



# THE WEEKLY

## NEWS

### Democratizing the Future of AI R&D: NSF to Launch National AI Research Resource Pilot

OAC is excited to share that the National Science Foundation officially launched the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot today. The NAIRR Pilot is the first step towards realizing the full NAIRR vision of a shared research infrastructure that will strengthen and democratize access to critical resources necessary to power responsible AI discovery and innovation. NSF leads the NAIRR Pilot in collaboration with 10 other federal agencies and 25 private sector, non-profit and philanthropy partners who have contributed an array of resources such as computing capabilities, datasets, pre-trained models, analytic platforms, and learning opportunities.

Learn more [here](#).



National Science Foundation

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Global Virginia Summit



### Our Vision

Empower Virginia's students and workforce to compete in an increasingly interconnected world.

### Our Mission

Build a global ready Virginia that has a strong multilingual, intercultural competent workforce, prioritizing pathways to bilingualism/multilingualism, biliteracy, and intercultural competence.

**We invite you to join the**  
**5th Global Virginia Summit**  
**"Partnering for Global Career Readiness"**  
**March 19th, 2024 from 10am to 1pm.**  
[Registration link](#) - this event is virtual

We believe by expanding and increasing access to world language exposure and study throughout the K-12 and post-secondary education system increases global competitiveness by improving both linguistic proficiency and intercultural competence. We also believe that better understanding the existing workforce, heritage and native speaker populations, Virginia can improve its economic stature nationally and internationally.

We need your voice and legislative action to translate our language roadmap goals into opportunities for Virginians!



Global Virginia President: Tom Haines at  
[www.globalvirginia.org](http://www.globalvirginia.org)



[globalvirginia2030@gmail.com](mailto:globalvirginia2030@gmail.com)

## Computing

Discover how two leading professors leverage GPUs and HPC to address vital research questions. Don't miss the chance to explore exciting HPC research and unique workflows shaping its global impact. Engage in the discussion and interact with speakers during the Q&A session. Be part of the dialogue at this exceptional opportunity.



Learn more and register [here](#).

Event date: **February 6, 2024** from **1:00 PM** to **2:00PM**

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## Tech Innovation Policy “Boot Camp” for Early Career Researchers

George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government and the University of Maryland's Center for Global Sustainability are pleased to invite applicants to participate in their 2024 energy and climate-tech innovation policy “boot camp” for early career researchers. The Mason-Maryland boot camp's main purpose is to strengthen researchers' understanding of how energy and climate-tech policy is made, so their research has a greater impact on real-world clean energy and climate innovation outcomes. It is supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Learn more [here](#).

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## 2024 Annual ORAU Council of Sponsoring Institutions Meeting

The theme of the annual meeting, Redefining the Next Generation STEM Enterprise, is very timely and should generate some interesting dialog among all attendees. The meeting format will feature three keynote presentations and four panel discussions. The Annual Meeting is free to attend, and is open to faculty, students, and administration at ORAU member universities. There is no limit on the number of attendees from each university. While in-person attendance is encouraged, a virtual option is available.

Learn more and register [here](#) by **February 23, 2024**.



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## Drone Prototyping Short Course



MASON INNOVATION EXCHANGE

# Drone Prototyping Short Course Spring 2024



## **Do you want to learn how to build and fly a drone?**

Do you like problem solving, learning new technology, and making things? **Apply now for the MIX's Drone Prototyping series for Spring 2024!**

You will work in small teams to design, prototype, and build a drone! Enthusiastic participants from all majors, departments, and schools are encouraged to apply.

**Limited to 30 spots - Apply Today!**

9 week course - Thursdays Starting Feb. 15  
4:30-6:30pm - Horizon Hall 1408

**Hurry! Application Deadline is Feb. 8**

Go here to here or scan: [mix.gmu.edu/drone](https://mix.gmu.edu/drone)

Questions? [MIX@gmu.edu](mailto:MIX@gmu.edu)



