

Endeavor Fund for Innovative Science (*Established 2016*)

Innovative ideas in science start from a basic premise or hunch; they build on prior research or sometimes emerge by happenstance. New ideas must be nurtured – through strong collaboration, robust financing, and institutional encouragement. UMCES' Endeavor Fund for Innovative Science fosters new thinking and methodology in environmental science and human welfare. It is aimed at providing proof-of-concept funding to university faculty and graduate students with the objective of leveraging robust external support after initial discoveries have been explored.

The Endeavor Fund was formed with two objectives: 1) to advance basic science in both marine and terrestrial environments – ***advancing scientific knowledge*** and/or 2) to foster opportunities for technology transfer and commercialization – ***translational science***.

The fund has been created through philanthropic gifts from members of the UMCES Board of Visitors and other private donors.

Grants from the Endeavor Fund not only provide needed financial support, they also help individual faculty and graduate students establish a track record of funding to advance their careers and, for some, to launch new commercial enterprises.

Guidelines

Two grants, one to faculty and one to students, will be awarded in the range of \$5,000-\$20,000 each.

Funds can be used for a variety of purposes such as piloting a new scientific investigation, covering fees related to patents or licensing, securing needed supplies or equipment for a new study, etc.

Funds may not be used for salary, benefits, or tuition.

Should the research funded by the Endeavor Fund grant result in publication, the cost of open-access publication (up to \$3,000) will be covered by the Endeavor Fund.

Application Process: Applicants should submit a proposal to the Endeavor Fund Selection Committee (see template on page 3) to jharrington@umces.edu. Proposals MUST be received by midnight on Thursday, **May 29, 2025**.

Student proposals require a letter of support from their advisor.

Project Funding: Awards will be made before July 1, 2025. Generally, projects should extend for one-year and conclude by June 30, 2026. In future rounds, funding can be requested for one additional year, but renewals are not guaranteed.

At the end of the grant period, awardees will present the outcome of projects to the UMCES Board of Visitors at their fall board meeting.

Endeavor Fund Selection Committee: The Committee will consist of the four UMCES laboratory directors (AL, CBL, HPL, IMET) or their designees, the Vice President for Advancement and two members of the Board of Visitors. The UMCES President will provide a tie-breaking vote if needed.

Selection criteria: Faculty and student proposals will be evaluated separately. The Committee will judge proposals based on their potential to advance a key scientific idea, and/or help to transfer a technology or product to commercial viability.

Endeavor Fund for Innovative Science Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should be no more than *two pages total* and contain:

Name

Project Title

Project Description

Expected outcomes and benefits

Likelihood of technology transfer and/or commercialization (if applicable)

Potential to generate additional external funding (if applicable)

Simple budget or budget narrative

Student proposals must include a letter of support from their advisor (not included in the two-page limit).

References are not included in the two-page limit.

A CV is not required.