The Illinois Water Resources Center (IWRC) requests proposals to fund promising graduate and undergraduate student research projects addressing Illinois water resources. We are particularly interested in student-designed projects that seek solutions for or provide novel identification of pressing water concerns in Illinois. A non-exhaustive list of high priority research needs in Illinois include: drought, flooding, aquatic invasive species, climate change, nutrient pollution, water supply, and planning.

**About IWRC**

IWRC is one of 54 programs funded by USGS under the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 to promote and support the restoration, conservation, and best management of water resources in the United States and US territories. State and territory programs are administered by the National Institutes for Water Resources, whose mission includes:

- Promoting collaboration between USGS and researchers related to the most pressing water resource research needs across the country;
- Disseminating research findings and other water resource information to the public; and
- Supporting young scientists who seek careers in water resources.

**Funding Eligibility and Requirements**

Proposals must be submitted by faculty members or professionals affiliated with 4-year institutions, state or local government agencies, or non-profits in Illinois on behalf of students. Students must be listed as co-PIs. Funds must be used to support a student's project, not a student worker on a PI's project.

Applicants can request up to $10,000 for graduate students and $2,000 for undergraduate students. Budgets must be matched with two non-federal dollars for every federal dollar requested. The project period is May 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

**Application Contents**

Proposals should consist of the following elements.

**Cover Page**

The cover page should include:
- Title—Concise description of the project
- Research Category—Choose the most applicable category from the following: Social Sciences, Groundwater Flow and Transport, Water Quality, Biological Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture, Physical Sciences, or Climate and Hydrologic Processes.
Keywords—3-5 words or phrases to describe the project to an educated lay audience.

Principal investigators—Provide names, academic rank, university/organization, email address, and phone number of the principal investigators.

Congressional District of the university/organization where the work is to be conducted.

Project Narrative

The narrative should not exceed three single-spaced pages.

Statement of critical regional or state water problems—include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.

Statement of expected results or benefits—specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used. Include plans for dissemination of findings. Plans for dissemination of findings outside the academic community are particularly interesting to us.

Nature, scope, and objectives of the project.

Methods, procedures, and facilities—provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.

Training potential—identify students, in addition to the student listed as the co-PI, who will receive training from this project. Please include degree-level.

Literature citations can be included and in addition to the three-page limit.

Budget

Federal funds will pay up to $10,000 for graduate students or $2,000 for undergraduate students for work completed between May 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. USGS does not allow federal dollars to pay indirect costs. However, the indirect costs on both the federal and state totals may be shown as match. IWRC grants require a match of two non-federal dollars for each federal dollar.

Submit the budget breakdown using a format similar to the example in attachment A.

Submit the budget justification using a format similar to the example in attachment B.

Investigators’ Qualifications

Project participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, should include CVs. No CV shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

Matching Fund Commitment Letters and University Confirmation

Provide a matching fund commitment letter signed by the PI’s department or sponsored programs office to verify that the matching funds will be supplied should the project be funded.

Proposals must be executed by the PI’s institution prior to submission and documentation of execution should be included with the submission.
**Deliverables**

- The award recipient will be required to submit a final report by January 30, 2015. IWRC will publish the report as part of our research report series available on the IWRC’s website.
- Students are required to submit a poster to the Illinois Water 2014 conference held October 14-15, 2014 in Urbana, IL.
- Award recipients are expected to provide appropriate information needed to produce a short blog post about completed research. The type of information needed will be determined by the recipients and IWRC staff members after final reports are submitted. Articles will be posted to IWRC’s blog.

**Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated by an IWRC executive committee on the following criteria. External reviewers may be solicited if the steering committee cannot reach a final consensus.

**Technical and Scholarly Merit (25%)**: The proposed project should reflect current research in the subject area. Proposals should indicate how the proposed work fits into and advances the current body of knowledge. Work that is likely to produce peer-reviewed publications or be presented at professional conferences or that is part of a larger body of work that will have scholarly application is desired for the graduate level projects. Undergraduate projects should be capable of presentation at a student research day type poster session, although projects that might generate a peer-reviewed publication will be reviewed very favorably.

**Research Design (25%)**: The experimental design should be sound and should be reasonable given budget and time constraints. If the proposed work is intended to start or complete a part of a larger body of work with other funding sources, those connections should be identified.

**Importance to Illinois Water Issues (25%)**: Proposals should justify how and why the project addresses important water problems in Illinois. Proposals should identify how management practices, policy, or other larger issues might be impacted by this work.

**Development and Leadership of Young Scientists (15%)**: A key goal of Water Resources Center funding is the education of young scientists. All projects should identify how students have and will contribute.

**Preparation and Knowledge of PI and Partners (10%)**: Research partners should obviously have the technical and scientific skills to complete the proposed work.
**Submission**
Submit proposals electronically in one PDF file to Corrie Layfield, cmlay@illinois.edu. Name each file with the PI’s last name. Proposals must be received by 4:00 pm March 14, 2014.

Original matching fund commitment letters should be included in the email submission or mailed to:

Corrie Layfield  
Illinois Water Resources Center  
368 NSRC, MC-635  
1101 W. Peabody Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801

**Proposal Timeline**
Full Proposals due: March 14, 2014  
Proposals Selected: April 2014  
Project period: May 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

**Questions**
Lisa Merrifield  
lmorrisn@illinois.edu
## Attachment A

### Budget Breakdown

Project Title:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Non-Federal</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Salaries and Wages -Principal Investigator</td>
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<td>and Wages</td>
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<td>2. Fringe Benefits</td>
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<td>3. Supplies</td>
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<td>4. Equipment</td>
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<td>5. Services or Consultants</td>
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<td>6. Travel</td>
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<td>7. Other direct costs</td>
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<td>8. Total direct costs</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Indirect costs</td>
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<td>10. Total estimated costs</td>
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**Total Costs at Campus of the University on which the Institute or Center is located:**

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<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Non-Federal</th>
<th>Total</th>
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**Total Costs at other University Campus Name of University:**

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<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Non-Federal</th>
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</table>
# Budget Justification

## Project Title

### Salaries and Wages
Provide estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the tuition or other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work.)

### Fringe Benefits
Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project.

### Supplies
Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies.

### Equipment
Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than $5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items.

### Services or Consultants
Identify the specific tasks for which these services, consultants, or subcontracts would be used. Estimate amount of time required and the hourly or daily rate.

### Travel
Provide purpose and estimated costs for all travel.

### Other Direct Costs
Itemize costs not included elsewhere, including publication costs. Costs for services and consultants should be included and justified under “Services or Consultants (above).

### Indirect Costs
Provide negotiated indirect (“Facilities and Administration”) cost rate.