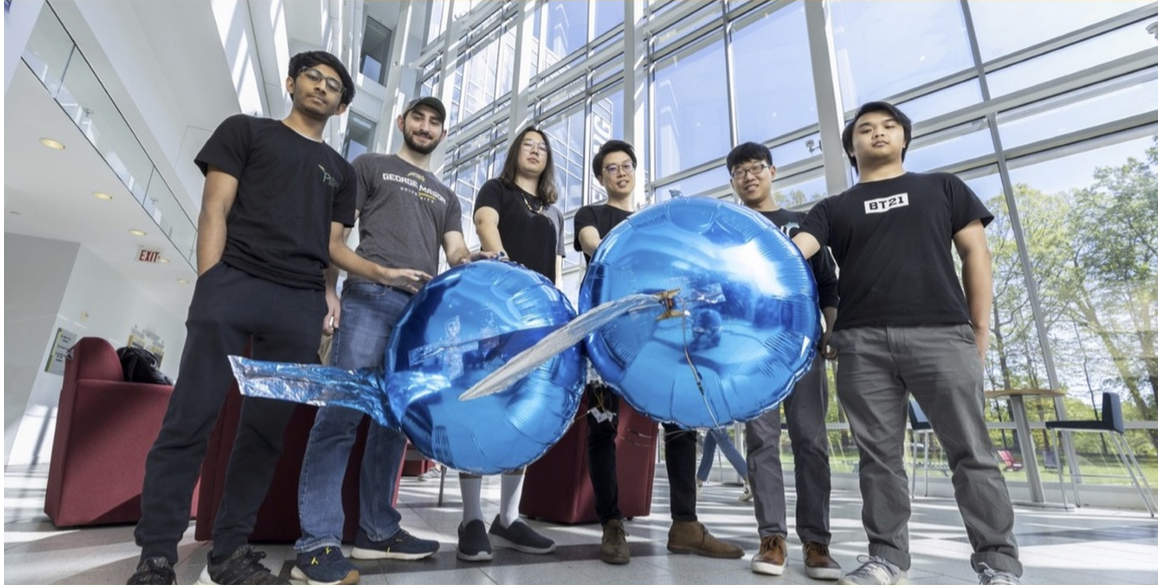
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[BLIMP Prototyping Short Course](#)



MASON INNOVATION EXCHANGE

# BLIMP Prototyping Short Course Spring 2024



## **Do you want to learn how to build and fly Lighter-than-air UAV or Blimp?**

Enjoy an intro to the world of robotics and autonomy through a hands-on experience building a bio-inspired flapping-wing blimp. In a team of 3, students will design and build their own flapping wing blimp from scratch.

**Enthusiastic participants from all majors are encouraged to apply.**

**Limited to only 18 spots - apply today!**

**7-week course - Wednesdays Starting Feb. 7**

4:30-6:30pm - Horizon Hall 2108

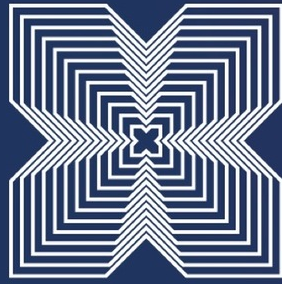
**Hurry! Application Deadline is JAN 31!**

[www.mix.gmu.edu/blimp](http://www.mix.gmu.edu/blimp)

Questions? [MIX@gmu.edu](mailto:MIX@gmu.edu)



[2024 AI Expo for National Competitiveness](#)



ai  
expo 24  
for national  
competitiveness

may 7 & 8, 2024  
in washington, dc  
walter e. washington convention center

hey students!

are you interested in:

- learning about emerging technologies?
- meeting tech leaders?
- identifying paths for collaboration?

Join the Special Competitive Studies Project for two exciting days of demos and dialogues with leading experts and technology enthusiasts, all with a shared vision to solidify the United States' position, alongside our allies and partners, as the leader in critical, emerging technologies.

attendance is free  
register today!

[scsp.ai/expo](https://scsp.ai/expo)

## Tech Duels: Artificial Intelligence vs Augmented Intelligence

GMU is bringing the next Tech Duels debate, Securing Tomorrow: Artificial Intelligence vs Augmented Intelligence. Tech Duels centers around pivotal technology topics that ignite interest and fuel debate. This series aims to develop critical thinking, encourage vital discussions about technology, and cultivate communities through networking.

