

DON EDEN GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD 2025 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

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Important Dates and Information:

RFN Release Date: August 15, 2024
 Nomination Deadline: Monday, September 16, 2024 before 5:00 p.m. PT
 Award Announcement: At CSU Biotechnology Symposium, January 9-11, 2025
 Maximum Award Amount: \$2,000 (\$1,000 cash prize and travel reimbursement up to \$1,000)

Award Description:

The Don Eden Graduate Student Research Award fosters excellence in graduate student research throughout the California State University (CSU) system in biotechnology, covering a broad range of topics in cellular, molecular, chemical and physical studies of the life sciences. The award is designed to recognize and promote successful scientific communication to general audiences, to celebrate the work of outstanding graduate student researchers, and to highlight the pioneering work of collaborative faculty-student research groups.

This award honors Professor Don Eden (San Francisco State University) who held his students, colleagues and himself to the highest standards of excellence in research. In 1998 Professor Eden received the CSUBIOTECH Faculty Research Award and was a tireless participant in CSUBIOTECH governance from that time until his death in 2000. Professor Eden's own research was in biophysics and physical biochemistry, therefore, nomination of students using these approaches is particularly encouraged.

The Eden Award competition is held at the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 9-11, 2025). The maximum Eden Award is \$2,000 and is awarded as both a cash prize and a travel allowance to attend a professional meeting.

Eden Award Eligibility:

- The Eden Award program is open to any CSU student engaged in master's level biotechnology- related research or in the first two years of a doctoral biotechnology-related program. However, previous Eden Award Finalists are not eligible for this year's competition.
- The research project presented must be biotechnology-related. CSUBIOTECH accepts nominations from students in all biotechnology-related disciplines, including but not limited to life science, physical science, clinical science, math, computer science, agricultural science, engineering, and/or business.
- Eden Award nominees must be listed as a presenting author on a poster abstract submitted by a CSU faculty advisor and subsequently accepted at the 37th Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium. Students can only be nominated for work related to one poster accepted at the Symposium even if they are an author on more than one poster.
- Eden Award nominees must attend the entire 37th CSU Biotechnology Symposium (January 9-11, 2025), to compete in the award competition. Competition activities dates and times will be announced to finalists.
- Applicants who have been found liable of a substantiated violation of Title V, Title IX, or CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 in the last 5 years (after all investigations and appeals have been exhausted) are NOT eligible to apply for any CSUBIOTECH awards.

Eden Award Selection Criteria:

- *Quality of Poster Abstract.* The research project presented must be original and innovative; literature reviews alone are not acceptable.
- *Quality of Essay.* Student nominees must write an essay describing the impact the research project (described in the poster abstract) will have on that specific research field, what "integrity in research" means to the nominee, what the nominee's career goals are, and how the research described in the poster abstract impacts those career goals. Because the Eden Award includes a travel allowance, the essay should also provide details about the national or international meeting the nominee plans to attend, if they win the Eden Award. Explain why that particular meeting would be an appropriate setting in which to present your research project.
- *Nomination Letter from Faculty Advisor.* A faculty advisor must submit a signed nomination letter with the nomination package. This letter should provide a fair and objective assessment of the student's academic achievements and research abilities.
- *Quality of Poster and Interview.* Eden Finalists' posters will be judged based on the quality of the work presented, clarity of the data analysis, and ease of viewing. Students will also be judged on their ability to answer questions during a poster interview with the review committee.
- *Quality of Short Talk.* Each Eden Finalist will give a 10-minute talk during the awards session at the 34th Annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium, followed by 5 minutes for questions and answers (15 minutes total). The talk will be judged based on the nominee's ability to effectively communicate why the project is scientifically interesting to a general audience, to clearly present research methods, results and conclusions, to handle questions from the audience, to adhere to the time limit, and to prepare easy-to-read slides.

Nomination Instructions:

NOMINATION DEADLINE is Monday, September 16, 2024, before 5:00 p.m. pacific time.

- Eden nominations must be submitted by faculty mentors at CSUBIOTECH's website using the InfoReady submission system. The Eden submission system is separate from the Symposium abstract submission system.
- Eden nominees should be listed as a presenting author on a poster abstract submitted by a faculty mentor to the annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium.
- Complete nomination packages (see below) must be submitted by the deadline. Supporting Eden nomination documents must be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.
- Please note: If the poster abstract submitted for the Eden nomination is not accepted into the Symposium, associated nominees will not be eligible for the Eden Award. Please pay close attention to the CSUBIOTECH's poster abstract submission criteria.

