In honor of Dr. Susan Hunter, the University of Maine’s 20th president, the University of Maine Foundation established the President Susan J. Hunter Fund in 2015. The purpose of this fund is to provide opportunities to foster the professional development of faculty at the University of Maine, with a focus on women and underrepresented minorities.

Awards will be made at the discretion of the Rising Tide Center, with the goal of contributing to the development of a more diverse workforce at the University of Maine.

In honor of President Hunter, this year’s award will focus on leadership development for women and underrepresented faculty at UMaine.

Eligibility: This grant competition is open to all UMaine faculty. Because the goal of the President Susan J. Hunter Fund is to foster professional development, applicants must describe how their proposed project will influence their academic career, directly or indirectly, and how such an award will benefit the larger campus through focusing on equity and inclusive excellence.

Previous Rising Tide Grant awardees are eligible for funding in 2017-18. Multiple applications from a single applicant will not be considered.

Awards: Awards are made for a one-year period for up to $3,000. Matching funds from an applicant’s unit or college are encouraged, but not required, and should be noted in the project description and budget. Awards are non-renewable.

Allowable budget items: Some examples of eligible expenditures include tuition/registration costs for workshops, conferences; applicant travel and release time, and other expenses directly related to leadership development.

Reporting: All awardees will be required to provide a final report within 60 days of project completion (14 months after the initial award).

Requests for no-cost extensions may be considered but are not guaranteed, and must include a progress report with justification for project extension.

Additional Requirements: Awardees may be asked to participate in project surveys to evaluate program effectiveness one to three years post-award. Progress and final
reports must describe the impact of the grant on the career advancement of the awardee. Reports will be submitted online through the Rising Tide website.

**Funding Acknowledgement:** Should tangible products such as publications or presentations resulting from award activities, please acknowledge the President Susan J. Hunter Fund.

**Proposal Submission:** Applications/Proposals should be submitted by email to risingtide@maine.edu, or delivered in hard copy to the Rising Tide Center in 201 Fernald Hall. The email subject line should read “Rising Tide Leadership Development Grant Proposal.”

Application materials must include:

- A completed [Rising Tide Grants Program Application Form](#) with the signatures of the applicant’s unit chair/director and college dean. Signed application forms can be scanned and emailed, hand delivered, or sent via campus mail to the Rising Tide Office in 201 Fernald Hall. **All application materials must be received in the Rising Tide office by 4:30 pm on December 22, 2017.**

- A one- to three-page (maximum) Project Description (PDF, please) outlining objectives, activity to be completed, expected outcomes, and the connection to the goals of the President Susan J. Hunter Fund. Include an explanation of how this award and the funded activities support your career development plans, and the larger campus goals of equity and inclusive excellence.

- A one-page [budget and budget justification](#).

- A curriculum vitae of the investigator, not to exceed 2 pages, including recent funding awards received and previous financial support from the Rising Tide Center (if any).

**Letters of Support:** Letters of support are not required, but a maximum of two letters specifically addressing the suitability of the applicant for a professional development grant from the President Susan J. Hunter Fund may be solicited during the review process.

**Review Process and Criteria for Selection:** A review team consisting of the Director of the Rising Tide Center, a representative from the Provost’s Council on Advancing Women Faculty (PCAWF), and a previous RTC award winner will review applications beginning in December 2017, with the goal of announcing awards in January 2018.

Recommendations for funding will be based on the opportunities expected to be created for the applicant, the feasibility of achieving the project objectives, and the likelihood of contributing in a significant way to the applicant’s professional development and campus goals.