



## Applied Research Grant

### Social Science and Humanities Applied Research Proposal Examples

#### **Example 1**

This project, funded in 2018-19, aims to investigate best practices to support women's entry and success in the building construction trades. The inquiry will investigate the following three issues: optimal procedures for recruitment of women for the building construction trades, how best to rapidly train and orient women to acquire jobs and find success in the construction industry (looking at job acquisition timelines and retention); examining what contributes to women's job acquisition and retention. The applied research project proposes creating a 4-week (end) (44 hour) pilot pre-apprenticeship program supporting women's entry into the building construction trades. The curriculum will provide a general orientation to different career opportunities, connections to local building trade union representatives, tradeswomen, and contractors as well as hands-on building activities including experience with at least 3-4 different trades.

#### **Example 2**

This project, funded in 2018-19, aims to examine social isolation, loneliness, and work-family conflict experienced by long-haul truckers and their effects on driver health and well-being and turnover. This research proposes to identify both individual- and organizational-level variables that buffer the effects of these stressors, with a view to developing a set of recommendations and a concomitant implementation plan for the industry.

#### **Example 3**

This project, funded in 2017-18, aimed to conduct a comparative study of refugee resettlement in local communities and economies. Focusing on the Fox Valley region, the applicants sought to assess how residents of refugee background (RRBs) came to settle in the region, how they have fared following resettlement, what factors help to predict their success, what services are most important to enable such success and what gaps exist. In addition, the project aimed to determine what innovations can empower RRBs and help them to not only thrive but also become assets to the local workforce and community. While the initial study focused on the Oshkosh area, the team intends to expand and scale the study to both Milwaukee and Madison in the years to come.

#### **Example 4**

The goal of this project, funded in 2017-18, aimed to design and build season-ahead climate forecast tools for Wisconsin's Central Sands and evaluate their potential economic impact. Forecasts, if skillful, could help to guide decisions across agencies and landowners, related to allowable groundwater extraction, timing, and conjunctive use planning. Forecasts may be informative for 'early warnings', farmer planning (e.g. expected irrigation needs, pumping costs, crop variety options, etc.) and recreational and touristic planning through identification of likelihood and severity of impacted sites, or by triggering voluntary conservation measures. The team anticipates that these forecasts and user tools will benefit farmers and recreationalists by fostering proactive decision-making and reducing economic losses.

#### **Example 5**

This project, funded in 2016-17, aimed to create an online platform to allow students to do real science using multi-dimensional arrays of interactive videos. The platform is envisioned to serve as a new educational resource for students studying science, in particular physics and is intended

to provide teachers with a better way to engage students in authentic science investigations. The videos will improve the efficiency of science education by allowing students to directly analyze real life events depicted in the video using built-in tools. In addition, it is thought that such a tool will help to better prepare students for the open-ended, non-linear problem-solving environment they will likely face as they move forward in their career.

#### **Example 6**

This project, funded in 2015-16, facilitated collaboration with local First Nation communities/tribes and small growers to establish and expand experimental plots and food stations as well as satellite outlets at food markets, restaurants, and cafes. Its goal was to preserve the food and medicinal use of native plants in the region and the traditional Ojibwe knowledge for their cultivation and use. A key objective was to host a series of workshops affiliated with each experimental site that indicates to participants the properties of the natural food plants and their suitability for cultivation in individual garden plots and for small organic farmers interested in expanding their product line and markets. This multi-year project has a wide range of stakeholders from tribal organizations to indigenous schools, food farms, alternative food markets, and restaurants.

The multi-phase project illustrated the vast impact of previously uncultivated plants on the state of Wisconsin; these plants have an important place in the sustainable food markets and commercial restaurant industries. Economic benefits to the state of Wisconsin in growing native plants not previously cultivated include future commercialization of new products for nutrition, medicinal purposes, and fresh food markets.

#### **Example 7**

This project aimed to propagate four novel hazelnut genotypes for evaluation in field-scale trials. It was anticipated that such trials would provide for improved hazelnut genotypes available to Upper Midwest growers, allowing for the first perennial oilseed and grain crops to be grown there. The proposal, funded in 2015-16, planned to test expected yields and performance of four specific hazelnut genotypes prior to commercial release of the seeds, so that agronomic and management recommendations could be made to growers.

Improved hazelnut genetics will provide for rapid expansion of the hazelnut industry in Wisconsin and allow growers and processors to expand their operations, sparking an important impact on the state and its economy.

#### **Example 8**

This proposal aimed to create a dosimeter attachment with the ability to collect sound level measurements in the ear canal of public safety workers while on duty. The proposed dosimeter attachment combines the best features of both the commercially available personal noise dosimeter and the real ear measurement systems. The dosimeter attachment measures levels of occupational noise in the ear canal when an ear piece is present and evaluates signal to noise ratios during work tasks of public service employees. The proposal involved the creation of the attachment, laboratory testing, and field testing of the platform technology to show proof of concept for the next stages of development.

The proposed technology had the potential to improve occupational noise monitoring technology in every sector of the Wisconsin workforce: health, public safety, construction, food service, retail, and manufacturing. This project, funded in 2015-16, could provide a means to evaluate appropriate signal to noise ratios for effective on the job communication to improve efficiency and safety of Wisconsin employees, potentially decreasing Wisconsin healthcare costs and disability claims resulting from noise induced hearing loss or injury on the job.