A complete Eden Award nomination package includes all of the following (submitted by faculty mentor using the online SharePoint poster abstract submission system):

- Poster abstract, submitted to the CSU Biotechnology Symposium
- Signed faculty advisor nomination letter (limit 2 pages) on campus letterhead
- Student essay (limit 2 pages)

Award Selection Process:

Nominations that are complete and meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel comprised of CSU faculty, administrators and the Eden family. Up to one award will be made each year.

- The CSUBIOTECH program office will evaluate nominations for completeness and eligibility. Qualified nominations will be forwarded to the selection committee.
- The selection committee will make decisions based on the quality of research described in the poster abstract, nominee's essay, and the nomination letter from a faculty mentor. Up to five Finalists will be selected. Nominees not selected as Finalists will be recognized during the poster sessions.

- Finalists will be further evaluated based on their short talk and poster interview.
- The award recipient will be announced and honored during the symposium.

The Eden Award:

An award of \$1,000 will be made in the form of a cash prize issued as a check from San Diego State University to the awardee and sent via U.S. Mail.

The remainder (maximum up to \$1000) will be available to reimburse awardee's expenses incurred travelling to and from a national or international scientific meeting to present the award-winning research project. Student awardee must be an enrolled CSU student (not yet graduated) or a CSU employee at the time the travel funds are used so that the expenses can be reimbursed.

CSUBIOTECH Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) Policy:

CSUBIOTECH has adopted a policy on the use of generative artificial intelligence technology similar to that of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF policy can be found at <https://new.nsf.gov/news/notice-to-the-research-community-on-ai>. The CSUBIOTECH policy applies as follows to all grant and award programs, including peer review.

To safeguard the integrity of the development and evaluation of proposals in the merit review process:

- CSUBIOTECH reviewers are prohibited from uploading any content from proposals, review information and related records to non-approved generative AI tools.
- Proposers have the option to indicate in the project description or proposal/application documents the extent to which, if any, generative AI technology was used and how it was used to develop their proposal.

Use of generative AI by reviewers in CSUBIOTECH review panels:

- CSUBIOTECH reviewers agree to maintain confidentiality of the review process, reviewer identities, and application/proposal materials submitted to CSUBIOTECH in response to grant and award Requests-for-Proposals (RFP's) and Requests-for-Nominations (RFN's).
- The obligation to maintain confidentiality of review related information extends to the use of generative AI tools and "checking" programs. CSUBIOTECH reviewers are prohibited from uploading any content from proposals, review information and related records to non-approved generative AI tools or websites not approved by the CSUBIOTECH program office. If reviewers take this action, CSUBIOTECH will consider it a violation of the program's confidentiality policy. CSUBIOTECH reviewers may share publicly available information with current generation generative AI tools.

Use of generative AI in proposal preparation:

- Proposers are encouraged to indicate in the project description or narrative of their proposals and applications the extent to which, if any, generative AI technology was used and how it was used to develop their proposal. Similar to NSF, CSUBIOTECH is studying the use of generative artificial intelligence in responses to our calls for proposals and nominations. CSUBIOTECH will continue to review NSF policy and may adapt its own policies as more is learned about this tool in future rounds of grant and award programs. To be clear, the use of generative AI in proposal preparation is not prohibited in CSUBIOTECH grant and award programs.
- Proposers are responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of their proposal submission in consideration for peer review, including content developed with the assistance of generative AI tools. CSUBIOTECH's policies stated in its Code-of-Conduct and Applicant Certification statements remain in force with regards to the use of generative artificial intelligence technology. Generative AI tools may create risks of violating these rules and regulations, and proposers and awardees are responsible for ensuring the integrity of their proposal and reporting of research results. This policy does not preclude research on generative AI as a topic of study.
- CSUBIOTECH adopts the definition of GAI as stated in the NSF guidelines: "Generative artificial intelligence (GAI) is a technology that can create content, such as text, images, audio, or video, when prompted by a user. Generative AI systems create responses using algorithms often trained on large datasets of information, such as text and images from the internet." (Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office, Science and Tech Spotlight: Generative AI; June 2023)

CSUBIOTECH Statement of Principles on Professional Behavior:

