

Request for Proposals:

Small Grants to Encourage Use of the Meyer's Point Environmental Field Station

Background and Rationale

WSU's Meyer's Point Environmental Field Station (MP), located just outside of Olympia, WA (<https://cas.wsu.edu/meyers-point/>), is poised to begin an era of growth and expansion that could enable it to become a leading environmental research, education and outreach center for the Puget Sound Area, and by extension, the state of Washington and the nation. A new planning grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Field Station and Marine Laboratories (FSML) program will help jump-start this process. In the months and years ahead, additional proposals to further develop MP will be submitted to the FSML program, other federal and state funding agencies, and private donors and philanthropic foundations. Demonstrating significant usage of MP by WSU faculty and students will be a key to the success of these proposals (especially for FSML, where documenting significant usage is a requirement of all grant applications).

In keeping with the Meyer family bequest to "promote environmental education, research, and the arts," the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is launching a small grants program to promote greater usage of MP for either teaching, research, or creative activities on site. All WSU faculty members, irrespective of academic unit or location, are eligible to apply.

Small Grants Program

Individual Grants. Research grants of \$3,000 or less could support part-time graduate or undergraduate assistants, travel, materials and supplies, or other incidental research costs. Teaching grants of \$1,000 or less could cover student travel (e.g., buses or vans), curricular supplies, or other incidental teaching costs. In all cases the research, creative, or teaching activities must occur on site at MP.

Proposal Submission and Selection Process. Brief proposals (2 pages maximum) should consist of the following sections: Title; Investigators; Introduction and Background; Goals and Objectives; Proposed Activities on Site at MP; Budget; Sustainability and Leverage. Proposals for spring 2018 activities are due December 11, 2017. Proposals for summer or autumn 2018 activities are due February 23, 2018. Proposals should be submitted electronically to karla.shelton@wsu.edu. Proposals will be evaluated by the MP Steering Committee (see criteria below), which will make funding recommendations to the Dean of CAS, who will make final funding decisions.

Evaluation Criteria. The following five criteria will be considered.

1. Quality and likely impact of proposed research or teaching activities
2. Appropriateness of proposed budget
3. Potential for sustaining efforts beyond the 1-year grant period
4. Ability to leverage existing extramural support (especially from NSF)*
5. Potential to secure new extramural support (especially from NSF)*

(* = Current and past NSF support is heavily weighted in FSML funding decisions)

Questions? Please contact Dr. Steve Bollens, Director of Multi-Campus Planning and Strategic Initiatives, College of Arts and Sciences, at sbollens@wsu.edu or 360-608-6893.