



**Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
December 1, 2020
1:15pm**

Information Item

AAC - 4 Update on Research and Engagement

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

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, UNCG’s faculty, staff, and students continue to move forward with their research, scholarship, and creative activity. One metric of this excellence is our continued success in securing external funding to support that work. The number of submissions is similar to this 4-month period last year, with the amount requested up by \$9,822,015. The fact that faculty and staff have been able to submit 183 awards, despite all the challenges inherent in conducting research and teaching during COVID-19 is truly outstanding. We received 8 more awards and \$5,347,020 more in funding relative to 2019, an increase of 20% when compared to last year. As a point of comparison, *the dollars garnered in this first third of the year is more than the total amount of dollars garnered in all of FY16.*

	7-1-20 to 10-31-20		7-1-19 to 10-31-19	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	183	\$61,413,559	182	\$51,591,544
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	149	\$31,962,593	141	\$26,615,573

Awards and Accolades

UNCG is known for its collaborations, both interdisciplinary within UNCG and with outside partners; a recent award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation illustrates this. UNCG and Cone Health were selected for a three-year award as Interdisciplinary Research Leaders (IRL). The principal investigators are ***Dr. Stephen J. Sills, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Housing and Community Studies***; ***Dr. Sandra Echeverría, Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health Education***; and Cone Health Healthy Communities Director Kathy Colville. The goals of the research project are to: 1) develop and test a framework for addressing environmental justice in communities of color; 2) evaluate the effectiveness of a UNCG/Cone Health community-based environmental education program; and 3) build remediation of a Greensboro park (Bingham Park) and streams under the NC Pre-Regulatory Landfill Program, with the collaboration serving as a model for new ways to conduct rigorous research while centering equity and justice.

Dr. Michael Parker, Professor Emeritus in English is the 2020 recipient of the Thomas Wolfe Prize, an award honoring distinguished authors in memory of fiction writer Thomas Wolfe. ***Xhenet Aliu, Professor of Creative Writing***, was awarded the Townsend Prize for Fiction for her 2018 novel “Brass.”

Dr. Nir Kshetri, Professor in the Department of Management received national recognition for his scholarship in blockchain research, publishing more than 150 journal articles, several books, and publications in Forbes, Fortune, and The Wall Street Journal. The highly reputable management journal, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, recently ranked him the No. 1 contributing author on blockchain research worldwide, with UNCG ranking No. 2 among contributing institutions. He is also ranked by the Department of Library and Information Science, Central University of Tamil Nadu, as the world’s second most cited and sixth most published author in blockchain research based on an analysis of papers published from 2015-2019 in journals indexed by Web of Science citation database.

School of Music freshman Adam Jones (BM ’24, Cello Performance) was named a winner of the 2020 Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge from the American Theatre Wing and the National Endowment for the Arts. His entry, “A Father’s Fear/Mardi Gras,” was chosen by review panels of professional theater artists in a blind competition from almost 200 applications from 41 states. As a result of this award, his music will be honed into an original Broadway-ready composition, recorded by Broadway musicians and vocalists in New York City, made available on streaming music platforms, and compiled into a songbook by Concord Theatricals.

For a review of more outstanding examples of UNCG scholarship please see the latest edition of UNCG Research <http://researchmagazine.uncg.edu/fall-2020> (please note, this link will be activated on December 1, 2020).



Jim Coleman
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor