

## **WV-INBRE Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience Awards (CURE, Y25)**

<b>Release Date:</b>	<b>December 15, 2025</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Due:</b>	<b>March 11, 2026</b>
<b>Application Due:</b>	<b>May 29, 2026</b>
<b>Award Announcement:</b>	<b>~August 1, 2026</b>

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### **Section I. CURE Funding Opportunity Description**

#### **Purpose: Enhance Biomedical Research at WV-INBRE Network and Community College/Technical School Institutions**

The overall goal of the WV-INBRE is to continue developing a research and research education network among predominantly undergraduate institutions. This is a new initiative to support course-based research endeavors for not only the **Primarily Undergraduate Institutions** (PUIs) in the network, but to expand this opportunity for the **Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs)** in WV. As such, we are announcing the availability of Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) awards which are designed to support the gaining of research experience to be carried out at the above-mentioned institutions. **All faculty at WV-INBRE PUIs and CTCs are eligible to participate (except holders of research project awards).** Proposals must be consistent with the current research theme for WV-INBRE which is biomedical with an emphasis on any biomedical disease, cancer or natural product focus in humans. Awards focused on development or application of bioinformatics or computational methods in biomedicine will also be supported.

## **Section II. Award Information**

- Estimated Number of Awards in Y26: 4-5 awards
- Total Anticipated Funding Amount in Y26: \$60,000-\$75,000
- Limit on funding per award: \$15,000 direct costs (for allowable indirect cost calculation, see Section V Allowable Costs)
- Proposals must be received no later than May 29, 2026.
- Awardees will be notified in August 2026. Start date for Y26 has not been determined at this time. Subawards will be made after the official Notice of Grant Award from NIGMS is received by Marshall University.
- Awarded funds must be expended during the period of the grant, after the start date of Y26, or before July 31, 2027. A no-cost extension will not be allowed.

## **Section III. Eligibility and Application Requirements**

The following classes of investigators are eligible to apply: (1) Faculty at WV-INBRE undergraduate partner colleges and universities and (2) Faculty at WV community colleges/technical schools. Faculty at the lead institutions (MU and WVU), postdoctoral fellows, students and recipients of WV-INBRE major research awards are not eligible to apply. If the recipient institution is not part of the research network, an MOU will have to be signed. For CTCs, a member of their leadership team will be added as an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee.

Recipients of COBRE and IDeA-CTR awards are not eligible for research funding from WV-INBRE as project investigators of major or pilot grant awards (even if the proposals are nonoverlapping). Similarly, WV-INBRE investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from a COBRE or IDeA-CTR program. However, once their COBRE/CTR funding has been completed, these investigators can be considered in rare cases for some pilot funding if there is a strong and compelling justification and rationale. (See NIGMS INBRE Funding Opportunity Announcement ([wv-inbre.net](http://wv-inbre.net))) COBRE and IDeA-CTR investigators may serve and be supported as science advisors or collaborators in WV-INBRE programs as appropriate.

WV-INBRE Thematic Considerations: Proposals must be consistent with the current research theme for WV-INBRE which is Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on biomedical diseases in humans. Applications focused on the use of bioinformatics or computational methods for biomedical research will also be supported.

Limit on Number of Proposals: Individual investigators may only submit one application. There is no limit on the number of proposals a given institution may submit.

#### **Section IV. Application Process and Submission Information**

**Letter of Intent: Applicants must submit a letter of intent to apply for a grant by March 11.** The letter should include the title of the project and a brief paragraph describing the nature of the class-based research to be performed. If desired, the name of a mentor or potential mentor at either Marshall or WVU can be included. If the applicant has not identified a mentor, the information in this letter of intent will allow the Administrative Core to identify potential mentors if so desired based on the nature of the proposed research.

**CURES Application:** Each application should be single spaced and use no smaller than 11 point font and use a form which will be emailed to applicants following the submission of a letter of intent. Applications should reflect semester long research exercises that focus on novel questions in biomedicine. The ability to publish the final results will be considered a plus.

**Institutional Endorsement:** The forthcoming form should include signatures of the Principal Investigator and the institutional official authorized to make a commitment of resources needed to carry out the proposed research.

**Principal Investigator:** (i.e., the individual preparing the application) and key personnel, including a mentor): biographical sketch (no more than 2 pages each, can use either the NIH biosketch form or submit a CV).

**Mentor:** Each project may have a research mentor from either WVU or Marshall who can advise and assist the applicant in the conduct of the research program. Dr. Hileman can assist the applicant in finding a mentor.

**Abstract:** 250 words or less

**Research Plan:** Include Objectives, Specific Aims, Background, and Design for Class Participation (IRB or ACUC protocols if required). Page limits: 5 pages maximum (not including references and appendices). The research plan should include learning objectives, a course schedule, topics covered, enrollment estimates (minimum of 8 students), expected outcomes and dissemination strategy for results. Work is eligible (and encouraged) to be presented at the annual summer INBRE research symposium.

**Network Value:** Describe how this project will benefit the WV-INBRE or the principal investigator's institution (1/2 page maximum).

**Budget and Justification:** The budget must clearly justify requests. (1-2 pages).

*Budget Guidelines:*

Funds may be requested to support the following:

1. Support of student workers (fringe benefits may be requested).
2. Salary support (up to 10% of effort) for the principal investigator may be requested. Importantly, funding approval from NIGMS is usually slow progress, so, if possible, institutions may need to provide advanced funding until subaward funding has been approved.
3. Consumable supplies.
4. Supplies required for carrying out the proposed research (computer purchases will not be considered).
5. Services (i.e., outside laboratory fees or publication costs).
6. Indirect costs will be awarded at the rate the institution has negotiated with the NIH. If no rate agreement exists, the recipient institution may request the Federal de minimis rate of 15% (modified total direct cost).

While institutional match is not required, if this is planned, all forms of institutional commitment should be defined and documented (letter from appropriate institutional official).

**Human or animal research:** Research involving human or animal subjects must have IRB or ACUC approval before it can be initiated. Although an approved human or animal subject protocol is not required for submission of an application, NIH requires an approved protocol and will be required before funds are released. Institutional approval may also be necessary if the work involves hazards of biological origin. Institutions that do not have these review committees must utilize existing committees at WVUHSC or MUSOM (contact Dr. Stan Hileman for assistance).

These grants may be considered for renewal pending satisfactory progress, as demonstrated by the yearly progress report which is required for all projects at the time a renewal application is submitted. If this application is a renewal, please include a one-page summary of progress to

date as a separate section, which will not be counted as part of the total pages in the actual grant application.

**Submission process:** Please combine all components of your application into a single pdf and email the document to: Dr. Stan Hileman, Department of Physiology, Pharmacology, and Toxicology as [smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu). The electronic PDF file of the application should be named: **Lastname\_Firstname\_CURE\_2026.pdf**.

**Proposal Due Date:** All proposals must be received by 11:59 PM on May 29, 2026

### **Section V. Allowable Costs**

Grant funds may be used to purchase supplies, pay for core facility services, and support salary up to 10% effort for the principal investigator. Equipment and supplies purchases will be considered with appropriate justification and relevance to the proposal. Participation by undergraduate students is required. The funds requested will be sub awarded to the investigator's institution and not to MUSOM or WVUHSC. Funding period of the grant is scheduled with an end date of Jul 31, 2027, with the start date dependent on approval from the NIH. Funding is, of course, contingent upon renewal of the WV-INBRE program.

Indirect costs are allowed for applicants at the partner institutions and will be incorporated into the subaward agreement. For PUI and CTC applicants who do not currently have a subaward agreement with Marshall University in place, indirect costs will be based upon the applicant's current indirect cost rate agreement with a cognizant federal agency. For applicants who are current WV-INBRE sub-awardees, indirect cost rates must be based on the rate established at the time of the initial subaward. If the partner institute has no negotiated rate, applicants may request the NIH de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct costs. Award of the de minimis rate is subject to the availability of funds under WV-INBRE. Inquiries regarding allowable costs should be made to Dr. Hileman.

### **Section VI. Application Review Process**

The WV-INBRE Administrative Core will evaluate these applications with the assistance of WVU and Marshall researchers knowledgeable in the area, and make awards consistent with the overall guidelines outlined in the NIH WV-INBRE award statement. The selection criteria will be based on merit and relevance of the project to the network. Requested equipment must be

clearly justified as being essential for the conduct of the proposed work and not to more general departmental or institutional needs/wants. The merit of the project will be evaluated first, followed by evaluation of any needs for the requested equipment and supplies.

