



2025 - 2026 FACULTY AND STAFF GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name of Project/Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

GCC Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check which category best describes your project:

- Arts & Culture, Athletics & Fitness, Career & Work Training, College Operations & Facilities, Humanities/Social Sciences, Science & Technology, Other

Amount requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a one- to two-page typed request that provides a comprehensive summary of your project/program and establishes the need. Please include the following:

- What do you propose to do? Who will be involved in the project/program? What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? Timeline for the project/program. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward?

Please email this completed and signed form along with your proposal to zjacobs@glendale.edu

Submission Deadline – Thursday, May 29, 2025, by 5:00 PM PST

Signature box containing: Your signature indicates approval of this request to the Glendale College Foundation, Applicant's signature (Dr. Peter Green), Chair or Department Head Signature (Dr. Peter Green, Chair, Visual & Performing Arts), Print name of Chair or Department Head

Grant Review Committee comments and/or recommendations:

This grant was denied/approved on \_\_\_\_\_ The amount awarded is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Planet Story Lab**  
**“LA Basin Fires” Documentary Field Studies Course (Spring 2026)**

**Project Summary & Purpose**

*Planet Story Lab is where people, place, and story meet.*

Grounded in mentorship, place-based research, and creative exploration, *Planet Story Lab* is a space for storytelling that connects lived experience to larger systems—revealing how we shape the world, and how it shapes us in return.

*Planet Story Lab* will launch its first themed documentary production course in Spring 2026 focused on the theme “LA Basin Fires: Impact, Recovery, and the Future.” Students enrolled in the field studies course (FTVM 46) will serve as documentary fellows through *Planet Story Lab*, exploring the multi-dimensional impact of fire in the Los Angeles Basin—from ecology and climate change to infrastructure, public health, economics, housing, and community resilience.

This evening course—open to GCC students, high school students, and community members—will guide participants through the full documentary process, from concept to finished short film. Emphasis will be placed on personal, place-based, and community-centered storytelling as a bridge between research, lived experience, and creative expression.

**Who Will Be Involved**

- Students from GCC, across disciplines (film, journalism, science, geography/environmental studies)
- High school students and local community members, especially from underrepresented backgrounds
- Community Youth Climate Activists who seek training in media and unscripted filmmaking
- Guest experts, including scientists, climate researchers, fire safety professionals, and urban planners
- Professional documentarians, mentoring and supporting students' creative process
- Potential collaboration with GCC’s Fire Academy

**Benefits to Students, College, and Community**

- For students: Skill-building, hands-on career technical training, professional mentorship, film credit, fellowship support to create short documentaries, and a platform for civic and creative engagement.
- For GCC: Innovative curriculum that fosters access, storytelling, and sustainability in alignment with institutional goals
- For the community: A platform for visibility, dialogue, and collaboration through story

**Connection to GCC’s Institutional Strategic Plan**

**Goal A (A.1–A.3):** Fosters inclusive, anti-racist learning by empowering students from diverse backgrounds to tell stories that center community and environmental justice. **Goal B (B.1–B.3):** Offers a clear, skills-based pathway in media through hands-on filmmaking and mentorship. **Goal C (C.1–C.4):** Expands access through evening classes and community inclusion, supporting student entry into educational and career pathways. **Goal D (D.2, D.6):** Builds community and retention through a cohort model and proposed fellowships that lower financial barriers. **Goal E (E.2):** Encourages meaningful, project-based *contextualized* learning grounded in students’ lived experiences. **Goal F (F.4):** Strengthens operational impact by supporting professional skill development and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

## Timeline

- ⇒ Fall 2025: Outreach to collaborators, course design, student recruitment
- ⇒ Spring 2026: Weekly evening course sessions, expert presentations, field research, and production
- ⇒ Summer 2026 – Fall 2026: Final edits, screenings, and evaluation

## Use of Requested Funds

**Requested Funding: \$9.500 (excludes stipends)**

*Breakdown:*

- Honoraria for guest experts: \$4,500 (6–8 speakers @ \$500–750)
- Production & research expenses: \$2,000 (transportation, permits, materials)
- Guest filmmaker fees: \$3,000 (professional feedback, creative support)
- *Student Fellowship Stipends: \$15,000 (15 - 18 students @ \$750 - \$1000) will seek funding for stipends from other sources.*

## Other Funding Sources

At this time, I have not applied for other funding. However, I plan to outreach to regional funders (e.g., Creative Corps, LA Cultural Affairs, and other local arts/environmental orgs) and will meet with Michael Davis regarding the possibility of qualifying for funding through HIS Grants for student stipends.

## Recognition of Foundation Support

The Foundation will be acknowledged:

- On student films and screening events
- On promotional materials, course website, and social media
- In community press releases issued by FTVM Department and *Planet Story Lab*

## Evaluation

We will assess success by:

- Number of completed fellowship-supported films
- Student and community feedback
- Public attendance and engagement at screenings
- Reflection pieces from Documentary Fellows on learning and impact
- Expanded interest in future *Planet Story Lab* offerings

## Long-Term Vision

If successful, this project will become a model for thematic, place-based documentary storytelling—an evolving structure where each cycle explores a new environmental or social theme through collaborative, unscripted film. While the first course focuses on the LA Basin Fires, future themes might begin with something as grounded as changing access to water, shifting coastlines and city boundaries, the reimagining of public space, or the quiet disappearance of everyday nature in urban neighborhoods.

These themes may center on ecology, but they also open the door to deeper questions: how we live with the land, and how the land lives in us. *Planet Story Lab* values both the personal and the collective—recognizing that documentary can be a bridge between science and emotion, between memory and activism. Over time, the lab will become a hub for students to document not only the world as it is, but how we shape it—and how we can care for it, and for one another.