

WISCONSIN SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM
Report from Dr. Gubbi Sudhakaran, Associate Director for Research (for 2020-2021)
August 12, 2021

Undergraduate Research Program (Award up to \$4,000): In 2020-2021, we received **six** proposals from students from four partnering institutions: Carthage College (two), UW-Madison (three), and UW-Stevens Point (one). The applicant pool consisted of four men and two women. The proposals were evaluated by six members of the WSGC Technical Advisory Committee. Based on the reviewers' scores, all six proposals were recommended for funding. One applicant declined the offer. This is the lowest number of UGR proposals we have received in recent years. This may be because at many campuses students opted to take online courses due to COVID and did not stay on campus for the 2020-2021 academic year. COVID also prevented them from being allowed to work on any undergraduate research projects in the laboratories. In addition, Spring 2021 semester classes began on February 1 and the proposals were due on February 9 which left not much time to work on the proposals.

For 2021-2022, the funding level for the UGR program is \$40,000 for **ten** awards. No major changes are planned to the Announcement of Opportunity or application except for extending the application deadline to **March 7, 2022** (last year's application deadline was February 9, 2021). My only concern is that we see proposals from only few institutions on a regular basis and I would like to see students from other affiliate member institutions apply for this program.

Research Infrastructure Program (Multi-institutional Awards up to \$15,000, Major Awards up to \$10,000, and Minor Awards up to \$5,000): In 2021, we received **eight** RIP proposals (six for major awards and two for Early Stage Investigator award) from six partnering institutions: Carthage College (one), Marquette University (two), UW-La Crosse (one), UW-Milwaukee (one), UW-Platteville (one), and UW-Whitewater (one). The proposals were evaluated by five Technical Advisory committee members. Based on the scores and reviewers' comments, four Major awards and one Early Stage Investigator award (three women and two men) were funded (one each from Marquette University, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Platteville, and UW-Whitewater).

For 2021-2022, the funding level for the RIP program is \$45,000 for five awards: two major awards (\$10,000 each), two minor awards (\$5,000 each), and one multi-institution award (\$15,000). No changes are planned to the Announcement of Opportunity or application (Application Deadline: **December 10, 2021**). We will have a separate AO for the Early Stage Investigator award.

We have not seen any proposals for Minor and Multi-Institution awards. This is a concern and we are looking for advice/suggestions from the AC members on how to attract proposals for these two categories.

Our goal for the current year is to attract ten proposals and also to consider awarding:

- a collaborative research project between faculty members from a two-year college and a four-year college or between two four-year colleges.
- a four-year college faculty mentoring a student from a two-year college on a research project.