

BULLETIN

CREATIVITY • INNOVATION • SERVICE

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

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

CALL FOR EXPERTS!

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) seeks faculty to serve as peer-reviewers of draft grant proposals, i.e., internal review and critique of proposals written by your colleagues prior to submission (see Pre-Submission Review, page 3). Serving as a panel reviewer is a best practice for honing your own grantsmanship, familiarizing yourself with sponsors in your field, and mentoring and supporting your peers.

If you would like to be included in the ORSP reviewer pool, please email Jamie Burriss at Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu with your contact info and areas of interest/expertise.

Thank you!

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Call for Experts | 1 |
| Upcoming Funding Opportunities | 2 |
| Faculty News | 3 |
| Workshops and Training | 4 |
| From the Desk of . . . | 5 |
| 2019 Region III NCURA Meeting | 5 |
| Undergraduate Research Center | 6 |

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding opportunities can be challenging. To help faculty stay informed, MTSU's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) maintains a subscription to the comprehensive funding opportunity search engine, GrantForward. If you have not yet set up a researcher profile for opportunity notifications, please do so at grantforward.com.

Here are several future opportunities that we encourage faculty to consider.

NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program R21 Cycle II

Deadline: June 16

grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-053.html

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exploratory/Developmental Grant supports exploratory and developmental research projects by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of these projects. These studies may involve considerable risk but may lead to a breakthrough in a particular area or to the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models, or applications that could have a major impact on a field of biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science Program

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 19

nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program

The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: 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; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education, and/or extension projects are solicited in this Request for Applications.

NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award for Undergraduate Focused Institutions (AREA) R15 Cycle II

Deadline: June 25

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

The purpose of this Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) for Undergraduate-Focused Institutions is to support small-scale research grants at institutions that do not receive substantial funding from the NIH, with an emphasis on providing biomedical research experiences primarily for undergraduate students and enhancing the research environment at these applicant institutions.

NIH Small Research Grant Program R03 Cycle II

Deadline: July 16

grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-052.html

The NIH Small Research Grant Program supports small research projects that can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources. This program supports different types of projects including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology.

NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

Deadline: Aug. 28

nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19582/nsf19582.pdf

The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program.

This solicitation features two mechanisms for support of student research: (1) 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. (2) 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.

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

Pre-Submission Review

Multiple eyes on multiple drafts of grant proposals increases the likelihood of funding. As part of our commitment to help faculty succeed in the pursuit and performance of externally funded scholarship, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs facilitates pre-submission review of proposals for external funding.

Proposers should provide the ORSP with a complete draft of the proposal narrative, budget, and budget justification elements 30 calendar days or more prior to the due date. We provide written comments by two or more reviewers and the opportunity to interview with us about those comments no less than 14 days prior to the due date, allowing proposers to make the necessary edits before final submission.

If interested in this opportunity, please contact your proposal development specialist.



Samantha E. Cantrell, Ph.D.
Proposal Development Specialist

615-494-8751

samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu

Assignment:

College of Behavioral and Health Sciences
Jones College of Business
College of Liberal Arts
College of Media and Entertainment
University College
Walker Library



Jolene Gordon, M.S.
Pre-Award Specialist

615-898-5894

jolene.gordon@mtsu.edu

Assignment:

College of Basic and Applied Sciences
College of Education

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPRING 2019 FACULTY RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (FRCAC) GRANT RECIPIENTS!

| NAME | DEPARTMENT | COLLEGE | PROPOSAL TITLE |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Bethany Contreras | Psychology | Behavioral and Health Sciences | Assessing the Generalizability of Reinforced Response Variability |
| Lu Xiong | Mathematical Sciences | Basic and Applied Sciences | Predicting 30-Day Hospital Readmission using Machine Learning Techniques |
| Andrew Polk | History | Liberal Arts | God's Own Redneck: The Life and Times of Will D. Campbell |
| Chandra Story and Elizabeth Smith | Health and Human Performance | Behavioral and Health Sciences | Food Security, Coping, Social Support Strategies, and Diet Quality in MTSU College Students |
| Ashleigh McKinzie | Sociology and Anthropology | Liberal Arts | Pulling Back the Veil: Abuse in Evangelical Settings |
| Kate Pantelides | English | Liberal Arts | After the Accusation: The Impact of Plagiarism Accusations on Student Trajectories |
| Alexander Jackson | Psychology | Behavioral and Health Sciences | An Investigation of the Barriers/Facilitators to Making Healthy Choices at Work |

The FRCAC grant program would not be possible without dedicated committee members devoting considerable time and effort to review the proposals and provide constructive feedback to their colleagues. **THANK YOU** to our 2018–19 Faculty Research and Creative Activity Committee members for their time and commitment.

2018–19 FACULTY RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

| NAME | DEPARTMENT | COLLEGE |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jackie Eller, Chair | Sociology and Anthropology | Liberal Arts |
| Don Hong | Mathematical Sciences | Basic and Applied Sciences |
| Rachel Kirk | Library Collection Development | James E. Walker Library |
| Janet Colson | Human Sciences | Behavioral and Health Sciences |
| Odie Blackmon | Recording Industry | Media and Entertainment |
| Adam Rennhoff | Economics | Jones College of Business |
| Amy Sayward | History | Liberal Arts |
| Scott Handy | Chemistry | Basic and Applied Sciences |
| Andrew Owusu | Health and Human Performance | Behavioral and Health Sciences |
| Alyson Lischka | Mathematical Sciences | Basic and Applied Sciences |

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The ORSP is developing our campus training schedule for the 2019–20 academic year. If there is a specific training or workshop you would like for us to offer, please send your request to Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu. Additionally, we seek faculty to serve as experts in the following areas:

- Grant Writing Basics
- Working with Federal Sponsors of Basic Research (NSF, NIH, DHS, Energy, Defense, etc.)
- Working the federal sponsors of applied research and service (DHHS, DOJ, Defense, etc.)
- Working with TN Agencies
- Working with foundations
- Building collaborations
- Scholarship and Cybersecurity
- Intellectual Property, Tech Transfer, and Commercialization
- Entrepreneurship
- Serving as a panel reviewer
- Serving as a mentor to new faculty

If you are willing to share your knowledge or expertise in one or more of these areas, as a panelist, speaker/presenter, or mentor, please email Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu with your area(s) of interest. Thank you.



Launch Tennessee

JOIN THE VIRTUAL SBIR ROAD TOUR—FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE!

LaunchTN is kicking off a virtual SBIR Road Tour this July. In 1:1 meetings with federal agency program officers, Tennessee entrepreneurs will receive individualized guidance on applying for Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) grants.

Offerings are being expanded this year so that more interested entrepreneurs and innovators can benefit from the resources of this statewide network. In addition to virtual meetings, lunch-and-learns with experienced SBIR winners and grant writers will be hosted in local markets across Tennessee. LaunchTN team members also will share updates about the state's SBIR/STTR Matching Fund.

LaunchTN will coordinate scheduling for all participants, including a pre-Road Tour planning meeting with a commercialization consultant to help you prepare materials for the videoconference.

Questions? Contact Allie Mikels at allie@launchtn.org.

Interested? Register at launchtn.org/201907sbirroadtourinterestform

GRANT WRITING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

- Succeed in the pursuit of external funds to support your scholarship
- Integrate sponsored programs in your career

To join the D2L class, email Jamie Burriss at Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu

FROM THE DESK OF ...



Joe Driver, Award Manager

When approaching the end of the fiscal year, please make sure that all expenses occurred before this date have been invoiced by the June 30 deadline. This includes Personnel Event Forms (PEFs) for extra compensation and summer salary (for work performed in May and June); invoices for work performed before June 30 from any entity that we may have sub-contracts with (universities, companies, etc.); supplies needed for your project; or any other expenses. Please be sure to pay attention to the end-of-year emails from the Business Office that will list the cut-off dates by transaction types. If you need any help determining what is needed to meet the fiscal year deadline, please do not hesitate to contact your Post-Award Manager and we will be glad to assist you.

HOT TOPICS AT THE 2019 REGION III NCURA MEETING

Several ORSP staff recently attended the annual meeting of the Southeastern U.S. regional chapter of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA). The annual meetings always keep us current on old and new topics in sponsored programs administration. Following are two topics of special concern among our colleagues this year. Feel free to contact your ORSP Pre-Award Specialist or Award Manager to learn more about these compliance issues.

Disclosure of Financial Conflicts of Interest

NIH and other federal granting agencies are taking the requirement to disclose financial interests seriously, especially foreign financial interests. In February, the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services indicated that NIH referred dozens of allegations to the FBI of noncompliance in disclosing foreign affiliations. The U.S. government has expressed concerns that researchers have not always disclosed their relationships with foreign institutions and governments.

While collaborations with international partners are acceptable, they must be fully disclosed by the researcher to the University and to funding agencies. If you have worked at a lab or university outside the U.S., please disclose this to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs during the proposal stage. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Cost Transfers

Cost transfers on sponsored projects are always red flags to auditors. A cost transfer indicates that an error occurred and warrants investigation as to why the error occurred and if it was caused or allowed by systemic deficiencies in management, processes, and dual control. Accordingly, preventing cost transfers from being necessary in the first place should be an objective of everyone involved in the administration and accounting of sponsored projects. The ORSP recommends these steps:

- Plan expenditures as exactly as possible.
- Double-check the coding of all financial entries.
- Adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs), e.g., a checklist, for periodic review of award files at intervals of not more than 90 days (an accounting rule of thumb to assure adequate internal control calls for detection of errors and completion of cost transfers within 90 days of the initial error).
- Always treat each award as a financial project—expenses on each award must be uniquely and necessarily required of the performance of that award.

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 check out our Information and Applications web page for more information.

Fall URECA applications are due on Thursday, Sept. 5, by 3 p.m.
For more information, visit
mtsu.edu/urc/ureca/ureca_grant_overview.php

SAVE THE DATE!

The Undergraduate Research Open House will take place on Thursday, October 3, from 11:00am - 1:00pm in the Science Building second floor atrium. This is a great opportunity for students interested in research to meet current undergraduate researchers, check out their posters, ask questions about how they designed their research, how they selected a faculty mentor, and how they balanced coursework, extracurriculars, and research.

If your student is interested in presenting, please contact Jamie Burriss at Jamie.Burriss@mtsu.edu.