Event date: **February 7, 2024** from **6:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST**



GET READY FOR THE NEXT TECH DUELS EVENT THIS FEBRUARY

## AI vs Augmented Intelligence

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** **DEBATERS** **AUGMENTED INTELLIGENCE**



**Maureen "Marty" Fromuth**  
Chief of Staff, Legislative Liaison at U.S. Cyber Command



**Noelle Russel**  
Top AI Voice | Expert in Data & AI Solutions | Award-Winning Technologist | Microsoft MVP in AI

**VS**



**Kathleen Walch**  
Innovating industries and the public sector with cutting-edge technologies and best practices.



**Jacqueline Tame**  
Security Pro | Tech Advocate | Policy Innovator | Founder, GAMECHANGER.AI

**JUDGES**



**Kammy Sanghera**  
Exec. Director Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA) at George Mason



**Winston Chang**  
Creative | Technologist | Strategist | Leading Organizations to a Better Future



**David Gagliano**  
VP Digital, BAH. Customer-Focused Business and Technology Leader



**Dan Woolley**  
Entrepreneur in Residence

**REGISTER NOW AT** **FEBRUARY 07, 2024 | 5:30PM-8:30PM**  
**WWW.TECHDUELS.COM** **AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**COACH** **MODERATOR**



**Aubrey Semple**  
Veteran Speech and Debate Educator



**Alexa Tsui**  
GovCom Influencer/Community Builder

**SPONSORED BY:**



# VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024 Mason ORIEI NSF Career Cohort

The Office of Research Innovation and Economic Impact (ORIEI) is launching the 2024 Mason ORIEI NSF CAREER Cohort Support Program. NSF CAREER awards are among the most prestigious awards in support of early career faculty issued from the NSF. We are excited about launching this new program, intended to support our early career faculty applying for 2024 NSF CAREER Awards, through workshops, mentorship and a structured grant writing process. The NSF CAREER program page and solicitation can be found [here](#).

The attached flyer provides information about the support program, which will kick off the week of February 12th with an Orientation. The program will also include provide:

1. Specialized workshops from NSF CAREER proposal development consultants
2. Identification of a faculty mentor for each participant
3. Panel discussion with Mason CAREER awardees
4. Review and feedback from external experts

This structured program will provide faculty with step-by-step support and expert feedback as they develop their proposals. Faculty planning to submit an NSF CAREER proposal in the 2024 Cycle are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in this program. Applications for the program are due February 5th. The link to the brief application form is in the attached flyer and can be found here: [2024 NSF CAREER SUPPORT PROGRAM](#).

Questions about this program should be directed to: Leslie Frieden, Associate Director for Research Development, [lfrieden@gmu.edu](mailto:lfrieden@gmu.edu) or Rebekah Hersch, Associate Vice President, Research and Innovation Initiatives, [rhersch@gmu.edu](mailto:rhersch@gmu.edu)





# 2024 Mason ORIEI NSF CAREER Cohort

**Goal:** Provide intensive training, resources and mentorship to enable early career faculty to achieve NSF CAREER awards.

**Eligibility:** Assistant Professors with fewer than 3 prior NSF Faculty Career Award (CAREER) submissions who meet CAREER [Eligibility](#).

**Program Duration:** February to June (4 months)

**Time Commitment:** 4-6 hours of formal activities per month, plus focused writing time and meeting with mentor

**Schedule: Exact Dates and Times To be Determined and Subject to Change**

Week Of	Activity
February 12	Orientation and Kickoff (2 hours)
February 19	Work on project description, set up meeting with mentors
February 25	ARIS NSF CAREER Awards 101 and Broader Impacts Webinar
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Deadline 1: One Page Project Description for NSF Program Officer</b>
March 11	Contact Program Officers, and mentors work on project description
Wednesday, March 20	NSF CAREER Awards Part 1 (2 hours)
Wednesday, March 27	NSF CAREER Award Part 2 (2 hours)
<b>April 1</b>	<b>DEADLINE 2: Draft Intellectual Merit</b>
April 8	CAREER Awardee Panel Discussion
April 15	Work on Broader Impacts, meet with mentors
April 22	Cohort Meeting and Break out Sessions with Research Institutes
April 29	Meet with mentors and work on draft
May 3, May 10	Finish draft
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Deadline 3: Draft Project Description (15 pages)</b>
<b>May 16-June 3</b>	External Peer Review, Cohort Meetings, Feed-back from Mentors
June 10	External Comments Provided to Awardees
July 18, 2024	Mason Internal NSF CAREER Award Deadline

**Apply By February 5: [NSF CAREER Cohort](#)**

Questions: Contact [lfrieden@gmu.edu](mailto:lfrieden@gmu.edu)

1/22/24

## SCIFE Undergraduate Summer Scholarship

The SCIFE AI in Civil Engineering Scholarship Program provides a summer-long opportunity for undergraduate students to develop advanced Artificial Intelligence and Cyberinfrastructure for applications in Civil Engineering and collaborate with experts at The University of Texas at Austin and Texas Advanced Computing Center.

