

Call for Proposals for **Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research**

The Sustainability Program is pleased to announce a new initiative, called **Interdisciplinary Sustainability Research**. This initiative is to support *undergraduate* research on sustainability through collaboration in an interdisciplinary team with students and faculty over the summer. Our goal is to invite undergraduate students to faculty-driven research and help students take the opportunity to participate in professional, collaborative, problem-based research at the heart of sustainability.

Background: The Sustainability Program has funded ATP grants (three per summer) for over five years, with some powerful results. We have noticed, however, that the nature of the ATP grant does not provide sufficient support for the kinds of collaborative, interdisciplinary projects central to research and action in sustainability, and that they tend to go to students **late** in their careers at BSU. We are shifting our current ATP funding to pilot an undergraduate research program that is better suited to collaborative research and that might provide a scaffold for students **earlier** in their BSU career who may be interested in applying for an ATP grant later on. This approach also allows students who can't commit to a full summer of ATP work to take part in a rich undergraduate research experience.

Proposal: We invite librarians and full-time faculty as well as part-time faculty who will teach at BSU in Spring 2021 to propose a collaborative project on a sustainability issue, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary projects with a regional or global sustainability focus. Faculty should propose projects as a team. Once the proposals are selected by the Advisory Board of the Sustainability Program, students can apply for a research project that they are interested in.

Faculty & Student Commitment: A research project team would involve at least 2 and no more than 3 faculty members and at least 2 and no more than 5 students. Faculty mentors would meet with students weekly, with a mix of individual and team meetings depending on the nature of the projects. Students would commit to working approximately **8 hours per week for 10 weeks** and faculty member must commit to a minimum of **30 hours** of work with students over the summer. The teams are required to submit midterm and final reports. Faculty and students need to present their research results at the Student-Faculty Sustainability Research Symposium in November 2021.

Grant: Each student would receive a grant of \$1000; each faculty member would receive \$750 for their work with students. Students would be assessed for both their independent contributions to a group project and the larger group project as well.

Sample Projects:

- Tidmarsh Audubon Sanctuary. Tidmarsh is a new Audubon property focused on restoring a cranberry farm back to marshland. Student projects might include monitoring indicator plant and animal species as a measure of restoration efforts (biology), working in NGO management (management), working on a public relations campaign (communications), working on an education/outreach plan (education), etc.

- Taunton River Watershed. A number of faculty and students work on the Taunton River, including biologists, historians and political scientists.
- Green Development in New Bedford. Under faculty supervision, students might explore green development opportunities in this nearby city, from GIS mapping to wind power infrastructure to local farming collaboratives to aquaculture.
- Sustainable BSU. A number of ongoing projects focus on the BSU campus, from water monitoring to permaculture to measuring the efficiency of solar panels to studying wildlife. This project would bring them together into a more intentional collaboration.

Timeline: This research project grant application will have three phases of invitation:

- 1st phase- Faculty Individual Submission: Due by **Wednesday December 23, 2020** – Librarians, full-time faculty or part-time faculty who will teach in Spring 2021 at BSU are invited to fill out the following [survey form](#) that briefly demonstrates your research interests for summer 2021 so that *faculty can find potential collaborators in case faculty do not have interdisciplinary partners*. This step will help faculty researchers identify potential collaborative topics and partners. Please keep track of the form to see the updates.
- 2nd phase- Faculty Team Submission: Due by **Friday January 29, 2021** – A team of faculty (faculty should already have a team of partners for this phase) will be invited to submit their interdisciplinary proposal. (The Qualtrics application form is available here: https://bridgew.edu/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UedVOoSq70vk45) Faculty members submit their interdisciplinary research project proposal with detailed information, including 150-word abstract, the full proposal of the team in **1,000 words** with 1) title, 2) names of team members, 3) background and objectives, 4) interdisciplinarity of your project, 5) methods, 6) the role of students, 7) project activities and timeline, 8) dissemination of the proposal results, 9) relevant experience. For more general guidelines, we strongly recommend you refer to CARS summer grant guidelines [here](#). (https://my.bridgew.edu/departments/CARS/Documents/Grant_Application_Forms/Summer/Summer_Proposal_Construction_Guidelines.pdf)
- 3rd phase- Student Application: Due by **Friday February 26, 2021** – Students will be invited to submit their application to a research project that has been selected by the Advisory Board of the Sustainability Program.

If you have any question, please feel free to email the two co-coordinators of the Sustainability Program.

Sincerely

Co-coordinators of Sustainability Program

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Phase 1 Survey Form: https://studentbridgew-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/jkucich_bridgew_edu/EUrcwZIUvKNHiz3MCoi2otwBCh0cUwgccneXQU14aV-8wQ?e=7O5ph6

Phase 2 –Faculty Team Submission Qualtrics Application Form:

https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UedVOoSq70vk45

Phase 3 – Student Application Qualtrics Form (coming)