

## Office of Grants & Sponsored Programs 2019 Summer Report

The provision of dedicated, full-time grants-related services for the University began last Summer through the appointment of Phil Swank to the position of Director of Grants & Sponsored Programs. Under the direction of the Interim Provost, Dr. John Ulrich, the office set out to encourage the campus community to seriously consider the pursuit of external funding to support existing and new research and programs and ensure the submission of compelling and competitive grant proposals and the efficient and effective management of grant awards and contracts. The following summarizes accomplishments of the first year.

Our first grant award comes to the Mansfield campus through the Governor of Pennsylvania's "**It's On Us PA**" program. Administered through the Department of Education, Mansfield University is one of 38 institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth to receive 2019 grant funding to address campus sexual violence. This grant of \$23,500 will be utilized through our Student Life personnel to increase the understanding of sexual violence, increase access to meaningful resources for victims, and improve the campus environment sustaining healthy relationships.

By re-establishing a subscription with the grants research programming of SPINPlus, we are empowering our staff and faculty to identify, share and pursue external funding through government and foundation sources. Thus far, our office has identified and shared more than 100 potential funding solicitations in areas of research, program development, and service. Through vigorous on-campus outreach to faculty and educational sessions as part of the Center for Advancement of Teaching & Learning, we have engaged with personnel of most academic and administrative departments.



The office has recently secured our membership in the federal Chesapeake Watershed **Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network** (CESU) for opportunities to perform federally-funded research on various issues effecting the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. With multiple federal agencies working together with institutional staff, the potential for cost sharing, improved efficiency, and cooperative activities is significantly increased. Collaborative projects among agencies are encouraged and are facilitated through the CESU agreements. As a CESU non-federal partner, Mansfield faculty will be eligible for funding and opportunities to provide research, study leadership and biological, physical, social, cultural and engineering capabilities needed to address natural and cultural resource management issues in an ecosystem context.

In partnership with BLaST Intermediate Unit 17, our office secured \$277,307 through the **PAsmart Advancing Grant** aimed at helping extend technology education, apprenticeship and job training opportunities to schools in the region. Students in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties will have an opportunity to explore careers in the fast-growing fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and computer science. The funding is part of Gov. Tom Wolf's \$30 million state-wide initiative to strategically invest in K-12. The purpose of this grant is to grow partnerships between Local Education Agencies, higher education institutions and businesses while expanding experiences for those historically underserved in the areas of STEM/CS education and the number of educators. "This is a great accomplishment and will provide a tremendous benefit across our region," shared Dr. Steinbacher-Reed, Executive Director of BLaST IU 17. "This partnership will assist BLaST in expanding access to CS/STEM education." Dr. Jennifer Demchak, chair of the Geosciences Department, provided creativity and leadership in the strategic and collaborative approach to promoting CS/STEM disciplines for students in the Northern Tier: "I am excited to have received funding of this grant. It will allow us to introduce experiences they would not typically receive, along with discussing CS/STEM careers and college programs."

Our office has coordinated the following new grant request submissions:

- Secured grants from the **Walmart Foundation** and the local Act 13 programs of **Tioga, Bradford & Potter Counties** to fully develop the facilities and programs provided by the University Public Safety Training Institute;
- Submitted a grant proposal to the State Farm Companies Foundation to support innovative enhancements in the University's Computer & Information Sciences programs;
- Submitted a grant proposal to the Lawrence Foundation to fund a phase of the Pathways to College initiative envisioned and developed by Dr. Jennifer Demchak.

Grantwriting and grants management capacities are enhanced by staff establishing and maintaining meaningful contacts in the community and region, and with state and federal decision-makers. The Director represents the University in the activities of PASSHE grants, faculty professional development, and government relations; and active on local task forces on such issues as drug abuse, parks & recreation, and community & economic development.



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