



**Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
September 28, 2021, 1:45pm**

Information Item

AAC – 3 **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 and Trends

We exceeded last year’s record award total and exceeded our target with award dollars increasing by \$5,974,755.73 or 14.1%. The number of awards increased by 10 and we continue to increase the average amount of our awards. Federal funding comprises most of the awards (54.4%), with state contracts at 19.8%, subawards from other educational/research institutions at 11.9%, nonprofits at 6.7%, foundations at 3.2%, local government at 2.1%, and business and industry at 1.2%. *This represents a 57% increase in external funding since FY16.*

	7-1-20 to 6-30-21		7-1-19 to 6-30-20	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	521	\$176,326,990	513	\$153,288,614
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	304	\$48,375,573	294	\$42,400,817

Another target is increasing health-related funding by 10% over the previous 3 year rolling average and we exceeded that target as well. Health related funding (actual \$ value) is up, from \$22.8M in FY2020, to \$27.2M in FY2021. That increases the three-year rolling average from \$21.3M in FY2020 to \$24M in FY2021 or an annual increase of 13%. *Over the 5 years since we started tracking this metric in 2016, that represents a cumulative increase of 73%, reflecting UNCG’s strength in health-related research and scholarship.*

While a bit behind last year due to the timing of several state funded contracts, we have a strong start to the new fiscal year having been awarded \$14,210,398 for July and August.

Other Accomplishments and Accolades

Research expenditures, which reflect our ability to implement the grants awarded, also increased. FY21 expenditures were at \$38,000,000, the highest since 2007.

Regarding innovation and commercialization, we were *awarded one patent* for Amphiphilic hybrid nanomaterials (Joint School for Nanoscience and Nanoengineering: Inventors: Dan Herr, PhD; Hemali Rathnayake, PhD; Kristen Dellinger, PhD) and *filed 9 new patent applications*.

UNCG's Center for New North Carolinians *won one of the four Association for Public and Land Grant Universities' W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Awards* which qualifies us to compete for the national C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Scholarship Award this fall. The CNNC promotes access and integration for immigrants and refugees in NC by bridging newcomer populations with existing communities through direct service provision, research, and training. CNNC's programmatic and research engagement is wide-ranging from interpreter access to health care equity, to family violence prevention, to in-home services for children under three, to addressing COVID-19 related crises, among others.

Finally, our students continue to excel and be recognized for their scholarship and research. UNCG has a robust undergraduate research program as well as externally funded grants that support undergraduate research including diversifying the STEM pipeline. *Kala Youngblood* was awarded the prestigious **Goldwater Scholarship**, the first since 2012 and one of 410 Scholars selected from over 5,000 students nominated. The Goldwater Scholarship Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious national scholarships in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics in the US. Scholars are selected based on their commitment to a STEM research career, display of "intellectual intensity," and potential for making a significant contribution in their future field of study. A senior chemistry major, Youngblood was also selected as a **MARC U-STAR** fellow, an NIH-supported UNCG grant to increase the number of students from underrepresented backgrounds pursuing biomedical careers.

For a review of more outstanding examples of UNCG scholarship please see the latest edition of UNCG Research <https://researchmagazine.uncg.edu/fall-2021/>.

Debbie Storrs

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Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor