THE MERIDIAN SOCIETY

2027 MERIDIAN AWARD APPLICATION PACKET

for Projects Occurring between July 1, 2027 and June 30, 2028

Meridian Awards are made possible through gifts from members of The Meridian Society. The purpose of these gifts is to support projects carried out by an SIUE department in conjunction with a community organization to benefit the Southwestern Illinois community and, at times, communities beyond our region.

The maximum funding for an individual Meridian Award is $5,000; however, the average award in recent years has been about $2,000. Most projects receive partial rather than full funding.

The Meridian Awards Committee seeks new projects each year that impact a significant number of people through the innovative use of funds to change or improve life quality. Awards are not normally given to prior projects. Projects can be related to the sciences, arts, business, engineering, education, health, athletics or other but must always be carried out through an established partnership between an SIUE department and a community organization. The partnership requires that Meridian Award funds are deposited in the SIUE partner's department account.

2026 Meridian Award Timeline

November 2, 2026 - Awards Committee begins accepting applications for 2027 awards.

February 1, 2027 - Meridian Award applications are due by 5 p.m..

February - March - Awards Committee reviews applications.

March 2027 - Meridian Society Board approves recommendations from the Awards Committee.

March 31, 2027 - Awardees accept Meridian Awards at the Meridian Society's spring event.

June 30, 2027 - Meridian Award funds for winning projects are transferred to an appropriate account of the project's Dean or Vice Chancellor.

June 1, 2028 - End of project summary and photos due to The Meridian Society Awards Committee c/o Julie Babington at jbabing@siue.edu.

FOUNDATION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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2027 Meridian Society Award Application

Application Deadline: Monday, February 1, 2027, 5 p.m.

(Please complete the application in Arial or Times New Roman type style in 12 point font size)

Applicant Name _____
(Name of SIUE Department or Organization)

Address (Campus Box) _____ **Acct. Number** _____

Primary Contact Person _____

_____ _____
(Signature) (Title/office)

_____ _____
(Phone) (E-mail)

Partnership Organization _____
Please list the community organization which will directly benefit from this Award.

Partnership Organization Contact _____
(Name)

_____ _____
(Phone) (E-mail)

Name of Project/Program _____

Timeline: Start & End Dates for Your Project

_____

Amount Requested _____

Academic Department or Division Authorization

☐ I understand this proposal will not be used to supplant a current budgeted program.

☐ I understand that this proposal will not be used for department budget obligations.

Signature(s) of Authorization _____ Date _____
Department Chair, Dean or Appropriate Vice Chancellor

E-mail: _____
Department Chair, Dean or Appropriate Vice Chancellor

Meridian Award Applicant Agreement:
If awarded, I agree to –

- Accept my award at the Meridian Society's 2027 spring event.
- Recognize the award in all project publicity, invitations, and similar information.
- Submit an end of project summary by June 1, 2028.

Signature _____ Date _____

Application Checklist

Please provide the following information on additional sheets attached to Page 1 of this packet.
All information is required; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Submit all information by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2027 as indicated below.

Electronic submission: meridiansociety@siue.edu *(Electronic submissions are preferred)*

Mail submissions: Meridian Awards
c/o Meridian Society at SIUE Foundation
Campus Box 1082
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1082

☐ **Cover Sheet**
The cover sheet should include: title of the project, organization submitting proposal, partnership organization, date(s) when the project will take place and primary contact name.

☐ **Abstract**
The abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the proposal content in plain language -- approximately 150 words in length. Evaluators will receive their first impression from this abstract.

☐ **Proposal Narrative and Community Organization(s) Information** (800 words or less)

The proposal narrative should include:

- introduction / background;
- description of the project partnership;
- project impact on the community, including how many people it will serve;
- expected results of the project, including long term benefits of the project;
- methods for measuring the outcome of this project;
- ways project will give recognition to The Meridian Society's support;
- unique characteristics of the project;
- how the project will be sustained in future years; and
- ways the project will impact SIUE's national recognition.

☐ **Proposed Itemized Budget & Timeline**
Provide an itemized budget for your project, including non-Meridian sources. Identify the item(s) that are top priority in case your project receives less than full funding. Also, provide a project timeline that begins no later than June 1, 2027 and is completed by June 1, 2028.

☐ **Letters of Support**
Two letters of support are required, one of which must come from the partnership organization and the other from the applicant's Department Chair, Dean or Vice Chancellor.

☐ **Presentation of Proposal to the Meridian Award Evaluators**
Some applicants will be asked to present in-person clarification of application issues. Be prepared, if invited to do so, to present a 7-10-minute synopsis of your proposal, including a question and answer period. If you are not asked to present to the evaluators, your application will continue under consideration until final selections are made.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the characteristics of previous projects that received Meridian Award funding?
A: Winning projects made wise use of award funds, impacted a large number of people, effected significant and long-lasting change, and brought recognition to SIUE.

Q: What are some of the primary reasons the Awards Committee will not approve funding for projects?
A: Projects will be turned down when:

- the impact of the project is too narrow;
- the bulk of the request is for travel expense, honoraria, or equipment;
- the project is structured to provide academic credit to students;
- the project is a fundraiser event and has not been approved by the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement;
- it is not clear how the project could be sustained;
- the identical project was previously funded with a Meridian Grant, and
- the proposal is incomplete or poorly written.

*Note: A previous Meridian awardee may apply for funding of a new project or a major new facet of a previously funded project. The Committee is interested in stimulating new projects rather than sustaining previously funded projects.

Q: Do Meridian Awards fund salaries for graduate assistants, student workers, staff or faculty members? Or, can it pay for non-university persons who are needed to carry out the project?
A: Normally, SIUE salaries or student wages cannot be supported by a Meridian Award but some unique situations have been considered. Meridian Awards are never given for the support of a faculty member's academic research project. However, in some cases, support for non-SIUE persons may be approved.

Q: If my project is currently receiving funding through my unit or organization, may I request funding for the same project?
A: Meridian Award dollars cannot replace budgeted funds for existing programs. If a program was previously funded by the University but is no longer funded, it remains ineligible for a Meridian Award.

Q: Can a Meridian Award fund scholarships or endowments?
A: Requests to fund scholarships or endowments for current SIUE students will not be considered.

Q: Who is responsible for writing and submitting the final report on the completed project?
A: While both partners often participate in the writing of the report, the SIUE partner has the ultimate responsibility for submitting the end of project report and photos.

Q: If the project partners don't submit a report to The Meridian Society at closure of their project, could this negatively impact the ability of either partner receiving a Meridian Award in the future?
A: Yes. The university partner will become ineligible to submit further Meridian Award applications.

Q: Is a winning project required to recognize the support of The Meridian Society when publicizing a funded project?
A: Winning projects must recognize The Meridian Society in all publicity, invitations, and similar information as The Society depends on this exposure to attract new members who will support future projects.