California State University Chico
College of Agriculture

CSU The California State University
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ARI PI Informational Meeting

September 4, 2026

"Drive applied research—through the power of the California State University (CSU) system and industry collaboration—to positively impact California agriculture, natural resources and food systems, while cultivating the next generation of leaders in these fields"

What is Agricultural Research Institute (ARI)

ARI is a diversified, multi-campus applied research program focused on high-priority issues facing California agriculture. We are made up of four member CSU campuses and two associate member campuses.

Mission: Enable applied research – through the power of the California State University (CSU) system – that benefits California agriculture, natural resources and food systems while cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Vision: The Agricultural Research Institute will be a leading catalyst for timely, applied research and student development making California's agriculture, natural resources and food systems more resilient and sustainable. https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/ari

THE IMPACT OF ARI

Since its launch in 1999, ARI has transformed agricultural research at the CSU.

$161 MILLION
IN GRANT FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

23%
OF ARI'S BUDGET
GOES TO STUDENT SUPPORT

Key Support for ARI

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Pre Award: **Daniel Buckley** dbuckley4@csuchico.edu

Post Award: **Ian Hermosa** cihermosa@csuchico.edu

Lead Admin: **Dean Kevin Patton**

ARI Campus Coordinator: **Dr. Cindy Daley**

Additional Information & Links:

- Cayuse: https://www.csuchico.edu/cse/propdev/cayuse/index.shtml
- InfoReady/Ag Commons: https://csuari.infoready4.com/
- CSE ARI Webpage: https://www.csuchico.edu/cse/grant-funding-opportunities/agricultural-research-institute.shtml

ARI Annual Funding Competitions:

CSU ARI Systemwide grants can be funded for a maximum of 3 years with a minimum request of $75,000 per year and a maximum request of $150,000 per year. The system proposal must be collaborative and should include partners from another CSU, UC, industry or other universities, etc.

CSU Chico Campus grants can be funded for a maximum of 3 years with no minimum requests and a maximum request of $100,000 per year.

ARI System Competition

- Designated for Multi-campus/Multi-institutional collaborative research
- System funding annual allocation of $762,488
- Minimum request is $75,000/yr; Maximum request is $150,000/yr
- Up to 3 years
- Requires 1:1 match (25% cash match minimum)
- Collaboration is required (another CSU, UC, other qualified research organizations, state agency, etc.)
- Notice of Intent (NOI) should be in by **10/01/26**
- Ensure subaward scope, budget and narrative are obtained asap
- Pre-proposals submission to CSE due on **11/06/26**; InfoReady submission due **11/13/26**
- If invited for full proposal, this will be due **02/08/27**

ARI Campus Competition

- Maximum request $100,000 per year, 3 yrs max
- Same match requirements apply
- $575,617 comes to Chico campus annually; research 495,617 and administration 80,000; *possible cut in allocation is anticipated*
- All previously awarded multi-year projects comes out of this total
- Round 27: FY 25/26 Year 3 $117,240
- Round 28: FY26/27 Year 2 $304,917
- ***Round 29: FY 27/28 Year 1 $73,439 (tentative) + COA addt'l $50,000***
- 0% IDC; 80k/72.8k administration supports all system and campus funded projects

Proposal Process System Competition (Pre-award)

- Notice of Intent – Oct 1st - Create Record in Cayuse SP. Include a Project Abstract/Scope of Work
- Developing your Proposal – Daniel Buckley, CSE or your DS for current wage/benefit rates and other considerations
- Behind the Scenes (CSE helps PI develop budget to upload all in Cayuse for routing)

Nov. 6th Deadline: Submission of pre-proposals to CSE (Cayuse, scope of work, budget, budget narrative) Attach:

- Draft budget on ARI Excel Budget Template- use FORMULAS in the cells to calculate
- Budget Narrative (include descriptions of costs supported by ARI and Match but keep them separate as reflected in the excel budget)

Nov 13th: Submission to InfoReady (after your pre-proposal has been fully routed/approved at Chico/CSE). CSE helps PI complete an application record in InfoReady: Narrative, Match, Partner Forms, etc.

