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Respondent

19

Anonymous

**05:57**

Time to complete

### Application Information

1. Name: \*

Eva Janečková

2. GCC Title/Position: \*

Biology instructor

3. Department: \*

Biology

4. Campus: \*

Verdugo

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5. E-mail: \*

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6. Phone: \*

5628320287

7. Dean or Department Head's Name: \*

Francisco Gago

### Project Proposal

8. Name of Project/Program: \*

US Mendel School of GCC: Mendel Day and Mendel Contest 2027

9. Please select which category best describes your project: \*

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

10. Amount requested: \*

\$3,620 Note: I am aware of the \$5000 minimum, however, I did not want to artificially create expenses. Thank you for your understanding and consideration of this application.

11. What do you propose to do? \*

In 2025, I (Eva Janečková, Ph.D.) established the US Mendel School of Glendale Community College (GCC) as a continuation of the original Mendel School founded within Centrum Mendelianum in Brno, Czech Republic, by Dr. Anna Matalová and Professor Eva Matalová. The vision behind both initiatives is to share Gregor Mendel’s groundbreaking scientific legacy with students, educators, and the broader public through accessible education, research, and community engagement. As a former lecturer at the Mendel School in Brno, I founded the US Mendel School of GCC to continue and expand this tradition in the United States while highlighting Glendale Community College as a unique center for Mendelian education, undergraduate research, and interdisciplinary science outreach.

The US Mendel School of GCC proposes to organize and further expand Mendel Day 2027, a multidisciplinary celebration honoring Gregor Mendel and his foundational contributions to genetics through science, education, research, and the arts. Building upon the success of previous Mendel Day and Mendel Contest events in 2025 and 2026, the 2027 program will include an invited keynote lecture, the annual Mendel Contest, student-centered outreach activities, the launch of the US Mendel School of GCC website, and the continued development of educational resources connected to this initiative.

The project seeks to further strengthen the connection between classical genetics and modern molecular biology while creating meaningful opportunities for student engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public science communication. Through these activities, students will gain hands-on exposure to genetics, scientific communication, and research practices while engaging with Mendel’s historical and scientific legacy in a contemporary context.

The requested funding will support event coordination, student participation, educational materials, contest awards, promotional resources, invited speaker support, and community outreach activities. Through continued expansion of Mendel Day and the US Mendel School initiative, Glendale Community College will further strengthen its role as a nationally distinctive institution promoting science education and the enduring impact of Gregor Mendel’s discoveries.

12. Who will be involved in the project/program? \*

The project will involve Glendale Community College students, faculty, staff, and community members through the US Mendel School initiative under the leadership of Eva Janečková, Ph.D., in collaboration with Professor Daniel J. Fairbanks, Ph.D. (Utah Valley University), and Associate Professor Christina Marie Laukaitis, MD, Ph.D. (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), who serve as ambassadors of the US Mendel School.

Students from all disciplines and majors are invited to attend the keynote lecture and submit their work to the Mendel Contest. The Mendel Contest 2025 included 16 participants, while the Mendel Contest 2026 expanded to 17 participants representing multiple academic divisions. In 2025, the contest also included participation from two faculty members. The submissions for Mendel Contes 2025 can be found on this link: <https://canva.link/16em4wzrmhu19sj>, the submissions for Mendel Contes 2026 can be found on this link: <https://canva.link/ptaticvfbith2t>

This campus-wide interdisciplinary approach is intentional and designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and community engagement across diverse fields of study. Contest categories include “Through Art,” “Through Science,” and “Something Unique,” allowing participants from any background to creatively explore and answer the central question: “How do I see Mendel?” Here is an example of the Google form used for collecting the submissions: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17jSUKzYN5fv\\_EP1WLF9mLCInYdMP9IIIxSuXeivEWX8/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17jSUKzYN5fv_EP1WLF9mLCInYdMP9IIIxSuXeivEWX8/edit)

## 13. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? \*

Mendel Day 2027 provides students with interdisciplinary educational experiences that integrate genetics, molecular biology, scientific communication, history of science, and creative expression. Students gain valuable experience through public presentations, contest participation, and collaboration with faculty and external scholars. These opportunities strengthen transfer preparation, scientific identity, communication skills, and engagement in STEM education.

For Glendale Community College, the project enhances the institution's visibility through innovative programming that combines research, education, and community engagement. The initiative highlights GCC's commitment to high-impact educational practices, undergraduate research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and student-centered learning. It also strengthens GCC's growing identity as the home of the US Mendel School and creates unique educational opportunities connected to Gregor Mendel's scientific legacy.

For the broader community, Mendel Day promotes public engagement with science by making genetics and biological research more accessible through lectures, artistic expression, exhibits, and interactive events. The project strengthens international collaborations connected to Mendel's legacy in Brno, Czech Republic, while fostering appreciation for scientific discovery, perseverance, and lifelong learning.

