

SDSU College of Education Student Difference Makers Research Support Program: Fall 2026 Call for Proposals

PURPOSE

Through generous donor support, the College of Education (COE) is proud to offer for its third year in a row the Student Difference Makers Research Support Program. This program is designed to support the research activities of COE students who are making a difference in their field of study.

AMOUNT AND TIME FRAME OF AWARD

Expenses must be incurred between December 1, 2026 and November 30, 2027. Requests for up to \$500 will be considered. Awarded funds must be spent on activities directly related to research and scholarship. Allowable expenses may include, but are not limited to, research materials/supplies/books, transcription costs, poster printing, publishing costs, professional membership fees, conference registration and travel, software and equipment (that remain university property), and participant incentive payments. Funds can be used to help conduct a research study and/or to help disseminate the findings from an already completed study.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be current:
 - Undergraduate students with a COE major,
 - Credential students, or
 - Graduate students in COE advanced certificate and/or graduate programs.
- Awarded funds must be spent on activities that take place while the applicant is enrolled full-time at SDSU or enrolled in dissertation units.
- Applications should be completed by **4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026**. Late proposals will not be accepted. Please save the confirmation that your responses have been submitted. Award notifications will be made by Monday, Nov 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

INFORMATION

For additional information about this funding opportunity, please contact Associate Dean for Research Rachel Haine-Schlagel at rhaine@sdsu.edu.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Student Difference Makers Research Support Program application consists of 3 required parts.

1. General Application Information
2. Request for Funds Statement
3. Faculty Reference

Application Section #1: General Application Information

2. Student Name *

3. Student Program and Department/School *

4. Student Telephone Number *

5. Student SDSU Email Address *

6. Student **Personal** Email Address (to keep in touch with you after you graduate) *

7. What is your student status? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Undergraduate student with a COE major
- ☐ Credential student
- ☐ Graduate students in COE advanced certificate and/or graduate programs

8. Title of Project *

9. Amount Requested (\$500 Maximum) *

10. Number of Students Applying for The Project? *

Each project may receive only one award, regardless of how many students are involved.

If more than one student is working on the same project, submit a single joint application with one student designated as the lead applicant.

Do not submit separate applications for the same project. This includes cases where multiple students plan to jointly present the same findings at a conference. For example, if two students are co-presenting one poster from the same project, that counts as one project and should be submitted as one application, not two.

Submitting multiple applications for the same project will not be considered, and will not increase the amount of funding available to that project.

11. Are Human Subjects Involved? *

The SDSU Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects must approve projects involving human subjects; if approval is pending, no research funding will be provided until a protocol number is provided to Dr. Rachel Haine-Schlagel (rhaine@sdsu.edu). It is acceptable to indicate under the next question regarding "Status" that IRB approval will be obtained prior to any spending of awarded funds, if applicable.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes *

12. * If you answered yes to the above question please provide the Status of the IRB application (i.e., the protocol number or status of obtaining IRB approval). If you answered no, please write N/A. *

Application Section #2: Request for Funds Statement

1. Please prepare a brief (**maximum of two pages, double-spaced**) statement that includes the following information:

1. **Please provide a brief summary of your research project.**
2. **Please list the following related to your request for funds** (*please note, funds can only be awarded for specific materials or activities; funds are not available to support personal needs that enable you to conduct your research*):
 - How much money you are requesting, up to a maximum of \$500.
 - A list of what you will spend the money on and how each item specifically relates to your research.
 - The specific amount for each item.
 - Your timeline for completing the activities that you are requesting funds to support.

Examples of what you can spend the money on:

- Research materials (books, supplies)
- Transcription
- Poster printing
- Publishing fees
- Professional membership fees
- Conference travel and registration
- Software and equipment (that stays with the university)
- Participant incentives

3. **How is your research helping you be/become a difference maker? How is your research making a difference in your field?**
4. **How will the funds you are requesting support your career trajectory?**
5. **How will the funds you are requesting contribute to your program, department/school, the College of Education, and/or SDSU?**

13. Please upload your Request for Funds Statement here. Submit your Request for Funds Statement as a PDF file. Name your file as follows: LastName_FirstName_SDM2026_RequestForFunds *

Example: Nguyen_Elizabeth_SDM2026_RequestForFunds

Files submitted:

Application Section #3: Faculty Reference

Please include the name and contact information of one faculty reference the review committee can contact for further information if needed.

14. Faculty Name *

15. Faculty SDSU Email Address *

16. Faculty Program and Department/School Affiliation *

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

Award recipients must agree to:

- provide a photograph of yourself for communication purposes,
- when invited by the college, participate in marketing and communications efforts including potential video features, news articles, etc., to highlight the impact of the funding,
- submit all paperwork required to access awarded funds in a timely manner in accordance with communications from the Dean's Office,
- when applicable, create and share video and/or photographs of how you are spending program funds. Consider capturing key moments, such as presenting your research, conducting fieldwork, or reaching a milestone, and share with the Dean's Office, and
- submit a paragraph to the Associate Dean for Research by December 31, 2026 describing how the funds were spent and their impact.

17. Signature: By typing your name below you are agreeing to the above terms and conditions should you be awarded funds from this program. *

18. Date of Submission *

Example: January 7, 2019

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