

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FACULTY RESEARCH AWARDS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ROUND #3 – APRIL 2024

[Click here to go to the Application Form](#)

THE CALL: We are seeking research proposals related to the sustainable development themes of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection and to any of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

THE AWARDS: In Round #3 of this Program, we expect 15-20 awards of \$1,500 - \$2,500 per project to recognize impactful and amazing research connected to the themes of sustainable development – by any UL Lafayette researchers (faculty, graduate students, post-docs, undergraduate students, professional staff, anyone).

- Round #1 in 2023 highlighted faculty research, recognizing 19 projects, 24 faculty researchers from 13 different departments, with \$40,800 in awards. These faculty presented their work at the March 8, 2024 Faculty Sustainable Development Research Summit.
- Round #2 in 2023-2024 highlighted graduate student research, recognizing 22 graduate student projects from 13 different graduate programs, with \$44,000 in awards. These graduate students presented their work at the April 12, 2024 Graduate Student Sustainable Development Research Summit.

THE PURPOSE: To showcase the amazing work being done by UL Lafayette researchers.
To make sustainable development a priority in Louisiana.
To show how interconnected economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are – in Louisiana and in general.
To provide seed-money for research projects and institutional mission.

REQUIREMENTS: Submit complete (or near-complete) project by September 15, 2024 and agree to present your work at the Sustainable Development Research Summit in Spring 2025.

THE TIMELINE: April 22, 2024 – Call for Proposals announced
June 1, 2024 – Proposal applications due
July 1, 2024 – Awards announced
October 1, 2024 – Projects due
Spring 2025 – Sustainable Development Research Summit

We may merge some of this work into other campus-wide events, such as the Undergraduate Research Conference in Fall or Graduate Student Appreciation Week in Spring.

In the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal #17, this program – its design, implementation and funding – is a cross-campus collaboration between Mary Farmer-Kaiser & Philip de Mahy (The Graduate School), Dianne Olivier (Faculty Affairs), Kiwana McClung (Office for Campus Inclusion), Gretchen Vanicor (Office of Sustainability), Brian Bolton, Dwight W. Andrus, Jr. / BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Finance and the Office for Research, Innovation & Economic Development.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The United Nations and other supra-national organizations have been working for years to prioritize Sustainable Development. The United Nations describes Sustainable Development as:

...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and are all crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.¹

The UN's focus on Sustainable Development can be directly applied through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing communities, nations, regions and businesses a road-map to working towards a more sustainable society. These SDGs were developed based on years of scholarly research, public-private partnerships and the vision to see the role that we all have on creating the future world we will all inhabit.²

Residents of Louisiana – and faculty at UL Lafayette – know as well as anyone how inextricably linked economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are to one another. We know that the future economic and social wellbeing of the state depends on having a strategy that respects how interconnected economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection are. Economic growth will happen *because of* social inclusion and environmental protection, not in spite of it. We could say the same about any other U.S. state or any other region of the world. But Louisiana is our home.

The goal of this project is to explore how the 17 SDGs impact the wellbeing of Louisiana, the USA and the world – both positively and negatively. By looking at the SDGs from a Louisiana and Southern US perspective, we hope to connect our daily lives with our future world. The changes that we wish to see in the world will be made locally – in our families and in our communities. If we are unable to make progress towards the SDGs in our own lives, then we have no chance of making progress towards the SDGs globally. The converse is true, of course: making progress towards the SDGs in our own lives and communities *is the only* way we will make progress towards the SDGs globally.

Your research will drive the changes we in the future and the progress we collectively make towards the SDGs in Louisiana. This project will showcase your research so we can all begin having critical conversations about how we create the future we all want Louisiana to have.

¹ “The Sustainable Development Agenda: Frequent Asked Questions; What is Sustainable Development”:
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

² It is not a coincidence that The University's stated value of “sustainability” perfectly aligns with the United Nations' definition of “sustainable development.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

