



**The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Board of Trustees
Academic Affairs Committee
November 29, 2022 1:45pm**

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 and Trends

External awards continue to track over this time period last year, up \$2.66 million or 9.1%. Submissions are down both in number as well as in amount requested which does occur after several years of increased funding but we are reviewing with the schools/colleges as well as our Center and Institutes to ensure that we continue a robust pipeline of high quality submissions.

	7-1-22 to 9-30-22		7-1-21 to 9-30-21	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	140	\$ 51,047,275	74	\$ 29,235,966
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	97	\$ 29,963,511	124	\$ 27,304,368

Selected Highlights

Dr. Sheeba Dawood, UNCG alum '20 PhD and Dr. Hemali Rathnayake, associate professor of Nanoscience, are co-founders of Minerva Lithium, a university spinout company. The first innovative product is a clean energy technology that utilizes a proprietary Nano Mosaic membrane filter system for critical materials extraction from non-traditional water resources. The evaporative brine processing currently used to

extract lithium has to evaporate 500,000 gallons of water to gather one metric ton of lithium. Nano Mosaic can extract the same amount with just 30,000 gallons. It also drastically reduces the time and the carbon output. The current method releases roughly 5,000 grams of carbon. Minerva Lithium has zero carbon emissions. They recently took first place in [Startup Battlefield at TechCrunch Disrupt 2022](#) out of thousands of applicants for their innovative process for extracting lithium and other critical minerals from brine.

Dr. Edna Tan, Hooks Distinguished Professor of Science Education in the Department of Teacher Education/Higher Education, recipient of the 2022, a Fellow in the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science, received a grant from the W.T. Grant Foundation, “Co-designing for Parental Presence in Middle School STEM,” investigating how teachers engage families in the co-design of curricular practices to promote parental engagement and improve STEM outcomes for middle school students of color. This was one of only 4 grants awarded in this category nationally.

Dr. Omar Ali, Dean of Lloyd International Honors College, recently published *The Independent Voter*. Launched with a signing event in Washington, DC that included former presidential candidate Andrew Yang and CNN senior political analyst and anchor John Avlon, the Routledge Press paperback is a comprehensive look at voters who reject identifying with either of America’s major political parties.

Dr. Michael Frierson, Professor in Media Studies, recently completed an hour long documentary about the life and times of one of NC’s most influential writers, *Fred Chappell: I am One of You Forever* that aired on PBS NC on 11/3/22 (<https://www.pbs.org/video/fred-chappell-i-am-one-of-you-forever-pb3xa9/#:~:text=11%2F03%2F2022%20%7C%2056m,critical%20praise%20and%20popular%20indifference>). Fred Chappell is the author of more than 30 works of fiction, criticism and poetry, and the winner of numerous awards; was Poet Laureate of NC from 1997-2002; and is Professor Emeritus in UNCG’s English Department.



Debbie Storrs
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor