

Office of Grants, Research and Sponsored Programs

FY23 EXTERNAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Acknowledgments

The Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs enjoyed an active and successful FY23. This success was made possible through the dedication and hard work of the faculty, staff, and students highlighted in this publication. In FY23, 54 grant applications requesting over \$11.5 million were submitted to external funding agencies. A total of 42 award notices were received in FY23 totaling over \$1.7 million in awards. Thank you to all the grant writers who made this possible!

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Lisa Weinzetl

(Not Pictured)
Academic Affairs

Title: VillageFest Concert

Sponsor: Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau

Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to expand VillageFest by adding a concert on Friday evening.



Dr. Brian Danielson

Center for Teaching and Learning
Academic Affairs

Title: Higher Education Redesign Accelerator

Sponsor: ECMC Foundation

Amount Awarded: \$60,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to develop an accelerated, faculty driven and student-centered curriculum redesign process that aims to identify and remove curriculum barriers within existing academic programs.

ATHLETICS



Title: NCAA Division II Coaching Enhancement Grant

Sponsor: The Institution of Internal Auditors

Amount Awarded: \$26,200

Abstract: The purpose of this funding is to hire an individual in the position of Head Strength & Conditioning Coach/Sport Nutritionist.

Dr. Roberta Page

Athletic Director
Athletics

FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY



Mr. Paul Scanlon Dr. Xinchao Wei

Sustainability
Facilities, Environmental Safety,
and Sustainability
Physics & Engineering
College of Engineering and
Science

Title: Source Reduction Assistance to Western PA Manufacturers through an SRU Engineering Internship Program

Sponsor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Amount Awarded: \$24,982

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to continue working with local partners in developing an internship program that provides sustainability consulting services to food and beverage manufacturers for the purpose of reducing pollution in the manufacturing process. These funds are supplemental funds, in addition to two-year funding received.



Mr. Paul Scanlon

Sustainability
Facilities, Environmental Safety,
and Sustainability

Title: FY 2022 and FY 2023 P2 Source Reduction Assistance to Western PA Manufacturers

Sponsor: U.S Environmental Protection Agency

Amount Awarded: \$205,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to continue working with local partners in developing an internship program that provides sustainability consulting services to food and beverage manufacturers for the purpose of reducing pollution in the manufacturing process. These funds are supplemental funds, in addition to two-year funding received.

GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Title: U.S. Academic Host Institution 2022-2023
International Undergraduate Student Programs

Sponsor: International Research and Exchange Board
(IREX)

Amount Awarded: \$32,806

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to support the vision and the mission of the university by hosting exchange students through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, Global UGRAD Program.

Ms. Noora Alie

International Student Services
Global and Community Engagement

STUDENT AFFAIRS



Dr. Natalie Burick

Disability Services
Student Affairs

Title: Transition Achievement Program (TAP)

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry/
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Amount Awarded: \$137,560

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide pre-employment transition services (PETS) to high school students, ages 15-21, with intellectual or developmental disabilities.



Dr. Scott Irlbacher

Student Conduct
Student Affairs

Title: Communities Talk Stipend

Sponsor: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration

Amount Awarded: \$750

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to build an organization of campus and community stakeholders to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities to the alcohol, drug and sexual assault culture on the campus of SRU and among the student population living in Slippery Rock Borough and Slippery Rock Township.



Title: PA Pre-K Counts

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Amount Awarded: \$350,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide a high quality pre-kindergarten education to at-risk children.

Ms. Wendy Leitera Ms. Lisa Ringer

Cooperative Activities
Student Affairs
SGA Child Care Center



Title: SRU/SGA Preschool and Child Care Center
CCAMPIS Program

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to assist student-parents who wish to enroll in college and complete a degree program. This is Year 01 of a 4 year grant.

Dr. Lauren Moran

Student Engagement and Leadership
Student Affairs



Title: SRU/SGA Preschool and Child Care Center CCAMPIS Program

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to assist student-parents who wish to enroll in college and complete a degree program. This is Year 02 of a 4 year grant.

Dr. Lauren Moran

Student Engagement and Leadership
Student Affairs

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



Title: Government Contracting Assistance Center, PTAC

Sponsor: Defense Logistics Agency through California University of Pennsylvania

Amount Awarded: \$24,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide services to companies interested in pursuing federal, state and local government contracts and subcontracts.

Ms. Renee Decker

Government Contracting Assistance Center
College of Business



Title: SRU IAEP Grant 2022

Sponsor: The Institute of Internal Auditors

Amount Awarded: \$2,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to promote the IIA career path for SRU students. This will be done by developing a road map to mature the IAEP program and establish a mentoring relationship with Duquesne University in downtown Pittsburgh.

Dr. Theresa Phipps Dr. Melanie Anderson

Accounting, Economics, and Financing
College of Business

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Dr. Jessica Hall-Wirth

Special Education
College of Education

Title: Accelerated Program PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certificate

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education

Amount Awarded: \$100,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to attract diverse, skilled, and compassionate educators who would like to earn a Special Education PK-12 teaching certificate in an accelerated degree program. The goal is to form a continuous partnership between the LEA's and IHE that will extend far beyond the grant timeline to support future student teachers.



Dr. Mark Hogue

Secondary Education/
Foundations of Education
College of Education

Title: SRU's Rock Solid Principal Partnership

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Amount Awarded: \$62,119

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to create an effective planning team consisting of strong educational practitioners/partners that will collaborate, network, and support the reflection and planning of a well-designed principal preparation program at SRU. The ultimate goal of the planning year will be to engage in this self-study inquiry process using the QM Toolkit to identify areas of celebration and areas for growth/improvement in the SRU principal preparation program.



Dr. Hannah Holl

Dr. Gary Clark

Physical and Health Education
College of Education

Title: School Wellness Grant

Sponsor: PA Department of Health: Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Administered by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit (IU)

Amount Awarded: \$18,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to enhance wellness within three select Pennsylvania school districts through quality health and physical education programs and to implement the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model.



Dr. Sararose Lynch

Special Education
College of Education

Title: Enhancing Competency in Research-Based Pedagogies for Learner-Driven Mathematics Interventions

Sponsor: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Amount Awarded: \$8,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to obtain professional development that will enhance course level instructional activities and be used to create a professional learning community focused on learner-driven interventions for faculty, teacher candidates, and local teachers.



Dr. Enoch Nkana

Special Education
College of Education

Title: The Explorations of the History, Culture, and Curriculum of the Indigenous Kalinago Community of Dominica

Sponsor: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Amount Awarded: \$7,550

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to research the culture and history of the Kalinago people, the last remaining Caribbean community of pre-Columbian indigenous Carib people on the island of Dominica, to develop an understanding of their culture, curriculum and educational needs.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE



Title: Portable Cryogenic Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) to Image Particles on Interplanetary Surfaces

Sponsor: NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium

Amount Awarded: \$11,287

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to build a portable cryogenic atomic force microscope (AFM) to explore interplanetary surface particles such as Lunar and Martian particles.

Dr. Sagar Bhandari

Physics & Engineering
College of Engineering and Science



Title: National Park Visitor's Perceptions of Climate Change

Sponsor: Department of the Interior through Northern Michigan University

Amount Awarded: \$33,594

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide an updated understanding of park/refuge visitors' perceptions of and attitudes towards climate change since an initial sampling effort.

Dr. Shawn Davis

Parks and Conservation
College of Engineering and Science



Dr. Shawn Davis

Parks and Conservation
College of Engineering and Science

Title: Starting a New Chapter: Climbers for Bat Conservation - PA

Sponsor: Access Fund

Amount Awarded: \$3,634

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to support the necessary aspects to mobilize scientific data collection within the climbing community and foster long-term engagement including the strategic planning, partnership development and facilitation, and conservation education at the Birdsboro Climbing area in PA.



Dr. Chris Maltman

Biology
College of Engineering and Science

Title: Bacterial Metallophore Activity Towards the Rare Earth Elements

Sponsor: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB)

Amount Awarded: \$600

Abstract: This project aims to identify bacterial isolates from locations impacted by mining that possess metallophores and the range of Rare Earth Elements (REE) they can interact with. A secondary outcome of this project will be an initial indication of bacterial resistance to the rare earth elements, since if they are found to possess metallophore for the REE, it suggests they may also have increase levels of resistance.



Dr. Iuri Santos

Physics and Engineering
College of Engineering and Science

Title: Reclamation and Repurposing of Mine Leads

Sponsor: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Amount Awarded: \$9,345

Abstract: The purpose of this project is for site visits for reconnaissance and preliminary design of a 2-split AMD treatment plant for the production of high-grade Rare Earth elements (REE) preconcentrate (HPC); prepare the design of geotextile tubes and their appurtenances to filter high-grade REE HPC for a 30 GPM system; and contact the geotextile manufacture (Solmax ®) and be the point of reference or WVVRI during the manufacturing process to site delivery of the geotextile tubes.



Dr. Jheng-Wun Su

Physics and Engineering
College of Engineering and Science

Title: Development of an Olfactory Soft Gripper for Agriculture Quality Assessment and Harvesting

Sponsor: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Amount Awarded: \$7,986

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to develop a soft gripper with an electronic nose to help the robot harvest of fruits and vegetables.



Dr. Xindi Sun

Physics and Engineering
College of Engineering and Science

Title: Transportation and Crosslinking Performance of Polymer Gel for In-Depth Delivery for Enhanced Oil Recovery

Sponsor: American Chemical Society

Amount Awarded: \$55,000

Abstract: The overall objective of this project is to evaluate transportation mechanisms and crosslinking of nanosilica gels during dual-injection process.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



Dr. Nikhil Ahuja

Public Health
College of Health Professions

Title: Collaborative Research: The Role of Multifunctionality in the Evolution of Cranial Morphological Diversity in Bats

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Amount Awarded: \$171,885

Abstract: The purpose of this collaborative project is to determine how the skull of mammals accommodates multiple functions, using bats as models.



Dr. Heather Bright

Recreational Therapy
College of Health Professions

Title: Community Recreation Opportunities for Brain Injury Survivors

Sponsor: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Amount Awarded: \$7,240

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to enhance skills in community-engaged learning and incorporating service learning opportunities into curriculum.



Title: Tommy Wilson Memorial Grant

Sponsor: SHAPE America

Amount Awarded: \$750

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to secure scholarship funding for individuals with disabilities who are also of low economic status. Scholarships would allow individuals to participate in therapeutic riding programs who would otherwise not have the means to do so.

Ms. Courtney Gramlich Ms. Kelly Gross

Storm Harbor Equestrian Center
College of Health Professions



Title: Equine Therapy for Veteran's with Mental Health

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs

Amount Awarded: \$61,900

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to fund equine therapy focused on mental health outcomes for veterans.

Dr. Betsy Kemeny Ms. Courtney Gramlich

Recreational Therapy
Storm Harbor Equestrian Center
College of Health Professions



Title: Exploring the Use of Equine—Assisted Interventions by NCTRC Certificants to Develop Guidelines for EAS by the Profession

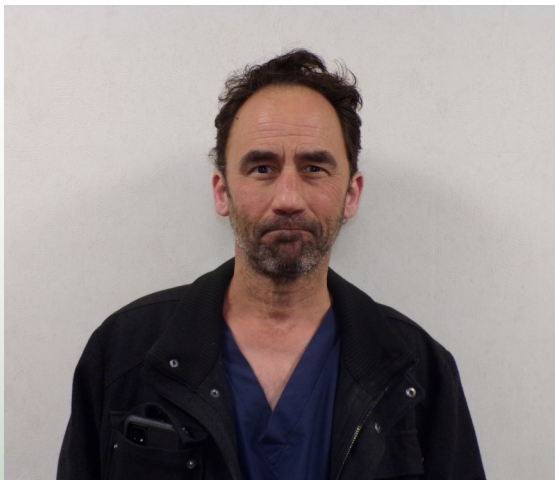
Sponsor: National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification

Amount Awarded: \$3,542

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to research the use of equine-assisted interventions by Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialists (CTRS) and have CTRS use equine-assisted services to promote health outcomes to support development of quality guidelines.

Dr. Betsy Kemeny

Recreational Therapy
College of Health Professions



Title: Collaborative Research: The Role of Multifunctionality in the Evolution of Cranial Morphological Diversity in Bats

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Amount Awarded: \$171,885

Abstract: The purpose of this collaborative project is to determine how the skull of mammals accommodates multiple functions, using bats as models.

Dr. Timothy Smith

Physical Therapy
College of Health Professions



Dr. Timothy Smith

Physical Therapy
College of Health Professions

Title: Collaborative Research: Dentofacial Development in Primates

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

Amount Awarded: \$133,151

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to better understand the direct role of primary dentition as pools for osteogenic precursor cells during their germ phase of development. Histological and immunohistochemical procedures will be conducted at Slippery Rock University and Duquesne University. Our sample will harness the sequential pattern of tooth germ differentiation to infer how, in temporal pattern, alveolar bone deposition relates to the expression of these markers in dental follicle.

Title: The Sensory World of Vertebrates

Sponsor: American Association for Anatomy

Amount Awarded: \$3,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to facilitate travel for an international group of vertebrate morphologists to attend the 2023 International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM).

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



Title: French and Francophone Film Fest

Sponsor: FACE Foundation

Amount Awarded: \$2,200

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to allow SRU campus population to explore modern French and francophone films and to further diversify learning tools and strategies, which is essential in facilitating and ensuring student success.

Dr. Malick Coly

Languages, Literatures, Cultures, and
Writing
College of Liberal Arts



Title: Role-Playing Game Development for Enhanced Student Learning

Sponsor: Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Amount Awarded: \$2,200

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide a consultantship to support the authoring of an innovative, student-centered pedagogy as part of the *Reacting to the Past* series.

Dr. Aaron Cowan

History
College of Liberal Arts



Ms. Alice Del Vecchio

Institute for Nonprofit Leadership
College of Liberal Arts

Title: Midwestern IU IV Tutoring for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Sponsor: Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV

Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide virtual tutoring and mentoring to K-12 students, in collaboration with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV coordinators, experiencing homelessness that were significantly impacted by the educational delivery shifts due to the pandemic.

Title: Community Leadership Certificate Program

Sponsor: Partners for Campus-Community Engagement

Amount Awarded: \$2,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide civic education and community change opportunities for marginalized members of Butler community, including persons experiencing recovery and poverty as well as at-risk youth and individuals with disabilities.

Title: Nonprofit Leadership Circles — Westmoreland County

Sponsor: Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to perform two different nonprofit leadership circles to provide professional development, support, and opportunities for inter-organizational collaboration.



Ms. Alice Del Vecchio

Institute for Nonprofit Leadership
College of Liberal Arts

Title: A Year of Family Fun

Sponsor: Trinity Lutheran Church

Amount Awarded: \$8,300

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to offer affordable, accessible, family-focused opportunities monthly for families living in Butler City 9023 census track which is currently the lowest socio-economic area within the city. In addition to family fun, this initiative offers adult participants the opportunity to earn a non-credit certificate in Community Leadership. The Institute will engage Butler County social services agencies, SRU students, and faculty in planning, supporting, and delivering programs. In the second half of the year, family adults will assist with program planning and delivery.

Title: Nonprofit Leadership Circles

Sponsor: The Forbes Fund

Amount Awarded: \$12,500

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to provide the opportunity for professionals sharing a specific organizational function to engage in small group setting with others who face the same professional challenges.



Title: Mentorship for Black Students in Music Education at SRU

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Music Education Association

Amount Awarded: \$1,000

Abstract: The purpose of this collaborative project is to form a mentoring group for Black/African American music education majors at SRU with a current, successful African American music educator who is a Slippery Rock graduate as the group's mentor.

Dr. Kathleen Melago

Music
College of Liberal Arts



Title: Cultural Competence in Health Science Programs

Sponsor: The Mid-Atlantic Section of the Medical Library Association

Amount Awarded: \$2,000

Abstract: This study aims to provide a starting point for health librarians who want to participate in the instruction and curriculum development of cultural competence in health care (CCHC).

Dr. Alessia Zanin-Yost

Bailey Library
College of Liberal Arts