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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY,
CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
VIRGINIA TECH.

ISCE NEWS FLASH

May 19, 2020



Welcome to Summer!

We hope you are enjoying the beginning of summer despite today's rainy weather.

Now that summer is here, the *ISCE News Flash* will be distributed on a biweekly basis. The next issue will be sent out on Tuesday, June 2nd.

Please send any news items to Yancey Crawford
at yanceyc3@vt.edu by Friday each week.

Funding Opportunities



Grants for Arts Projects

The National Endowment for the Arts is accepting applications for a variety of artistic projects, including those that 1) celebrate America's creativity and/or cultural heritage; 2) invite a dialogue that fosters a mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all persons and groups; or 3) enrich humanity by broadening understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a society. **This is a limited submission opportunity; contact [Janet Webster](#) before developing an application. [Click here](#) for details.**

Deadline: May 29, 2020 (Letter of Intent)



Grants to Support Teaching of Accessible Technology Design

Teach Access is offering **grants to support faculty who teach undergraduate courses related to accessible technology design and development** in computer science, design, human computer interaction, user experience research, and related fields. Awards of \$5,000 each will be given to faculty to develop modules, presentations, exercises or curriculum enhancements or changes that introduce the fundamental concepts and skills of accessible design and development into their existing courses. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 1, 2020



Rapid-Response Grants on Covid-19 & Social Sciences

The Social Science Research Council, as part of its COVID-19 Initiative, **seeks proposals from across the social sciences and related fields that address the social, economic, cultural, psychological, and political impact of COVID-19** in the US and globally, as well as responses to the pandemic's wide-ranging effects. The grants offer \$2,000-\$5,000 in research support for up to six months toward research-related expenses. [Click here](#) for details. **Deadline: June 1, 2020**

Social Data Research Fellowships

SSRC is interested in supporting research that makes creative use of available social data to investigate how social media interact with democracy and elections. While the program's primary emphasis is related to social media and the 2020 elections, **applications that investigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as it intersects with these core themes are encouraged**. Awards are up to \$50,000. [Click here](#) for details. **Deadline: June 16, 2020**



Defending Basic Freedoms Grant Program

The Herb Block Foundation welcomes applications for its Defending Basic Freedoms program, which awards grants ranging between \$5,000 and \$25,000 in **support of efforts to safeguard the basic freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, help eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination, and assist government agencies to be more accountable to the public**. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 4, 2020



Update to NIH Opportunities on Social Connectedness and Isolation

A new notice has been posted related to NIH [PAR-19-373](#) and [PAR-19-384](#), "*Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness and Recovery*" that has **added a deadline of June 8, 2020 for new submissions and expanded areas of focus to include those related to COVID-19.** [Click here](#) for details.



Proof of Concept Grant Program

In partnership with LINK+LICENSE+LAUNCH, Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP) is **seeking proposals from researchers for proof-of-concept (POC) grants designed to help bridge the gap between VT research and the commercialization of inventions from that research.** The grants will combine up to \$50k of funding and LAUNCH support services to validate technology and market applications and attract future funding. Grants will be made multiple times each calendar year. [Click here](#) for details.

First Deadline: June 15, 2020



Applications Invited for Policy Analysis Research, Writing

The Smith Richardson Foundation is accepting applications for its annual Strategy and Policy Fellows grant competition. Research grants of at least \$60,000 will be awarded in **support of research by young scholars and policy thinkers working in the area(s) of American foreign policy, international relations, international security, military policy, and diplomatic and military history** that leads to the writing of a single-authored book. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 15, 2020



Nominations Due for Annual Holberg Prize

The Holberg Prize is an **international award given to recognize outstanding contributions to research in the arts and humanities, social sciences, law, and theology**. The approximately \$575,000 prize will be awarded to an individual who has had a decisive impact on international research. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 15, 2020



AI for Health COVID-19 Grant Form

Microsoft is accepting requests in their AI for Health Program for COVID-19 proposals from nonprofits, academia and governments. **This grant program provides Azure cloud and High-Performance Computing capabilities.** Their team of AI for Health data science experts, whose mission is to improve the health of people and communities worldwide, is open to collaborations with COVID-19 researchers tackling the COVID-19 crisis. More broadly, Microsoft's research scientists across the world, spanning computer science, biology, medicine, and public health, will be available to provide advice and collaborate per mutual interest. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 15, 2020



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Coastlines and People

The National Science Foundation *Coastlines and People* program **supports diverse, innovative, multi-institution awards that are focused on critically important coastlines and people research that is integrated with broadening participation goals.** The objective is to support Coastal Research Hubs, structured using a convergent science approach, at the nexus between coastal sustainability, human dimensions, and coastal processes to transform understanding of interactions among natural, human-built, and social systems in coastal, populated environments. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: August 10, 2020 (Required LOI)

Previously Posted Opportunities

- **PCORI** - [COVID-19 Targeted Research](#)
May 26, 2020
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** - [Global Solutions to Address Issues of Health, Equity & Climate Change](#)
May 28, 2020 (Extended)
- **Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood** - [LOI for Early Childhood Research](#)
Deadline: May 31, 2020
- **USDA-AFRI** - [COVID-19 Rapid Response Opportunity](#)
Deadline: June 4, 2020
- **Spencer Foundation** - [COVID-19 Research Grants on Education and Inequity](#)
Deadlines: June 8, 2020
- **MIT Solve** - [Health and Security Pandemics Challenge](#)
Deadline: June 18, 2020

Conferences, Seminars and Events

Authorship Ethics Webinar - May 28th

The office of Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance invites the research community to a **webinar on *Authorship Ethics for Research and Scholarly Publications*** which will be held on **May 28th from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

This training will discuss authorship disputes as well as tips for avoiding common ethical pitfalls in scientific publication. [Click here](#) to register. Join via Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/266768146>.

Announcements and Faculty News



Participate in COVID-19 Messaging Study

Virginia Tech as a partner institution with the integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) is **conducting a COVID messaging study to understand how people heard and responded to information about the coronavirus/COVID-19**. By taking part in this important 5-10-minute survey, participants can help improve efforts to communicate information related to public health. For more information, read the [recruitment letter](#).



COVID-19 Student Action Fund

Launched by President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton, the Clinton Global Initiative University **COVID-19 Student Action Fund will identify and support select students at universities who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Students may receive \$2,000-\$5,000 in seed funding for their social impact project. Please distribute to interested students. [Click here](#) for the program flier and [here to apply](#).

Deadline: June 3, 2020

NIH Director's Blog

COVID-19 Brings Health Disparities Research to the Forefront

A May 14th NIH Director's Blog discusses the **role research can play in reducing the disproportionate burden of COVID-19** and improving the health of all people. [Read more...](#)



What to do when a family vacation turns into a family staycation

Rosemary Blieszner, Virginia Tech Alumni Distinguished Professor of human development and family science, offers tips for families who would like to bring some fun to staying at home. [Read more...](#)

Zoom Boom

Synchronous instruction is trending, but experts such as **Barbara**

Lockee, professor of education, say a more intentional mix of live and asynchronous classwork is necessary for future remote terms.

[Read more...](#)



Has a state ever gone bankrupt?

Melinda Miller, assistant professor of economics, is quoted in this *Newsweek* article discussing U.S. Senate Majority leader, Mitch McConnell's recent comments about states and bankruptcy. [Read more...](#)

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Questions? Contact Yancey Crawford at yanceyc3@vt.edu.

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