



Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
September 24, 2019
1:15pm
Chancellor’s Boardroom

Information Item

AAC – 5 Update on Research and Engagement

Background Information

The Office of Research and Engagement provides support and strategic direction to faculty, staff and students for research and creative endeavors resulting in scholarship, innovation, community and economic engagement leading to knowledge, student, and regional transformation.

External Funding

FY19 saw significant increases in both submissions and awards. With regard to proposals submitted, there was an increase of 46 proposals, a 10.75% increase as well as an increase of \$24,000,177 in dollars requested, representing a 16.18% increase. With respect to awards, we exceeded last year’s record award total and our target with **award dollars increasing by \$2,331,510 or 6.38%**. The number of awards increased by 40 or 16.53%. Most of the increase was due to awards from foundations, business and industry, and nonprofits. Federal awards still make up the majority of the awards (43.2%), with state contracts at 21.4%, subawards from other educational/research institutions at 12.6%, foundations at 8.3%, nonprofits 7.8%, and the remainder awards from local government and business and industry.

	7-1-18 to 6-30-19		7-1-17 to 6-30-18	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	474	\$172,335,261	432	\$148,335,084
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	282	\$ 38,887,886	242	\$ 36,556,375

We have started off FY20 on a strong note, with awards through the first month of July up almost \$750,000 over July last year.

Selected Highlights of FY19

Awards related to health and wellness continue to be a strength on campus. Whether focused on building capacities within our community and state, or research that strengthens the health and welfare of individuals, or efforts that enhance student success and the robustness of workforce, UNCG scholars are making a difference, taking “metaphors to action.”

With over \$5 million in funding from NIH, **Dr. Jenny Etnier (Kinesiology)** is conducting a clinical trial that investigates the impact of a one-year physical activity intervention for people who have a family history of Alzheimer’s.

With a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, **Dr. Julie Edmunds, Senior Research Scientist at UNCG’s SERVE Center** leads an assessment of North Carolina’s Career and College Promise (CCP) dual enrollment program, partnering with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the N.C. Community College System, and the RAND Corporation. CCP offers qualified high school students the opportunity to earn credits that can be transferred to colleges, career and technical education programs, or early colleges/similar innovative schools set on college campuses, that allow them to pursue high school and postsecondary degrees simultaneously.

Dr. Kimberly Kappler-Hewitt (School of Education) received \$5,246,900 from the NC Alliance for School Leadership Development for the project “Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools (PPEERS).” Dr. Carl Lashley is co-principal investigator on the project. PPEERS involves a partnership amongst 13 rural districts that struggle to find and keep effective principals for high-need schools. The partnership that includes UNCG and the Southern Regional Education Board is developing strong, sustainable leadership pipelines within these districts and will prepare and license 22 new principals for high-need, rural schools.

Dr. Jigna Dharod (Nutrition) received a \$436,499 grant from NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to examine the cross generation effect of food insecurity and its impact on the relationship between maternal food insecurity and infant feeding choices.

Mr. John Weil and Dr. Stacy Sechrist, co-directors of UNCG’s NC Network for Safe Communities, received a \$556,751 grant from the NC Governors Crime Commission to build

the state's capacity to identify and serve victims of human trafficking, focusing initially in underserved areas of Eastern North Carolina.

UNCG and NC A&T have been awarded a two-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$499,912 to build a high-speed research data network that will both connect the two largest universities in the Triad with each other and enable faster, easier sharing of research with scientists around the world. The Gate City Research Network (GCRN) is one of only 11 NSF Campus Cyber Infrastructure awards in the state of North Carolina and is the first award in the state for the category of Network Infrastructure. The GCRN will create a multi-institutional network supporting research activities through a clean, low-latency, high-speed internet connection. This will give researchers access to dedicated, high performance computing resources while helping to eliminate issues posed by using existing networks that also carry administrative, entertainment (i.e., movie streaming, gaming), and other non-scientific data, enabling fast transfers of the enormous amount of data that fuels innovative research. This will significantly increase the fundamental research capacity in disciplines such as chemistry, nano-engineering, nano-, computer-, and data science.



Dana Dunn
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor