THE WEEKLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

REACH Center Introductory Session

Join REACH to learn about the REACH Center, a new multi-institutional climate and health exploratory research center. The Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center aims to bridge big data with climate solutions that advance health and environmental justice.

When: March 5th from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Where: Merten Hall, Room 1203 or Via Zoom

Register here (Zoom link will be provided after registration)

Welcome to REACH!

Please join us to learn about the **REACH Center**, a new multi-institutional climate and health exploratory research center. The Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health (REACH) Center aims to **bridge big data** with **climate solutions** that advance **health** and **environmental justice**.

One of our key goals is to **bring together disciplines from across the University** to **collaborate** on **climate and health-related research projects and proposals**.

Learn about how you can be a part of this effort! We will give an **overview of REACH Center activities and discuss how we can help you develop climate and health research**. *Seed funding and student fellowships are available!*

RSVP HERE

Research and Engagement for Action on Climate and Health Center

11 AM – 12 PM EST
MARCH 5, 2025

Merten Hall Room 1203 AND **VIA ZOOM**
(link provided upon registration)

Mason I-Corps March Cohort

The George Mason University's NSF I-Corps Regional Program supports faculty, researchers, students, and innovators from across the Commonwealth of Virginia in exploring the commercial viability of their technology-based innovation ideas to accelerate business exploration and, ultimately, make a real-world impact. Through a six-session course, participants are introduced to the lean startup method, that's pioneered by the National Science Foundation.

March Cohort Schedule: March: 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 2025

Time: 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Register here

Forecasts with Machine Learning

Jun Wang from the *NOAA National Center for Environmental Prediction* will be holding a colloquium on Machine Learning Development for Global Weather and Climate Forecasts.

When: Wed, 5 Mar, 1:30pm

Where: Innovation 134 and via Zoom (for link, email bklinger@gmu.edu)

CCI OPPORTUNITIES

Critical Shift Scholars

CCI is looking for a security focused individual who can help develop methods to securely update embedded devices operating systems over the internet according to the current best practices.

Undergraduate students qualified for this position are likely pursuing a degree in computer science,cybersecurity engineering, information technology, networking, or electrical engineering. Candidates from other programs with the required skills are still encouraged to apply.

More information here

VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

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xTechIgnite Competition is Open for Submissions

The U.S. Army xTech Program is now accepting concept white paper submissions for the xTechIgnite competition and awarding up to $400,000 in cash prizes and the opportunity to submit an Army Small Business

Innovation Research (SBIR) proposal.

The xTechIgnite competition is seeking cutting-edge technology solutions from small, independent U.S. businesses that will drive significant military capabilities while addressing complex challenges and enhancing national security.

Concept white paper submissions must be received by 5:00 PM ET on March 12, 2025.

If you are interested in participating in the competition or learning more about the program, please visit the Army xTech Program website and check out the attached flyer.

CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCING THE ARMY'S MISSION THROUGH THE XTECHIGNITE COMPETITION

The Army xTech Program is seeking innovative technology solutions from U.S. small businesses that address critical capability needs across participating Program Executive Offices (PEOs). The competition is awarding up to $400,000 in cash prizes and the Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is awarding up to $27M in Army SBIR awards.

KEY BENEFITS

DIRECT ACCESS AND EXPOSURE TO ARMY AND DOD STAKEHOLDERS	TRANSPARENT AND DETAILED FEEDBACK FROM MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXPERTS	EARN CASH PRIZES & AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A PHASE I OR DIRECT TO PHASE II SBIR PROPOSAL

The U.S. Army is interested in cutting-edge technology solutions related to the following topics:

▶ **TOPIC 1:** Innovative Operations for Treatment and Processing of Wastewater
▶ **TOPIC 2:** Generative AI-enabled Tactical Network
▶ **TOPIC 3:** Bridge Health Monitoring (BHM) System
▶ **TOPIC 4:** Ruggedized Sensors to Increase Driving Visibility and Vehicle Safety
▶ **TOPIC 5:** Artificial Intelligence for Aided Driving of Ground Combat Vehicles
▶ **TOPIC 6:** AI – Enabled Source Selection
▶ **TOPIC 7:** AI – Enabled Portfolio Management
▶ **TOPIC 8:** Novel AI Techniques for Insights in Various Environments (NATIVE)

The xTechIgnite competition will accept submissions until 5 p.m. ET on March 12, 2025. For real-time updates, and to learn more about the competition, follow us on social media and visit our website at www.xtech.army.mil.

Congratulations to:

Tahan, Fadi from the College of Computing and Engineering and Co PI's **Dolci, Stefano** and **Marzougui, Dhafer** for recieving the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant on *NCHRP 22-63 Project, Verification and Validation Guidelines to Use Computer Simulation as an Alternative to Full-scale Crash Testing*

Wijesekera, Duminda from the Cyber Security Engineering Dept and Co PI's **Yu, Bo** for recieving the US Department of Energy (US DOE) grant on *Secure Telecommunications ARchitecture for Trusted and Resilient Electric Communications (STAR TREC)*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

IUSE/Professional Formation of Engineers: Revolutionizing Engineering Departments - National Science Foundation

Deadline: April 8, 2025

VinFuture Prizes – VinFuture Foundation

Deadline: April 17, 2025

Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program (S10 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - Office of Research Infrastructure Programs/NIH/DHHS

Deadline: June 2, 2025

***If a funding opportunity limits the number of applications the university can submit, it will be posted and managed through the Research Development Services office. Please contact limited@gmu.edu or Sheila Davis sdavis46@gmu.edu if you have questions or are unsure if the opportunity is a limited submission opportunity.

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**