Reviews and scoring of applications will be reviewed by the WV-INBRE Administrative Core (AC). The AC will then submit its recommendations to the WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) and the NIH/NIGMS for final approval. The review process will take 8-12 weeks to complete. We expect to notify all applicants in August 2026, assuming renewal of the parent award.

### **Section VII. Award Administration Information**

CURE Awards and amounts are dependent on the receipt of the parent grant at the requested levels. We expect to announce awards in August 2026. However, the start date of CURE subawards will only be announced after the WV-INBRE primary award has been made. All funds must be expended no later than Jul 31, 2027. Applicants must follow institution regulations regarding purchase and receipt deadlines. Questions about the application process (eligible projects, allowable costs, etc.) should be addressed to Dr. Stan Hileman. He can be contacted by phone (304-319-2254 - cell) or by email ([smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu)).

### **Section VIII. WV-INBRE Program Contacts**

1. Trupti Joshi, MBBS, ADB, MS, PhD

WV-INBRE Principal Investigator, 304-696-4810, [joshitr@marshall.edu](mailto:joshitr@marshall.edu)

2. Stan Hileman, PhD

WV-INBRE, Program Coordinator, 304-293-7416, [shileman@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:shileman@hsc.wvu.edu)

3. Werner Geldenhuys, PhD,

FRDA Program Director, 304-581-1683, [werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu)

### **Section IX. Notification of Awards**

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting Project Investigator and the applicant's organization. Applicants whose proposals are declined for funding will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of anonymous reviewer comments will be provided upon request.

## **Section X. Responsibilities of CURE grant recipients.**

1. As with other WV-INBRE awards, each CURE recipient may, if desired, be paired with a mentor to advise in experimental design, data analysis and planning of future projects. Recipients may recommend a mentor or request a recommendation from Dr. Hileman.
2. CURE recipients are encouraged to present the results of their research, even if they are preliminary in nature, at the 2027 Summer Research Symposium and are welcome to participate in Marshall Research Day in Fall 2027.
3. **All recipients of WV-INBRE funding are required to provide a written report to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core to be submitted as part of the annual progress report.** As part of the progress report, recipients are expected to summarize the impact and results of their work, describe progress toward specific aims, describe the work of undergraduate students involved in the project, and list presentations, publications and grant proposals to other programs such as federal, private, or state programs.
4. If a project uses the WV-INBRE SMART and Data Science Cores, recipients are strongly encouraged to present and publish their findings. WV-INBRE is evaluated based on its productivity, which includes presentations, publications and grants. **Thus, investigators must acknowledge support from the Core Facilities and WV-INBRE (NIH grant P20GM103434) in all presentations and publications.**
5. The Program Director will review and evaluate the CURE Program as part of the WV-INBRE internal program review and at the Steering Committee meetings.

## **Section XI. CURE Travel Awards**

WV-INBRE makes available travel awards to faculty and students. A maximum of \$1,500 per travel award is allowed. Funds are to be used for travel expenses, lodging, meals, registration, and other justifiable expenses. The highest priority will be given to faculty members and students who will be presenting the work they have conducted using CURE funds. Students may be supported to attend meetings with their summer or institutional mentor. No funds can be spent to support the summer mentors' travel. Travel to meetings by PUI or CTC faculty and students who will not be presenting research but anticipate that attendance will enhance their educational or

profession development or is beneficial to the WV-INBRE will be considered. **The travel must be completed by July 15, 2027.** Applications may be submitted any time prior to July 1, 2027. If there are questions, please contact Dr. Hileman.

## **Section XII. CURES Publication Awards**

WV-INBRE makes available publication awards to faculty who have received a CURE award. Funds are to be used for publishing in peer reviewed and PubMed Indexed journals, following the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy for immediate availability in PubMed Central (PMC). Publications will need to cite the WV-INBRE support from NIH: "WV-INBRE grant (P20GM103434)" to be considered for this award. Applications may be submitted any time to Dr. Hileman.