- Chico ARI pre-proposal submitted to ARI HQ for review
- Dec: Invitations to submit full ARI System proposals are announced. Full Proposals due Feb. 08, 2027
- ARI Dean's Council approves Statewide Proposals for funding ~ June 2027 or later
- Potential project Start date(s): Jan. 1, 2028

Date/Deadline	Millstone/Action
Oct 1, 2026	Notice of Intent – Create Record in Cayuse SP (include Project Abstract/Scope of Work)
Nov 6, 2026	Submission of pre-proposals to CSE (Cayuse, scope of work, budget, budget narrative). Attach draft budget on ARI Excel Template (with formulas) + Budget Narrative (separating ARI vs Match costs)
Nov 13, 2026	Submission to InfoReady after CSE routing/approval. CSE assists with full application (Narrative, Match, Partner Forms, etc.). Chico ARI pre-proposal sent to ARI HQ for review
Dec 2026	Invitations to submit full ARI System proposals announced
Feb 08, 2027	Full ARI Proposals due
June 2027	ARI Dean's Council approves Statewide Proposals for funding
Jan 1, 2028	Potential Project Start

Proposal Process Campus Competition (Pre-award)

Notice of Intent – Dec 1, 2026 - Create Record in Cayuse SP. Include a Project Abstract/Scope of Work- designate Campus ARI as Sponsor on General Information Screen

Proposals due – Jan. 22, 2027

- Attach draft budget
- Proposal narrative
- Budget justification

Budget – Contact Daniel Buckley for current wage/benefit rates and other considerations

Full Proposals due – Feb. 08, 2027 in InfoReady. Submission of all required application materials in InfoReady (after your proposal has been fully routed and approved in Cayuse)

ARI Chico Campus invites a qualified local review committee to rank proposals – April / May 2027
June 2027 - awarded proposals are announced

Budget Specifics for Development (Pre-award)

Indirect Rates

- Indirect rates do not apply to ARI funds
- Indirect rates DO apply to the Match: Fed 42.5%; State 40% or Negotiated Rate; Non-Profits/Foundations and for-profit organizations (42.5% or applicable rate)

Matching funds (Ian will discuss more later)

- Matching funds and source are listed on ARI Excel budget spreadsheet in separate columns by Source (i.e. USDA/ UCANR/ Walnut board) and Type (cash/in-kind).
- Line items should be completed with formulas in cells to self calculate (do not to enter hard numbers)
- Include Matching Funds Summary in Excel and more detail in budget narrative/justification to attach in Cayuse and within ARI InfoReady application

Budget flexibility if funded

- 20% category flex (flex between budget categories)
- Exceeding 20% flex threshold will require approval from ARI Campus Coordinator

Budget Specifics for Development (Pre-award)

Budget Categories in the ARI Budget Template:

- PI Salaries (AE/RT)
- Other Personnel/Student Salaries
- Fringe Benefits
- Equipment >5k
- Travel
- Participant Costs/Student Payment via FASO
- Other Direct Costs, i.e. Supplies, Contract Services, Sub-awards, Dissemination

Matching Funds

- Match project(s) should be project related to the ARI proposal
- Match requirement is 1:1
- The total required match can be made up of: 25% cash min and 75% in-kind
- Matching verification forms are completed as part of your proposal docs
- Match must be received by CSU Chico PI or Co-PI
- Window of acceptable match
  - Match needs to be secured and will be counted as far back as 6 months from the project start date
  - Front loading of match is allowed for multi-year projects
  - Some flex in start dates due to funding cycles; earliest start date July 1st

Matching Funds

Match should not be from CSU General Funds such as student fees or unrecovered indirect costs

- ARI funds will only be released when 1:1 match requirement is met and secured
- Cash match must be received on the CSU campus receiving the ARI award