Application deadline: **February 6, 2024**

More information available [here](#).

# Frontera Computational Science Fellowship Program

The Frontera fellowship program provides a year-long opportunity for talented graduate students to compute on the most powerful academic supercomputer in the world and collaborate with experts at the Texas Advanced Computing Center.

Application deadline: **February 6, 2024**

For more information contact [Geoffrey Reid & Neddie Ann Underwood](#).

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## CCI OPPORTUNITIES

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### Undergraduate Research Assistantship - Cybersecurity Research for Supply Chains

CCI, funded by the Virginia General Assembly, created a Commonwealth-wide ecosystem of innovation in cybersecurity and cyber-physical systems (CPS) security. CCI will ensure Virginia is recognized as a global leader in secure CPS, and in the digital economy more broadly, for decades to come by supporting world-class research at the intersection of data, autonomy, and security; promoting technology commercialization and entrepreneurship; and preparing future generations of innovators and research leaders. George Mason University serves as the leading strategic planning and operational institution for the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative's NoVa Node. The project is to investigate utility of machine learning and AI methods in improving cybersecurity of supply chains.

Learn more [here](#).

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### CCI Scholars – Undergraduate Research Assistant Program

The propagation of distorted or inaccurate information erodes trust in public institutions and scientific knowledge and negatively impacts a wide range of societal aspects. Recent foreign-driven disinformation campaigns and the rise of generative Artificial Intelligence highlight the need to identify and proactively mitigate election misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation (MDM). Though MDM detection is well-explored in Natural Language Processing, it has distinct limitations. To address these limitations, applicants will develop a novel framework for MDM detection that shifts the focus of fact-checking from individual posts to aggregate representations of alleged events and uses a retrieval-based approach relying on a set of automatically selected sources. Using this framework, applicants will perform a large-scale retrospective study of election MDM and develop a public web app.

Learn more [here](#).

## C5I Cyber Center of Excellence

Mason CEC's C5I Center is seeking talented undergraduate students who will contribute to various cybersecurity projects that directly support a significant center DoD sponsor. The hybrid work environment includes scheduled time onsite under the supervision of leading-edge cyber professionals. Track One – Cybersecurity Principles Track Two – Data Platforms and Data Analytics Interested students will be selected for either track based on knowledge and experience.

Learn more [here](#).

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## AWARDS

Congratulations to:

**Wang, Xuan** from the [College of Engineering and Computing](#) for receiving the National Science Foundation grant on Learning Coordination for Multi-Autonomous Multi-Human (MAMH) Agent Systems with Guaranteed Safety.

**Yao, Ziyu** from the [College of Engineering and Computing](#) for receiving the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority grant on Securing the Supply Chain of Large Language Models as Software with Explainable AI and Humans in the Loop.

**Hart, David M.** from the [Schar School Policy and Government](#) for receiving the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant on 2024 Climate-Tech Innovation Policy “Boot Camp” for Early Career Researchers.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[National Science Foundation - Partnership to Advance Conservation Science and Practice \(PACSP\)](#)

Deadline: **April 24, 2024**

[National Institutes of Health - Formative and Pilot Intervention Research to Optimize HIV Prevention and Care Continuum Outcomes](#)

Deadline: **May 9, 2024**

[European Commission - Safe & Sustainable by Design \(SSbD\) Packaging and Single Use Device Solutions for Healthcare Products](#)

Deadline: **April 23, 2024**

Deadline: **October 9, 2024**

## — IDIA AFFILIATION —

Did you know that, as an IDIA faculty affiliate, you are eligible to:

Compete for [internally funded IDIA projects](#)

Receive support for [IDIA-relevant events](#)

Become part of the [dynamic multidisciplinary faculty network](#) focused on digital techniques and technologies to advance fields as diverse as finance, education, built infrastructure, science, economics, agriculture, health, transportation, entertainment, national security, and social justice.

There is no financial burden to you or your departments for affiliation with the institute. Participation in IDIA does not prevent its members from being associated with other university centers. If you are not already affiliated, we encourage you to submit your profile [here](#).

## — SHARE WITH US —

We are eager to hear from you! As we work with your colleges to compile updates on digital innovation-related research activities at Mason, we would love to hear about your research activities, awards, and recent publications. Please share any successes, concerns, or ideas with us at [idia2@gmu.edu](mailto:idia2@gmu.edu)



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