## 14. How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? \*

View ISP at <https://www.glendale.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/68172>

This project strongly supports Glendale Community College's 2025–2030 Institutional Strategic Plan through the priorities of Inclusion, Success, and Support by expanding equitable access to interdisciplinary STEM learning opportunities and promoting innovative, student-centered educational experiences. Mendel Day creates a welcoming academic environment where students engage in scientific inquiry, artistic expression, and community collaboration.

The project directly aligns with Priority A: Inclusion by creating campus-wide community events that foster belonging, accessibility, and participation from students of diverse and historically underrepresented backgrounds. Through public lectures, contests, exhibits, and collaborative activities, the initiative strengthens community engagement and interdisciplinary participation.

The project also supports Priority B: Success, particularly through evidence-based and experiential learning opportunities/activities/engagement that strengthen student engagement, scientific communication, and transfer preparation.

Furthermore, the project aligns with Priority C: Support by strengthening instructional and research capacity within the biology program, fostering faculty-student mentorship, and promoting interdisciplinary partnerships that enhance Glendale Community College's academic culture and commitment to innovation.

## 15. Timeline for the project/program. \*

Fall 2026 – Planning the Mendel Day/Mendel Contest 2027 (inviting the Keynote speaker), outreach coordination, creation of the activities, and initial organization of the Mendel Contest.

Winter 2027 – Promotion of Mendel Day events invited speaker coordination, and educational material preparation as well as putting orders for promotional materials and the awards for the participants.

February 2027: Mendel Day lecture event: invited speaker lecture, official announcement of the Mendel Contest.

March 2027: Collecting Mendel Contest submissions.

April 2027: Mendel Contest exhibition and awards, student presentations of their submissions, and community engagement activities. Dissemination of educational materials.

May/June 2027: Evaluation of event outcomes, and preparation for future US Mendel School initiatives.

## 16. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. \*

The requested funding will support event coordination, educational materials, student participation, and undergraduate research activities associated with Mendel Day 2027.

Expenses associated with the invited keynote speaker — either Professor Daniel J. Fairbanks (Utah) or Associate Professor Christina Marie Laukaitis (Illinois) — will include airfare and transportation (\$600), accommodation (\$500), and meals and related expenses (\$500). Additional costs include Mendel Contest cash prizes (\$300); promotional materials for contest participants, including mugs, canvas bags, and pens featuring the US Mendel School of GCC logo (\$700); printing of certificates for contest participants (\$20); printing of educational (such as educational booklets) and promotional materials (\$500); and food and refreshments for the community engagement event and announcement of the Mendel Contest winners (\$500).

Total requested funding: \$3,620

Note: I am aware of the \$5000 minimum, however, I did not want to artificially create expenses. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

17. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. \*

The sponsor of Science Lecture Series (William Gohlke) supported the prizes for the winners of the Mendel Contest 2025 (\$300) and Mendel Contest 2026 (\$300). In 2025, I presented as part of the Science Lecture Series (introducing the US Mendel School of GCC as well as the Mendel Day 2025 and the Mendel Contest) and chose to donate my honorarium toward the Mendel Contest prizes.

In 2026, we welcomed an invited speaker, Professor Daniel J. Fairbanks, Ph.D. (Utah Valley University), who generously self-funded his travel from Utah to California, along with all additional expenses associated with the trip, in support of the US Mendel School initiative and Mendel Day 2026 activities. He received the honorarium from the Science Lecture Series as a little thank you.

The printing of the certificates for both 2025 and 2026 was sponsored by the Biology Division.

18. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? \*

The Glendale College Foundation will be formally acknowledged in all Mendel Day promotional materials, educational booklets and other materials, social media outreach, and future publications connected to the project. Recognition will also be included during opening remarks at Mendel Day events and in all related educational dissemination materials.

Each year, there is a publication about my efforts, in these prints, GCC Foundation would be recognized: El Vaquero article from 2025: <https://elvaq.com/features/2025/05/19/gcc-mendel-contest-winners-announced/>, Chaparral 2026 article: <https://campusguides.glendale.edu/c.php?g=1488742&p=11439322>.

19. How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? \*

The success of the project will be evaluated through student participation rates, attendance at Mendel Day events, quality and quantity of Mendel Contest submissions, overall student engagement, and feedback collected from participants and attendees. Additional measures will include dissemination of educational materials, and continued growth of the US Mendel School initiative as well as launching the website.

20. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? \*

Successful completion of this project will further establish the US Mendel School of GCC as a sustainable interdisciplinary educational initiative at Glendale Community College. It will strengthen future integration of undergraduate research, scientific outreach, creative expression, and international collaboration into biology education while expanding opportunities for student leadership, mentorship, and public engagement with science.

21. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal. \*

The US Mendel School at Glendale Community College proposes to organize Mendel Day 2027, an interdisciplinary celebration honoring Gregor Mendel through an invited keynote lecture, scientific and artistic expressions, and community engagement in the Mendel Contest 2027. The project integrates classical genetics while providing students with meaningful opportunities for scientific communication and creative exploration. Through these activities, Mendel Day promotes student success, interdisciplinary learning, and public appreciation for science and art.

### Signature and Acknowledgments

22. I hereby acknowledge/certify: \*

- My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.
- If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.
- If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.