CSUBIOTECH values diverse perspectives where all individuals can flourish. CSUBIOTECH is dedicated to providing an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and creativity, free and lively debate conducted with mutual respect for individuals, and freedom from intolerance. These values are applicable to any aspect of CSUBIOTECH's work, including meetings, symposia, and funded activities. Specifically, members of our community value:

- Critical scholarly discourse for the purpose of understanding, advancing scientific ideas, and educating the next generation of science and engineering practitioners;
- Education and research environments where all people are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and free of bias, hostility, and harassment of any kind;
- Conversations and discussions where community members can share ideas in a collegial atmosphere that is inclusive and values everyone's input and opportunity to participate;
- Advocacy for equality and inclusivity in science;
- The use of inclusive examples, graphics, and stories in presentations and proposals;
- Access for all community members, including traditionally underrepresented groups, to fully participate in and become leaders in science;
- The support and promotion of the education and careers of all scientists, engineers, and bio-entrepreneurs;
- Leadership in our fields to strengthen scientific mentorship and create an atmosphere of collaboration;
- Commitment to our own education and participation in activities related to recognizing and eliminating implicit bias.

Policies

- 1) All participants in CSUBIOTECH events and activities are expected to follow the requirements of Title V, Title IX, and California State University (CSU) Executive Orders and adhere to the CSUBIOTECH Principles of Professional Behavior and values. Non-CSU participants who do not follow these expectations may be asked to leave a CSUBIOTECH event or activity and/or prohibited from participation in future CSUBIOTECH events or activities. Individuals can report incidents immediately to the CSUBIOTECH designee to facilitate this process.
- 2) Individuals found in violation of Title V or [IX](#) or [CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097](#) are not eligible to receive CSUBIOTECH funding or participate in CSUBIOTECH program activities for a period of 5 years from the final substantiation of the violation or the end of any current grant award, whichever is later. Faculty who are found to be in violation before funds are transferred for an award, will be ineligible to receive funds for the award.
- 3) After a five-year ineligibility period, individuals found in violation of relevant policy for a second time lose eligibility for all future CSUBIOTECH funding or participation in CSUBIOTECH related activities permanently. [Relevant CSU Executive Orders include:](#)
 - a. Executive Order 1095 Revised (Systemwide Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking Policy);
 - b. Executive Order 1096 Revised (Systemwide Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment, Retaliation, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking against Employees and Third Parties and Systemwide Procedure for Addressing Such Complaints by Employees and Third Parties); and
 - c. Executive Order 1097 Revised (Systemwide Policy Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation, Sexual Misconduct, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking against Students and Systemwide Procedure for Addressing Such Complaints by Students) may be found at the following website address: <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/>.

Certifications

- 1) CSUBIOTECH will include the Statement of Principles on Professional Behavior (section III above) in event registration processes. Event participants will be asked to acknowledge the principles.

- 2) Applications for CSUBIOTECH funding, award opportunities, or event registrations will include the following certifications:
 - a. Applicants will indicate whether they have been found in violation of Title V, Title IX, or CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 in the last 5 years.
 - b. Applicants will allow the campus to disclose to the CSUBIOTECH program office any substantiated violations of Title V, IX, or CSU Executive Orders 1096 or 1097.

Reporting Procedures:

- 1) Incidents that involve CSU faculty, staff, or students only
 - a. Individuals who believe there has been a violation of Title V, IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 at a CSUBIOTECH event or activity should report the event following CSU policy and procedures on their home campus.
 - b. Prior to transfer of grant or awards to campus, CSUBIOTECH will ask for campus confirmation that the awardee has not been found in violation of Title V, Title IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 in the prior 5 years. The campus information provided will include only the existence of a final, substantiated violation and the date of the violation. The information will be kept confidential in the CSUBIOTECH program office.
- 2) Incidents that involve non-CSU individuals
 - a. Suspected violations of Title V, Title IX, or Executive Orders 1096 or 1097 by participants not affiliated with the CSU should be reported to CSUBIOTECH administration immediately. Participants may also e-mail CSUBIOTECH administration to report at a later date, if so desired.

Program Contacts:

Nominators are encouraged to contact CSUBIOTECH via email with any questions.

CSU Biotech Equally Effective Alternative Access Statement:

Applicants who are unable to access or use the InfoReady submission system should send their completed proposal template, including any additional documentation or support letters, to Christine Montgomery at rmontgomery@sdsu.edu by the submission deadline of September 16th, 2024 at 5 pm.

Any questions about using the InfoReady system should be directed to Tyson Gadd at tgadd@sdsu.edu.

Submission questions:

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