Information Item

AAC - 6  Update on Research and Engagement

Through research, engagement, and innovation, UNC Greensboro is transforming knowledge, students, and the region. The quality as well as diversity of our scholarship is evident in the selected highlights below.

External Funding

Through ¾’s of the fiscal year, we are ahead of last year at this time in both awards and submissions. Federal and state contracts continue to track strongly relative to last year.

Awards and Submissions

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<th>7/1/16 to 3/31/17</th>
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<th>7/1/15 to 3/31/16</th>
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Selected Highlights

Several of the awards this quarter provide funding to enhance the educational experience and outcomes of undergraduates.

Project STAMPS: Science, Technology and Math Preparation Scholarships, funded by the National Science Foundation, is a collaborative effort involving faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and the University Teaching and Learning Commons, led by principal investigator, Dr. Stan Faeth. STAMPS supports academically talented and financially needy students, including students of color, women, and first generation college students, in their efforts to complete their degrees in the STEM disciplines through high impact teaching practices, financial, mentoring, and advising support.

In another interdisciplinary collaboration, faculty from mathematics and biology received an award from the National Science Foundation for a Research Experiences in Undergraduate Research (REU) site in Mathematical Biology. Dr. Jan Rychtar (Math) as principal investigator and Dr. Olav Rueppell (Biology) as Co-PI along with other faculty in math and biology. The
primary objective of this program is to involve a diverse group of undergraduate students in research and to improve their quantitative, analytical, and scientific communication skills and by doing so, prepare the students better for graduate school and future career. The secondary objective is to generate new mathematical knowledge in the areas of mathematical biology and applied mathematics. These objectives will be achieved by integrating undergraduate students in teams in the research programs of the faculty mentors.

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNC Greensboro was selected as one of 31 institutions nationwide to participate in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Delivering American’s Promise ‘Frontier Set’ Initiative. The Frontier Set is a new model of partnership and sharing best practices to improve student outcomes in higher education and better prepare new generations of students for the college experience. The network brings together a diverse set of high-performing two- and four-year colleges, organizations and state systems that are already pioneers in transforming the way they operate to improve student success in learning, credential/degree completion and transition to the labor market.

**Faculty Accolades**

A number of faculty have been recognized for their research accomplishments.

*Dr. Patricia H. Reggio*, the Marie Foscue Rourk Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received the Academic Development Excellence Award by the Piedmont Triad Office of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. *Dr. Nicholas Oberlies*, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received an honorable mention.

*Dr. Lisa Levenstein*, Associate Professor in History, has been named a 2017 ACLS Fellow by The American Council of Learned Societies. She is one of 71 fellow selected through ACLS’s multi-stage peer-review process from a pool of nearly 1,200 applicants.

Just prior to her death on April 8th, *Dr. Catherine Ennis*, professor of Kinesiology, received the Luther Halsey Gulick Medal, the highest award given by SHAPE America – the national Society of Health and Physical Educators. Dr. Ennis’ research focused on physical education in urban school settings, investigating which curriculum is most effective in enhancing student learning.

The winners of UNC Greensboro’s 2017 Research Excellence Awards, the university’s highest research honor were announced. *Dr. Sat Gupta, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics*, was named the Senior Research Excellence Award winner and *Dr. Amanda Tanner, Associate Professor in Public Health Education* is the recipient of the Junior Research Excellence Award.

Dana Dunn
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor