



Academic Affairs Committee
March 14, 2023
1:45pm

Information Item

AAC – 3 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 are up over \$11 million or approximately 33% relative to this time last year. 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 1-31-23		7-1-21 to 1-31-22	
SUBMISSIONS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	151	\$55,164,517	270	\$100,785,886
AWARDS	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
	176	\$45,199,884	207	\$33,910,176

Highlights on Health Equity

Among UNCG’s many scholarly strengths is our work in addressing the factors that contribute to health inequities. Whether it is the work on food insecurity led by Dr. Jigna Dharod in Nutrition or the over 15 year collaboration among UNCG faculty such as Dr. Sharon Morrison in Public Health Education and Dr. Sudha Shreeniwas from Human Development and Family Studies with the Montagnard community and the Montagnard Dega Association on immigrant health and hypertension, UNCG is leading innovative and impactful initiatives that reduce inequities while providing cutting edge opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students. Some examples include the following.

Psychology – Dr. Gabriela Stein’s CAMINOS lab (www.caminoslab.org) has obtained more than \$5 million in funding to address mental health inequities for Latinx, Asian American, and African American communities. This work includes: 1) a 4-session parent intervention (PADRES Efectivos) to help Latinx parents effectively navigate engagement with mental health, educational, and health providers to support the well-being and treatment for youth; 2) a NIMH funded intervention addressing disparities in mental health access experienced by Latinx and Black adults, resulting in significant reduction in symptoms and improved functioning; and 3) a program for middle school families that supports Asian American, Latinx, and African American parents in having productive, meaningful conversations about cultural, race, and racism funded by the W.T. Grant foundation.

Nursing – School of Nursing faculty led by Dr. Audrey Snyder received \$3.7 million from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration for “Nurse Led Mobile Health Units: Improving Health Outcomes with Data Science” in collaboration with Cone Health. The grant is designed to promote health equity and reduce health disparities by increasing access to health care of underserved populations in the Piedmont as well as providing scholarships for UNCG nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds and increase student exposure to rural and medically underserved communities, potentially increasing the number of graduates who will want to work in those communities after graduation. Using data science to predict those individuals most in need of services, the teams will use telehealth, mobile health units, and pop-up clinics in six counties in central North Carolina – Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham to improve health outcomes.

Public Health Education – Dr. Sandra E. Echeverría examines how built environment, immigrant, and socioeconomic determinants influence cardiovascular health, particularly in Latinx communities. In one project, she uses evidence-based models to address social barriers to physical activity adoption for Latinx people living with diabetes by integrating clinical and community data systems and resources. As a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellow, she works with fellow researchers and community partners to determine the presence of water and land toxins in a local neighborhood, the potential health effects resulting from these exposures, and what we can learn from a community-engaged approach to redress environmental injustice.

Counseling and Educational Development – Doctoral student Garland McKinney the recipient of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s two-year fellowship (\$30,000 in year one) from the National Birth Equity Collaborative for her research into disparities in Black women’s maternal health. Her research will look specifically at race-related stressors that have an impact on both the mental and physical health of these women.



Debbie Storrs
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor