



E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant

NCGE's Research Committee will award grants in 2026 for geography education research. Proposals may request up to \$5,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months.

The deadline for proposal submission is July 20, 2026 @ 11:59pm (EDT).

Awards will be presented during the NCGE's Annual Conference Award Ceremony in Richmond, VA on October 16, 2026.

Purpose: The Miller Research Grant program was established in 2004 through a generous endowment to NCGE by E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller. The grants are intended to advance the frontiers of geography education by supporting and promoting innovative research in theory, practice, and application. Projects should enhance the understanding of geographic teaching and learning through original investigations of learning processes, techniques, and content. Projects may focus on geographic learning and teaching at any age level from pre-school to adult and could include research on pre-service and/or in-service programs for geography educators. Investigations concentrating on the micro-scale examination of individual classrooms are welcome, but studies pursuing research at multiple sites, with multiple researchers, and/or on a larger scale (i.e. school district, state, national, or international levels) are encouraged.

Proposals that do not explicitly focus on research related to teaching and learning geography will not be considered. Funding is not available for programmatic or curriculum development unless there is a clear research component.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with a rubric using the following review criteria:

- 1. Research Objectives & Questions.** The proposal should have a strong statement of objective(s), and clearly stated research questions or hypotheses.
- 2. Statement of Intellectual Merit.** The proposal should state how the research will advance knowledge and understanding in geography education and should be situated within the context of published research in the field, or related fields. In order to demonstrate how it contributes to the cumulative research agenda in geography education, the proposal should indicate which recommendation the research addresses in *A Road Map for 21st Century Geography Education: Geography Education Research* (Bednarz, Heffron, & Huynh 2013, pp. 56-61).
- 3. Research Methods.** The proposal should clearly explain methods of data collection and analysis that are appropriate for the research questions or hypotheses.
- 4. Statement of Broader Impact.** The proposal should state how the results advance geography teaching and learning on a broader scale, and how the results will be disseminated to the geography education community.
- 5. References.** Related scholarly research should be cited in the proposal and included in a list of references.



- 6. Timeline and Budget.** The timeline to conduct all activities should be clearly specified within the proposal, with an appropriate amount of time to complete the work. The budget should adhere to the requirements listed in this announcement.

Eligibility, Restrictions, & Responsibilities:

1. Applicants must be NCGE members in good standing.
2. Grantees are required to present the results of their projects at one or more of the following:
 - a. At an annual meeting of NCGE.
 - b. In a manuscript submitted for publication in the *Journal of Geography*.
3. Grantees **must** demonstrate that they have obtained any needed clearances for research involving human subjects that are required by their institutions or organizations prior to the release of funds.
4. A final narrative report of the research and a full financial accounting is due to NCGE within 90 days after the termination date of the project.
5. Proposals may request up to \$5,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months.

Application Format and Supporting Materials. All submissions must be made electronically. Applications should be 2,000 words or less, excluding the cover, references, appendices, budget sheets and other supporting materials as noted below. These items should be combined into a single PDF file. The complete application should include the following four sections:

1. **Cover Sheet.** Include title of the proposed project, name and affiliation of applicant(s), current contact information, and a 100-word project summary.
2. **The Project Description.**
 - a. Statement of research objectives and research questions or hypotheses;
 - b. Statement of intellectual merit;
 - c. A description of research methods, including data sources (i.e. study population or data sets), and procedures of data collection and analysis;
 - d. Statement of broader impact;
 - e. List of references to the scholarly literature;
 - f. Timeline for the project;
 - g. Appendix, including survey instruments, assessments, etc.
3. **The Project Budget.** A simple line item budget must be submitted explaining the intended uses of funds.
 - a. Funds may be requested for research supplies, staff or student support, research stipend, research travel, and other expenses directly related to the research project. Student assistance is allowed up to a maximum of \$2,000. A research stipend for the grantee or shared among grantees is allowed up to a maximum of \$3000. Funds are **not** awarded for fringe benefits of grantees, indirect costs, travel to conferences, tuition, page costs, or fees and registrations. Equipment such as computer hardware and software are generally non-fundable unless it is directly and clearly tied to the success of a research project.
 - b. Applicants should note in the budget any matching or supplementary funds being used for the project. Matching funds are not required for Miller Grants, but if the



proposal is part of another project, it must be noted how the Miller funds will be budgeted respectively. It is assumed that some research projects will require funds beyond those provided by the Miller award, so cost sharing is encouraged when possible or necessary.

4. Supporting Materials. Please include:

- a. Curriculum vita of applicant(s) highlighting research, skills, and/or activities that demonstrate the applicant's ability to complete the proposed research (two pages maximum).
- b. *For graduate student applicants:* Include a letter of support from a faculty member who is familiar with your work and can comment on the quality of the proposal and the anticipated likelihood that the project will be successfully completed.

Application and Material Submission:

The application will only be accepted through [NCGE's Member Portal](#)

All materials must be in a single PDF file with the following naming format:

lastname_firstname_miller_research_2026.pdf

Please note: You will be prompted to log into your membership account after clicking the portal link above. Any questions and inquiries may be directed to John "Scott" Greene, NCGE President-Elect at jgreene@ou.edu

All proposals are due by July 20, 2026 at 11:59pm (EDT).