

BULLETIN

CREATIVITY • INNOVATION • SERVICE

Hallmarks of excellence in higher education. Keys to success in life. Be a part of it. Ask how.

New Faculty Startups

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provides the bulk of funding for the research component of new faculty startup packages. Our source of funding is ORSP's portion (60%) of indirect costs recovered from active grants and contracts. It is our philosophy to invest in activities that will directly augment or lead to faculty success in the pursuit and fulfillment of externally funded research, service, or creative activity. Considering our source of funds, it is imperative that recipients do succeed in securing grants or contracts in order to not only replenish, but hopefully increase our funding available for future investment.

For the academic years beginning Fall 2017, 2018, and 2019, ORSP has committed a total of \$2,134,937 to 64 new faculty. The ORSP contribution to individual startup awards range from several thousand dollars to the low \$100,000s.

	No. of Faculty	Avg. Award	Total Committed
AY 2017–18	16	\$34,724	\$555,576
AY 2018–19	24	\$31,967	\$767,219
AY 2019–20	24	\$33,839	\$812,142

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UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Deadline: Aug. 27

[nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17541/nsf17541.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17541/nsf17541.pdf)

This National Science Foundation (NSF) program seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and professionals to become K–12 mathematics and science (including engineering and computer science) teachers. The program invites creative and innovative proposals that address the critical need for recruiting and preparing highly effective elementary and secondary science and mathematics teachers in high-need local educational agencies.

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

Deadline: Aug. 28

[nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19582/nsf19582.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19582/nsf19582.pdf)

This solicitation features two mechanisms for support of student research: **REU Sites** are based on independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of students in research. REU Sites may be based in a single discipline or academic department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme. Proposals with an international dimension are welcome. **REU Supplements** may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program

Deadline: Varies by program area

[nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/20190507-fy2019-afri-foundational-and-applied-science-rfa.pdf](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/20190507-fy2019-afri-foundational-and-applied-science-rfa.pdf)

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is America's flagship competitive grants program that provides funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension projects in the food and agricultural sciences. The goal is to invest in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. The global agricultural output needs to be expanded significantly to meet the food needs of the population expected in 2050; thus, it is imperative to develop innovative, safe, and sustainable management strategies for livestock, crops, and critical underlying resources. The program invites applications for six AFRI priority areas through the Foundational and Applied Science Program:

- plant health and production and plant products
- animal health and production and animal products
- food safety, nutrition, and health
- bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
- agriculture systems and technology
- agriculture economics and rural communities

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program (NLGCA)

Deadline: Oct. 1

[nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/capacity-building-grants-non-land-grant-colleges-agriculture-program-nlgca](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/capacity-building-grants-non-land-grant-colleges-agriculture-program-nlgca)

NLGCA institutions may use the funds:

- to successfully compete for funds from federal grants and other sources to carry out educational, research, and outreach activities that address priority concerns of national, regional, state, and local interest
- to disseminate information relating to priority concerns to interested members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities, the public, and any other interested entity
- to encourage members of the agriculture, renewable resources, and other relevant communities to participate in priority education, research, and outreach activities by providing matching funding to leverage grant funds
- through (a) the purchase or other acquisition of equipment and other infrastructure (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings); (b) the professional growth and development of the faculty of the NLGCA Institution; and (c) the development of graduate assistantships

NIH: R01 Research Project Grant

Deadline: Oct. 5

grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-056.html

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Project Grant supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed project in scientific areas that represent the investigators' specific interests and competencies and that fall within the mission of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). The R01 is the original, and historically the oldest, grant mechanism used by the NIH to support health-related research and development. Research grant applications are assigned to participating ICs based on receipt and referral guidelines and applications may be assigned to multiple participating ICs with related research interests. Applicants are encouraged to identify a participating IC that supports their area of research via the R01 IC-Specific Scientific Interests and Contact website and contact Scientific/Research staff from relevant ICs to inquire about their interest in supporting the proposed research project.

NIH: R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)

Deadline: Oct. 5

grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-18-714.html

The objectives of this opportunity are:

- provide support for meritorious research at undergraduate-focused institutions or institutional components
- strengthen the research environment at these institutions/components
- give undergraduate students an opportunity to gain significant biomedical research experience through active involvement in the research

The AREA program will enable qualified scientists to receive support for small-scale research projects. It is anticipated that investigators supported under the AREA program will benefit from the opportunity to conduct independent research; that the grantee institution will benefit from a research environment strengthened through AREA grants; and that students at recipient institutions will benefit from exposure to and participation in scientific research in the biomedical sciences so that they consider careers in biomedical research. This AREA FOA emphasizes the engagement and inclusion of undergraduates in research.

NEH: Dialogues on the Experience of War

Deadline: Oct. 15 (including an option for a program officer review of a draft submitted by Sept. 3)

neh.gov/grants/education/dialogues-the-experience-war

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) program supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service. Dialogues is primarily designed to reach military veterans; however, men and women in active service, military families, and interested members of the public may also participate. The program makes awards of up to \$100,000 to support:

- the convening of at least two sustained discussion programs for no fewer than 15 participants
- the creation of a preparatory program to recruit and train program discussion leaders (NEH Discussion Leaders)

Preparatory training and discussion programs may take place in veterans' centers, at public libraries or cultural centers, on college and university campuses, and at other community venues. The discussion programs should comprise multiple meetings that are long enough to allow participants to engage in deep and inclusive discussion.

HERE TO HELP!

For assistance with finding and preparing for funding opportunities, please contact your ORSP pre-award specialist:

Samantha Cantrell

samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu

615-494-8751

Behavioral and Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Media and Entertainment, Jones College of Business, Walker Library, University College, non-academic units

Jolene Gordon

jolene.gordon@mtsu.edu

615-898-5894

Basic and Applied Sciences, College of Education

New Faculty Startups

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Startup funding is generally available during the first three years of the new faculty members' appointment, extendable upon approval from ORSP. Startup funding typically supports equipment and software acquisition, graduate and undergraduate research assistants, travel, and publications.

This is a significant and aggressive investment strategy to increase the number of faculty successfully engaged in externally-funded scholarship. Since 2017, faculty receiving a startup commitment from ORSP are required to provide a written plan for the use of those funds, development of their research or other scholarly program at MTSU, and expected outcomes. **Starting this semester, ORSP will work with incoming faculty as a cohort throughout their first year to develop and begin implementing their plans.**

ORSP also uses our recovered indirect costs to support a variety of ad hoc research-related needs for faculty, departments, and colleges, including travel, publication, and equipment.

A detailed review of ORSP expenditures will be available in our forthcoming 2018–19 fiscal year annual report. Please contact ORSP Director Jeffrey Porter at ext. 5010 or Jeffrey.Porter@mtsu.edu with any questions about ORSP discretionary funding.

Grant Writing Enhancement Program

The Grant Writing Enhancement Program (GEP) is a professional development experience of direct individual and group support for faculty and administrators, regardless of their level of grant writing experience.

Goals of the Grant Writing Enhancement Program include:

- prepare scholars to be leaders in their fields
- strengthen a culture across campus of expectations, opportunity, and rewards for faculty engagement in sponsored programs
- increase the number of faculty and administrators successfully engaged in grant writing at MTSU

- increase the number and dollar value of externally funded projects, programs, and centers across the University

To meet these goals, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has developed a three-year curriculum consisting of the following components:

Year 1: Professional Development

Year 2: Grant Writing

Year 3: Award Management

If you are interested in learning more about GEP, please visit mtsu.edu/research/GEP.

UPCOMING DEADLINE: Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee proposals are due Sept. 16. For more information, please visit mtsu.edu/frcac.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The ORSP is developing our campus training schedule for the 2019–20 academic year. Our tentative schedule includes the following workshops:

September: Grant Writing Basics

October: Building Collaborations

November: Working with Federal Sponsors: National Science Foundation and Department of Education

January: Scholarship and Cybersecurity

February: Working with Tennessee Agencies

March: Entrepreneurship

April: Intellectual Property, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization

Summer 2020: Working with Foundations

FROM THE DESK OF . . .



Leigh Ann Gardner, Award Management Specialist

If your awarded proposal calls for purchasing and distributing gift cards or other incentives

for participants in your project, please make sure to work with your award manager prior to purchasing the gift cards and/or incentives. We are here to help you navigate the different policies governing these types of purchases, to provide guidance on the different forms which must be used to document these purchases, and to assist in determining if the purchase is an allowable expense on your grant. Asking for assistance prior to the purchase will make the process go much smoother for everyone involved. If you need help with this task, please do not hesitate to contact your award manager and we will be more than happy to assist you.

Grant Writing Basics

Friday, Sept. 20, 1–2 p.m., Wiser-Patten Science Hall 102

Don Morgan, Ph.D.; Kristine McCusker, Ph.D.; and Rick Vanosdall, Ed.D.

Please join us as our experienced panelists share their insights and experiences with grant writing.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER

Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity Grants

Do you have a student interested in undergraduate research? The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs administers University funds to directly support mentored undergraduate research through Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) grants. Awards range from \$500 for beginners to \$3,500 for experienced researchers.

PLEASE DIRECT INTERESTED STUDENTS to our **Prospective Applicants page** for more information, OR join us for our upcoming **URECA Workshop, Tuesday, Aug. 27**, at 3–4 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 220.

Fall URECA Applications are due Thursday, Sept. 5, by 3 p.m.

For more information, go to mtsu.edu/urc/ureca/ureca_grant_overview.php

SAVE THE DATE! The Undergraduate Research Open House for incoming freshmen and transfer students, hosted by the ORSP and the Undergraduate Research Center, takes place Thursday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m.–1 p.m. in the Science Building second-floor atrium. If your student is interested in presenting, please contact Jamie Burriss, program manager, at Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu for more information.



Alexa Neff describes 'Using Content Analysis to Understand Youth Engagement in Public Relations' with her fellow researchers Olivia Anchondo, and Desiree Masencup.



Johnathan Campbell discussing Controlling Quantum Dot Diameters with Dr. Jackie Eller, Professor, Sociology.