Wave-Based Computing Workshop](#)

High-Risk, High-Reward Research Symposium

Hosted by: NIH

When: March 4 to 6, 2026

Where: Bethesda, MD

[Learn more about and register for the HRHR Research Symposium](#)

2026 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit

Hosted by: ARPA-E

When: April 7 to 9, 2026

Where: San Diego, CA

[Learn more and register for the 2026 ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit](#)

SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference

Hosted by: SUNY Fredonia and SUNY Upstate Medical University

When: April 21 and 24, 2026

Where: Fredonia, NY and Syracuse, NY

[Learn more about the SURC](#)

Active Limited Competitions and Canvasses

All limited competitions are completed in [InfoReady](#). You can sign into InfoReady using your Net-ID and your [stonybrook.edu](#) email address. Please allow sufficient time to familiarize yourself with the portal prior to submitting. *Submitting by proxy? If you would like someone to submit an application on your behalf in InfoReady, please [follow these instructions to designate them as your proxy](#). Please note: Issues may arise and could negatively impact the review of an application if a proxy is not officially designated in this manner.*

Recent Federal Executive Orders and other federal actions affecting federally funded research have resulted in changes to some federal funding opportunities. Consequently, we may need to update our posted limited competitions to remain aligned with these ongoing adjustments. We encourage you to check [our website](#) regularly for the latest updates, in addition to canvass and internal competition details and instructions.

Program: [Fiscal Year 2026 Scientific Infrastructure Support for Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Research](#)

Sponsor: DOE

Type: Canvass

InfoReady Portal: [DOE CINR Portal](#)

Internal Deadline: January 16, 2026 at 11:59 pm

External Deadline: April 9, 2026

Institutional Limit: 1

Award Amount and Length: \$250K for 12 months. This opportunity has a required institutional cost share. Please email OPD_OVPR@stonybrook.edu to discuss ASAP.

Program: [NIA Expanding Research in AD/ADRD \(ERA\) Summer Research Education Program \(R25 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Sponsor: NIH

Type: Canvass

InfoReady Portal: [NIA ERA Portal](#)

Internal Deadline: January 23, 2026 at 11:59 pm

External Deadline: May 27, 2026

Institutional Limit: 2 (must be for different target groups)

Award Amount and Length: \$200K per year for up to 5 years

Program: [W.M. Keck Foundation Research Program](#)

Sponsor: W.M. Keck Foundation

Type: Internal Competition [W.M. Keck Foundation Call for Pre-applications](#)

InfoReady Portal: [Keck Foundation Portal](#)

Internal Deadline: April 15, 2026 at 11:59 pm

External Deadline: June 15, 2026 to schedule concept counseling which takes place between July 1 and August 15, 2026. Phase 1 application due November 1, 2026.

Institutional Limit: 8 concepts

Award Amount and Length: Typical grants are awarded \$1M to \$1.3M over 3 years

Noteworthy Funding Opportunities

The Office of Proposal Development actively curates a list of recently released funding opportunities in priority research areas.

[The most updated list of noteworthy funding opportunities can be found on our website.](#)

[Invasive Plant Management with Great Lakes Science Center](#)

Sponsor: Department of the Interior | NAC-CESU

Discipline(s): Environment, invasive species

Description: U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center solicits research on development of environmentally friendly bioherbicides and strategies to control invasive Phragmites australis and other invasive plants. This project will be a collaborative effort to explore the role of microbial endophytes in enhancing the growth and stress tolerance of invasive Phragmites australis and use that information to develop a new, low-toxicity bioherbicide that offers resource managers more treatment options for this noxious plant and, ultimately, results in a highly efficient and effective approach that reduces costs, improves efficiency, and lays the foundation for development of similar products targeting other invasive plant species that degrade valuable agricultural, range, and natural lands.

Institutional Limit: None

PI Eligibility: No restrictions

Award: \$498,392 for three years

Cost Share: None

Deadline(s): January 17, 2026

Request for Information on the Tech Labs Initiative for the U.S. National Science Foundation

Sponsor: NSF

Discipline(s): Technology, Industry, Commercialization

Description: The U.S. National Science Foundation seeks input from academia, nonprofits, philanthropy, state and local government, venture capital, the private sector and any other interested parties to inform the agency's development of the NSF Tech Labs program. Response to this Request for Information (RFI) is not required to submit a future proposal to the Tech Labs program. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), through its Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP), intends to launch the Tech Labs program: a bold, flexible, and outcomes-driven initiative designed to accelerate practical research with real-world applications. Tech Labs will support full-time research, development and innovation (RDI) teams focused on overcoming persistent barriers to the commercialization of emerging technologies. These teams will benefit from operational autonomy, milestone-based funding and the ability to engage across academia, industry, national laboratories, and nonprofit sectors. The Tech Labs program is designed to achieve the following strategic objectives: (1) Build Sector-Defining Platforms; (2) Generate Outcomes Beyond Papers; (3) De-risk Emerging Technologies; (4) Identify and Address Market Needs; and (5) Lead and Leverage Novel Types of Partnerships.

Institutional Limit: None

PI Eligibility: No Restrictions

Award: None

Cost Share: None

Deadline(s): January 20, 2026

NSF Trailblazer Engineering Impact Award (TRAILBLAZER)

Sponsor: NSF

Discipline(s): Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Bioengineering, Quantum Engineering, Robotics, Nuclear Engineering

Description: The NSF Trailblazer Engineering Impact Award (TRAILBLAZER) program supports individual investigators who propose novel research projects with the potential to innovatively and creatively address new areas of fundamental or applied research, catalyze development of new industries or capabilities that increase the leadership position for the country, and/or make significant progress towards addressing a national need or grand challenge, particularly in current priority areas including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence (AI), bioengineering, quantum engineering, robotics, and nuclear engineering. TRAILBLAZER will support engineers and scientists who leverage their distinctive track record of innovation and creativity to pursue new research directions that are distinct from their previous or current research areas.

Institutional Limit: None

PI Eligibility: The PI must hold a tenured or tenure-eligible faculty appointment at the Associate or Full Professor rank or equivalent. Additionally, the PI must have an appointment in an Engineering School or College and/or have earned an Engineering Doctorate degree. An eligible Principal Investigator may submit only one TRAILBLAZER proposal in response to this solicitation.

Award: Up to \$3,000,000 over three years

Cost Share: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

Deadline(s): LOI (required) due January 20, 2026; Preliminary Proposal (required) due March 10, 2026; Full Proposal due July 24, 2026

Research Grants on Education: Large

Sponsor: Spencer Foundation

Discipline(s): Education and Training, Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Economics, History, or Neuroscience

Description: The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived. This program is “field-initiated,” meaning that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, or method. Our goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education. We seek to support scholarship that develops new foundational knowledge that may have a lasting impact on educational discourse. We recognize that learning occurs across the life course as well as across settings—from the classroom to the workplace, to family and community contexts and even onto the playing field—any of which may, in the right circumstance, provide the basis for rewarding study that makes significant contributions to the field. We anticipate that proposals will span a wide range of topics and disciplines that innovatively investigate questions central to education, including for example education, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, law, economics, history, or neuroscience, amongst others.

Institutional Limit: None

PI Eligibility: Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs applying for a Large Research Grant on Education must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field. While graduate students may be part of the research team, they may not be named the PI or Co-PI on the proposal. PIs and Co-PIs may only hold one active research grant from the Spencer Foundation at one time. PIs and Co-PIs may apply for a new grant while they have an active grant at the Spencer Foundation if the active grant will end before the anticipated start date of the new project. PIs and Co-PIs may not submit more than one research proposal or preproposal to the Spencer Foundation at a time. This restriction applies to the Small Grants Program, Large Grants Program, Racial Equity Research Grants Program, and Research-Practice Partnership Program.

Award: \$125,000 to \$500,000 for projects ranging from one to five years

Cost Share: None

Deadline(s): Pre-Proposal due February 24, 2026, Full Proposal (By Invitation) due June 23, 2026

DARPA Lift Challenge: Lift Beyond Limits

Sponsor: DARPA

Discipline(s): Aviation

Description: The objective of the DARPA Lift Challenge is to significantly advance the capabilities of vertical lift unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by achieving substantial improvements in payload-to-weight ratio. DARPA will address these shortcomings by incentivizing novel UAS designs capable of achieving a 4:1 payload-to-weight ratio. The DARPA Lift Challenge will award multiple prizes based on objective measures centered on overall payload weight, as well as subjective categories to recognize revolutionary designs.

PI Eligibility: Registration and participation are limited to individuals who are U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents (Green Card holders), representing only U.S. entities (e.g., companies, academic institutions).

Institutional Limit: None

Award: \$6.5 million in prize money

Cost Share: None

Deadline(s): Registration closes May 1, 2026

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