



VFIC 2026 MEDNICK MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Chief Academic Officers
CC: VFIC Corporate and Foundation Officers
FR: Mary-Beth Johnson
RE: Proposals for 2026 Mednick Memorial Fellowship
Deadline – February 28, 2026

The VFIC Mednick Memorial Fellowship Committee is now inviting proposals for 2026 awards. The fellowships are designed to encourage the professional development of college and university teachers and improve their academic competence through research and advanced study. The deadline for receiving proposals is February 28, 2026.

The Maurice L. Mednick Memorial was created in 1967 in honor of a young Norfolk industrialist who died from accidental causes and whose family and business associates wished to perpetuate his name by establishing a memorial that would emphasize his and the donors' strong interest in higher education. Administration of the Mednick Memorial Fund is vested in the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

The fellowship awards will be a minimum distribution of \$2,250 to each school in July 2026 with an approved nomination.

Each school is invited to submit a single proposal.

Attached, you will find details regarding the overall program and guidelines concerning the use of the award.

After selecting a candidate for the 2026 award, kindly ensure that the faculty member completes the online application by February 28, 2026.

If you have any questions about the Mednick program, feel free to reach out to me at johnson@vfic.org or call 804.513.0649.



2026 Mednick Memorial Fellowship Award
Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges

2026 Mednick Memorial Fellowship Award

Guidelines

Inquiries and questions should be directed to Mary-Beth Johnson at johnson@vfic.org.

Mednick Grant Proposal Information

Proposals should be developed using the following:

- A. Once your institution has selected your 2026 Mednick Nominee, the faculty member will need to complete an online application at: <https://forms.office.com/r/KVH46XB8hN>
- B. Deadline for applications - February 28, 2026. Applicants will be notified in March shortly after the deadline. Funding will be available by July 31 through the sponsoring institution's business office.
- C. It is the obligation of the sponsoring institution to ensure that funds granted to its applicant are used exclusively in support of the purposes for which the grant was requested and approved and are thoroughly exhausted within a reasonable timeframe. A formal report for the VFIC is no longer required.
- D. The VFIC will accept and fund only one proposal from each member-school, but schools are allowed to have more than one faculty member working on the same project. Please note that the total award would remain the same as if it were for a single faculty member.

Grants may be requested to supplement other available research funds. Grants will NOT be made for any of the following:

- Faculty members engaging in normal course work leading toward a degree.
- Stipends or other compensation to be paid to faculty members, students, consultants or other personnel. This also includes clerical and administrative research assistance for the research project (i.e., typing, filing, proofreading, transcription services, etc.)
- Travel not directly related to the research project.
- Tuition and registration fees.
- Purchase of supplies other than for the research project.
- Purchase of capital equipment (i.e. laptops) An exception may be reasonable scientific equipment needed to conduct research pertinent to the project. All requests of this nature are subject to review by the VFIC. Please inquire prior to submitting such a proposal.

Timeline

- Fall 2025 - Announcement & Application Available
- February 28, 2026 - Deadline for Applications
- By March 31, 2026 - Notification of Awards
- July 2026 - Distribution of Funds



2026 Mednick Memorial Fellowship Award
Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges

The questions on the online application include:

1. First and last name
2. Title
3. Department
4. College/University
5. Email address
6. Project title
7. Endorsed by (CAO or President's name)
8. Amount requested
9. How do you plan to spend the award
10. Project start date and duration
11. In two sentences or less, please summarize the purpose of your research and how you will utilize the funds. (*i.e. The purpose of my research is to examine the phylogeographic and population genetic patterns in eastern newts throughout the southeastern United States. Funds are needed to help with transportation, lodging and meals to this area and for general collection supplies.*)
12. In two sentences or less, what is the impact of your research on undergraduate students?