

RIO NEWSLETTER

SPONSORED PROJECTS- NEWS, UPDATES & REMINDERS

The Sponsored Projects - News, Updates & Reminders is an e-newsletter published once a semester by Cal Maritime's Research and Innovation Office (RIO). Do not miss out on receiving up-to-date announcements, sponsor updates, training opportunities and much more! Please let us know if there are specific topics you would like us to cover in upcoming issues.

WELCOME!

Summer and Fall of 2024 were exceptionally productive, marked by significant achievements in securing extramural funding across various domains. This success reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, administrators, and students. The awarded projects enhance Cal Maritime's research capabilities and contribute to the greater mission of fostering innovation and knowledge. We congratulate our PIs and their teams for their accomplishments and look forward to continued success in 2025.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

RIO submits all proposals for external funding on behalf of the campus and serves as the Research Administrators for all active awards. RIO provides three main services: Proposal Development, Pre-Award, and Post-Award. All three of these areas are intertwined, and RIO staff work cohesively during the grant lifecycle to ensure project success.

If you would like to learn more about applying for a grant or other extramural funding, please contact our office at rio@csum.edu.

RECENT AWARDS

Since June 2024, RIO has submitted proposals on behalf of Cal Maritime faculty and staff totaling nearly \$1.5M. We also teamed with other universities and local nonprofits on proposals that have resulted in subawards for Cal Maritime. Recent awards include:

- **Addressing AI Literacy Gaps in Gateway Writing and Mathematics Courses \$196,195; Principal Investigator Aparna Sinha**

The goal of this study is to promote AI-literate educational equity in gateway (i.e. first year) writing and math courses, and it will evaluate the impact of AI-scaffolded assignments on students' critical thinking, writing, problem-solving, and quantitative reasoning skills. Additionally, we will investigate the broader effects of AI on students' academic abilities, ethics, and educators' teaching methodologies. This project includes subawards to UC Santa Cruz and UC Davis.

- **AI Literacy for Quantitative Experimentation \$84,963; PI Laurie Borchard, Co-PI Wil Tsai & Amber Janssen**

The goal of this study is to create a multidisciplinary AI literacy framework for courses in which students carry out quantitative experimentation. Project team will create instructional and assessment materials that are designed to teach students about the uses, ethical implications, and limitations of AI throughout the technical paper writing process, with an engineering course serving as the pilot program.

- **New Technologies and a Coordination Framework for an Integrated HAB Detection and Monitoring System Across the San Francisco Estuary (subaward) \$39,056; PI Alex Parker**

The goal of this project is to increase understanding of harmful algal bloom (cyanoHAB) development and response to environmental stressors in the SF Estuary. Cal Maritime will be responsible for planning and coordinating four bioassay experiments; two experiments will be initiated using water collected from sites in the SFE.

RECENT AWARDS, CONT'D

- **Integrating GenAI Feedback and Peer Review in Writing Courses (subaward) \$79,000; PI Aparna Sinha**
Cal Maritime's role in this grant is to implement and study the impacts of a curricular intervention pairing AI and Peer Review, along with critical reflections on both and discussions of short readings on AI. The project's goal is to build AI literacy, improve writing outcomes, and support equitable instruction in both areas.
- **Building Coastal and Climate Resilience & Improving Equitable Service Delivery in the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (subaward) \$170,000; PI Alex Parker**
This subaward has two primary objectives. The first focuses on developing a ship of opportunity program (SOOP) for the CeNCOOS region, with the goal of creating a sustained SOOP effort run by Cal Maritime. The second goal is to assemble teaching and learning teams to create and publish three open educational resource lessons for community college classrooms that will engage traditionally underserved communities with CeNCOOS ocean observing products.
- **Community Pathways into Bioeconomy Careers (subaward) \$22,883; PI Tony Lewis**
The main focus of this project is to build community awareness and entry point access into the bioeconomy industries or biotechnology careers in Solano County, with a focus on targeted demographic groups. The project will also increase opportunities for low-education, low-income youth and young adults in Vallejo for bioeconomy careers, such as Environmental, Marine and Field Technicians, and Research and Laboratory Assistants.

WHAT ARE PRE-AWARD AND POST-AWARD?

At Cal Maritime, RIO staff provide both pre- and post-award support to aid in administering an award throughout the entire lifecycle.

Pre-Award: Our pre-award administrator, Andrew Balmat, works closely with faculty and staff to research potential funders and prepare and submit proposals for extramural funding. The pre-award process includes assistance with proposal and budget development, proposal review, signature authority, submission, and award receipt and negotiation. Guidance on RIO Proposal review responsibilities can be found on the RIO website.

Post-Award: Our post-award administrator, Pang Xiong, ensures that all new project expenses align with the proper accounting codes and works with faculty and staff on assistance with award administration from the beginning of the project through project closeout. Post-award works closely with unit administrators and Principal Investigators (PI) to ensure grant funds are spent within the project periods and sponsor guidelines, and handles invoicing and financial reporting for sponsored program accounts.

AWARD LIFE CYCLE

