

Description

In 1984, Fresno State established an award in honor of Mr. Claude C. Laval Jr., a long-time resident of Fresno and a productive inventor. This award has supported the development of innovative technology and related research at the university.

Claude C. Laval Jr. was one of the most prolific independent inventors, holding more than 90 U.S. and foreign patents. He worked for over 46 years on innovative research and technological development in such diverse fields as filtration, food processing, photography, toys, pollution control, oil and water well machinery, as well as consumer products.

Overcoming a lack of formal training in engineering or science, Laval Jr. produced inventions that were the result of a willingness to challenge “conventional wisdom” about what will or will not work. His inventions can be characterized as both creative and practical, while his research was usually of an applied nature, utilizing working models to select the best course of action rather than being limited to theory alone.

Funding for the award is provided by a gift to the university from Mr. and Mrs. Claude C. Laval III.

Eligibility

Applications are encouraged from full-time faculty and students at California State University, Fresno from all academic disciplines.

Criteria

Applications will be evaluated for creativity, innovation, practical application and general merit.

Competition Guidelines

The competition is open to the following:

- All full-time, tenured, or probationary members of the faculty
- Tenured faculty participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program who teach on a half-time basis
- Full-time undergraduate and graduate students of the university with the sponsorship of a faculty member who is eligible for the competition.

IMPORTANT: Applicants must be continually employed by, or enrolled in, the university during the grant period. Teams of two or more persons may apply jointly, but all must be eligible under these terms.

Your application **MUST** consist of the following components:

A background statement that establishes a baseline for the project being proposed via a review of relevant literature and/or state-of-the-art summary of the area to be developed. – One page maximum

A statement of the methods that will be used to further the project; include reference to needs for and/or availability of any special equipment or facilities that will be involved. – Two pages maximum

A description of the expected outcome or product of the project, its application or other utility, and its relative importance in the domain of the work to be undertaken. – Two pages maximum

A curriculum vitae that demonstrates your preparation to undertake the proposed project. For student applicants, brief curriculum vitae from the sponsoring faculty member should be added. – Three pages maximum.

A letter from your school dean declaring their awareness of your intent to pursue the project if funded and the availability to you and your work of necessary resources under their aegis such as a lab, special equipment, etc.

A budget providing a general projection of the anticipated out-of-pocket expenses to be covered by the award, not to include reimbursement for prior investments in supplies, equipment or services, even though associated with project or preparation for it. – One page maximum.

Examples of allowable expenses:

- Student Assistant support
- Travel
- Equipment
- Materials & supplies
- Evaluation and Awardee Guidelines
- Comparative evaluation of competing applications for the award will be judged by three general criteria:
- Creativity in the subject matter field
- Innovation in the use of technology
- Practical application of research conclusions
- If you are chosen as a recipient of the Laval award, you will be required to adhere to all University and Auxiliary policies and regulations.
- These policies include, but are not limited, to:
 - Patent rights
 - Hazardous substances
 - Radiation
 - Human subjects

Copies of these university policies are in the Academic Policy Manual located in the college/school and department offices.

Award recipient(s) will also be required to file a formal report of the work accomplished during the term of the award along with a PowerPoint presentation.

The report will be due on December 10, 2021 and must be submitted through InfoReady. A presentation date and time will be scheduled for you .

Applicants in all academic disciplines are encouraged to apply. Specific criteria relevant to the applicant's field will also be applied in the selection process. Applicants with previously unfunded proposals may submit proposals for this award.

Screening will be conducted by the Research Subcommittee of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee in consultation with the Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and staff from Research and Sponsored Programs.

The subcommittee reserves the right to consult with specialists outside its membership to make an impartial determination on the merits of proposals. If you believe the technical expertise to support an informed judgment of the merit of your proposal may not be known to subcommittee members, please supply names and contact information of one or more specialists within the university, community or elsewhere who might be contacted for assistance. The subcommittee also reserves the right to not select an application and award funds in any fiscal year.

If you have any questions, please contact Edgar Parrilla at eparrilla@csufresno.edu or (559) 278-0854.