Vertically Integrated Projects Announces Catalyst Seed Grant Awards

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Proposals from more than 10 academic units were among the recipients of the 2023 Catalyst Seed Grants from Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP). The focus of the grants was the creation of new undergraduate research opportunities that are embedded in faculty- or staff-led projects.

Applications were open to researchers from any University of Arizona department, with preference going to interdisciplinary teams involved in long-term, large-scale investigations. The grants were funded by the VIP program’s Provost’s Investment Fund award (Fall 2021 cycle), along with matching funds from University of Arizona Health Sciences. The matching funds, under the administration of Health Sciences Design, were included to promote outstanding health- and wellness-related research within the VIP program.

A panel of faculty and staff evaluated the submitted proposals and selected 17 for awards. The awarded proposals are listed below.

**Proposal Title:** Arizona Applied Psycholinguistics Lab (AAPL)
**PI/Team Leader:** Tania Leal, PhD
**Department/Unit:** Spanish and Portuguese, College of Humanities

**Proposal Title:** Arizona Streamgage Catalog (AZStreamCAT)
**PI/Team Leader:** Martha Whitaker, PhD
**Department/Unit:** Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Science

**Proposal Title:** Assessing Discharge Paperwork in Trauma Patients and Its Impact on Patient Health Literacy and Health Outcomes
**PI/Team Leader:** Abdul Tawab Saljuqi, MD, DrPH
**Department/Unit:** Surgery, College of Medicine – Tucson

**Proposal Title:** Automation in and across expert professions
**PI/Team Leader:** Daniel Menchik, PhD
**Department/Unit:** School of Sociology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Proposal Title:** Careers in Dance Expansion Project
**PI/Team Leader:** Tamara Dyke-Compton, MFA
**Department/Unit:** School of Dance, College of Fine Arts

**Proposal Title:** Collaborative Anthropology of Reproduction and the Environment (CARE)
**PI/Team Leader:** Janelle Lamoreaux, PhD
**Department/Unit:** School of Anthropology, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Proposal Title:** DISCAPAZ: Disability Experiences in the Borderlands
**PI/Team Leader:** Jacy Farkas, MA, ABD
**Department/Unit:** Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities, College of Medicine – Tucson

**Proposal Title:** Diverse Student Inquiry in Community Engaged Research: Community Gardening Programs for Melanoma Patients as an Approach to Individual and Public Health Resilience
**PI/Team Leader:** Meghan Skiba, PhD, MS, MPH, RDN
**Department/Unit:** Biobehavioral Health Science, College of Nursing

**Proposal Title:** Driving undergraduate research to explore the gut microbiome of shelter animals
**PI/Team Leader:** Kerry Cooper, PhD
**Department/Unit:** School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Proposal Title:** Expanding undergraduate research opportunities within the VIP BEST-CLIM: Assessing axial growth variability in Ponderosa pine from the Valles Caldera
**PI/Team Leader:** Flurin Babst, PhD
**Department/Unit:** School of Natural Resources and the Environment, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Proposal Title:** ICREWW VIP Expansion
**PI/Team Leader:** Martha Whitaker, PhD
**Department/Unit:** Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Science

**Proposal Title:** Orthopaedic Biomaterials for Bone Health, Healing and Regeneration
PI/Team Leader: David Margolis, MD  
Department/Unit: Orthopaedic Surgery, College of Medicine – Tucson  
Proposal Title: Sleep studies with obstructive sleep apnea
PI/Team Leader: Salma Patel, MD, MPH  
Department/Unit: Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, College of Medicine – Tucson  
Proposal Title: StellarScape Immersive Multimedia Project
PI/Team Leader: Yuanyuan He, DMA  
Department/Unit: Fred Fox School of Music, College of Fine Arts  
Proposal Title: Undergraduate research opportunities in molecular science
PI/Team Leader: Adam Daly, PhD  
Department/Unit: Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Science  
Proposal Title: Understanding the prevalence, transmission, and the epidemiological trace back investigation of *Cyclospora cayetanensis* in Fresh Produce Growing Regions
PI/Team Leader: Gerardo Lopez, PhD  
Department/Unit: School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Proposal Title: Water Whys Team Expansion
PI/Team Leader: Sara Kobilka, MS  
Department/Unit: Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences, College of Science

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