Post Award Responsibilities

- **Annual Report** - due every Aug. 15th of each year covering the previous FY progress
- **Final Report** (Annual and Final report are required in the last year of the project. Final report is due within 90 days from end date
- **ARI PI Meeting** in Sacramento is usually in October/November; attendance is required
  - Add travel funds to your budgets for this
  - Counts as a portion of your dissemination activities
- Faculty Mentoring Survey participation is mandatory to receive ARI funding
- Student Survey is Optional - BUT HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
  - Pre and Post Student Involvement survey to assess what they learned

Proposal Preparation

- We need to be addressing Agricultural Industry issues (w/ California application)
- Agricultural Industry support is emphasized
  - Letters of support or make them part of your team
- Prepare the proposal for the review - see evaluations rubric
- Follow the Proposal RFA categories
  - **Solid justification - state the issue to be addressed - how significant is this issue ($$)**
  - Clear goals/objectives
  - Clear deliverables and milestones to get there
  - Methods - sufficiently detailed
  - Clear project products and/or deliverables
  - Clear IMPACT statement
  - Appropriate budget categories
- Student involvement & Student mentoring is highly favorable
  - Build in the time it takes to teach/mentor/be there

Proposal Preparation Cont.

Project results dissemination and technology transfer should lead to increased consumer awareness and confidence in our environmentally sound and science-based food and agricultural systems.

The ARI focuses on the following agricultural and natural resource issues that have the potential to affect the sustainability and profitability of California agriculture (for full descriptions of each issue and research topic please visit the ARI website at https://ari.calstate.edu):

Water • Labor • Environment • Regulations

The ARI funds applied research projects within the following research topics:

Advanced Technologies; Animals; Business and Economics; Environment; Farming and Ranching; Food Science; Health; Human Sciences; Natural Resources; Plants

See the **PI Resource Center** site on the CSU ARI InfoReady website
Go To: https://csuari.infoready4.com/

ARI Virtual Cafe Hours

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ARI Virtual Café Hours will be offered for one-on-one support

Friday, September 11th, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm
Friday, October 9th, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm
Friday, November 13th, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm
Friday, December 11th, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

We can go over your proposal, talk about suitable partners/match, and how to make your proposal competitive.

Join Zoom Meeting ARI Virtual Cafe Hours Zoom link
Meeting ID: 851 1663 2336 Passcode: 108603

CONTACTS:

Pre Award: Daniel Buckley dbuckley4@csuchico.edu
Post Award: Ian Hermosa cihermosa@csuchico.edu

CSU ARI Student Fellowships

- $11,000 for undergraduate students; $25,000 for graduate students
- Accepting undergraduate and graduate applications between Dec 1, 2026 to Jan. 31, 2027 last cohort of the ARI-NextGen Program.
- More information is found in the ARI AgCommons InfoReady page and scroll down to ARI Student Fellowships tile.
- Eligible for cash match if the mentor is the PI of the ARI project
- See ARI Student Fellowship Flyer for more information

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USDA nextgen

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

REQUIRED:

- A GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Must plan to pursue a career in Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, or Human Sciences
- Must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.

PRIORITY:

- A low-income, first generation college student
- Or, under-represented (Hispanic/Latinx; African American, or Native American)

BENEFITS:

- Funding amount:
  - $11,000 (undergraduates)
  - $25,000 (graduates)
- Conduct research in agriculture or natural resources
- Gain in-depth knowledge in your field through projects
- Exercise your critical thinking skills
- Gain professional experience
- Work with faculty and professional mentors
- Career mentoring
- Science & professional experience

How to Apply:

1) Visit our *ARI AgCommons* website.
2) Navigate to the **ARI Student Fellowships** carousel.
3) Select **ARI Student Fellowship Applications** tile.

Questions?

Contact: David Still (dwstill@cpp.edu), Executive Director, CSU Agricultural Research Institute.
Lauren Young (Lnyoung@cpp.edu), ARI Analyst II, CSU Agricultural Resesarch Institute.