Selected Highlights from the Office of Research and Economic Development

July – October 2014

UNCG makes a significant impact through research, creative activity, scholarship, community and economic engagement. Below are selected highlights and accomplishments from July 1 – October 31, 2014.

Selected Highlights of Recent Awards, Submissions, and Accolades

- UNCG’s School of Education has been awarded a five-year, $7.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will further UNCG’s efforts to emphasize technology integration across all teaching fields as well as recruit, train and support more Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) teachers. The grant was one of just 24 Teacher Quality Partnership grants awarded by the Department of Education. UNCG will receive approximately $1.6 million per year over the next five years. UNCG will team up with seven public schools in Guilford and Forsyth counties. This fall, UNCG will select four elementary schools in the Guilford County system and two middle schools and a high school in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth system as partners. In Fall 2015, UNCG students will be placed in the partner schools. See more at: http://research.uncg.edu/spotlight/school-education-earns-7-7-million-technology-grant/

- Dr. Robert Anemone, new head of the Department of Anthropology, breaks new ground as he teams up with a geographer and employs satellites, computers and drones to pinpoint Eocene-era fossils in Wyoming’s Great Divide Basin. Dr. Anemone is pioneering a high-tech method of fossil hunting by harnessing satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to train computers to help find fossils. Finding a fossil in the Great Divide Basin can be like finding a needle in a haystack, but with this innovative use of technology, Dr. Anemone, and his team of undergraduate and graduate students can cover far more ground. Anemone’s work at the Basin this summer is supported by a $180,000, two-year National Science Foundation grant. Read more at http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1113178559/uncg-paleontologist-harnesses-the-power-of-satellites/

- Dr. Julie Mendez-Smith from Psychology and Drs. Danielle Crosby and Heather Helms from Human Development and Family Studies along with graduate and undergraduate students are participating in the recently funded Center for Research on Hispanic Children and Families. To foster awareness, and timely research examining the transitions of the growing number of Hispanics in NC, these investigators have joined with a team of national experts in Hispanic issues to improve the lives of Hispanics across three priority areas: a) poverty reduction and self-sufficiency, b) healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood, and c) early care and education. For more information on UNCG’s involvement in the Center. see http://psy.uncg.edu/research/national-research-center-on-hispanic-children-families/

- Melissa Ridley Elmes, Doctoral Student in Medieval Literature, has been accepted into the Folger Institute’s spring semester seminar, “The Scale of Catastrophe: Ecology and Transition, Medieval to Early Modern,” to be directed by Professor Jeffrey Jerome Cohen of George Washington University. The seminar will bring Melle nearly every Thursday from January through April, 2015 to meet at the Folger Shakespeare Library on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Melle joins a growing list of UNCG graduate students and faculty accepted into these highly selective and prestigious Folger programs.
Innovation Commercialization and Economic Engagement

Disclosures Received 3
New Patents Filed 1
Patents Granted 1
Active Projects 48

Agreements:
Research Agreements 2
License/Option/Other 3
MTAs/CDAs… 4
Start-up Companies 0
Royalties Reported $38,444.55

- Patents Granted
  Method and System of Stimulation of Nerve Tissue with a Sequence of Spatially Distributed Resonant Sub-Threshold Electrical Stimuli – 10/07/2014

- Total Patents Filed or Converted
  Methods and Systems for Streamlining Mail Delivery (Utility) – 10/28/2014

Community Engaged Scholarship

The Nonprofit Evaluation Support Program (NESP) helps nonprofit Piedmont Triad organizations improve their effectiveness and meet their goals by providing services aimed at increasing their program evaluation activities and capacity. NESP services are delivered by program evaluation experts of the UNCG SERVE Center and UNCG graduate students specializing in program evaluation from UNCG’s Department of Educational Research Methodology (ERM). NESP works closely with the Guilford Nonprofit Consortium to identify the most effective approaches to serve nonprofit organizations in the region, and the delivery of NESP services is supported by UNCG’s Institute for Community and Economic Engagement. ERM Masters and Doctoral students gain valuable applied, hands-on learning experiences in program evaluation. In this manner, NESP helps strengthen nonprofit organizations while providing authentic learning experiences for future leaders in the field of program evaluation. Five professional development workshops related to program evaluation are being offered to area nonprofits through January, 2015. Additional services include consultations, assistance with evaluation planning and grant writing, and extended services related to all components of program evaluation implementation and analysis. Long-term capacity building is enhanced as NESP introduces future program evaluation specialists to the Piedmont Triad nonprofit community, creating a pipeline of individuals who are both highly skilled in program evaluation and highly sensitive to the important work being conducted by local nonprofit organizations. For more information about NESP visit nesp.uncg.edu.

External Funding

Both the number and the amount of submissions as well as awards are up relative to this time last year. While state contracts and subcontracts from other educational institutions are down slightly, grants and contracts from federal, foundations, industry and nonprofit organizations are up.

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