

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**

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## 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

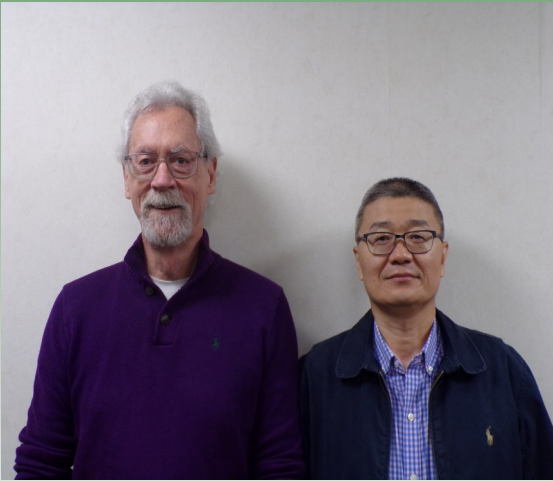
**Abstract:** The purpose of this funding is to hire an individual in the position of Head Strength & Conditioning Coach/Sport Nutritionist.

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## Dr. Roberta Page

Athletic Director  
Athletics

**FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL  
SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY**



**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.

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## Mr. Paul Scanlon Dr. Xinchao Wei

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

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**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.

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## Mr. Paul Scanlon

Sustainability  
Facilities, Environmental Safety,  
and Sustainability

# **GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**





## Ms. Noora Alie

International Student Services  
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.

# **STUDENT AFFAIRS**



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## 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.



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## 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.

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## Ms. Wendy Leiterra 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Dr. Theresa Phipps Dr. Melanie Anderson

Accounting, Economics, and Financing  
College of Business

# **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**





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## 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.



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## 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.



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**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.



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**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.



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## Dr. Enoh 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.

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## 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.

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## Dr. Shawn Davis

Parks and Conservation  
College of Engineering and Science



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## 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.



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## 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.



**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 WWRI during the manufacturing process to site delivery of the geotextile tubes.

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## Dr. Iuri Santos

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.

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## Dr. Jheng-Wun Su

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.

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## Dr. Xindi Sun

Physics and Engineering  
College of Engineering and Science



**COLLEGE OF HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS**



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## 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.



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## 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.

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**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.

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**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

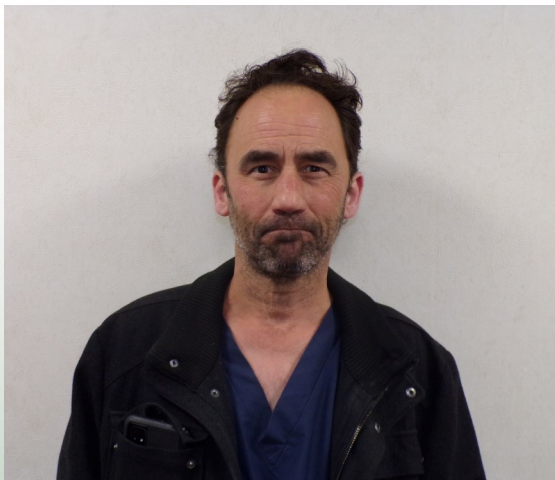
**Amount Awarded:** \$3,542

**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.

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## 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

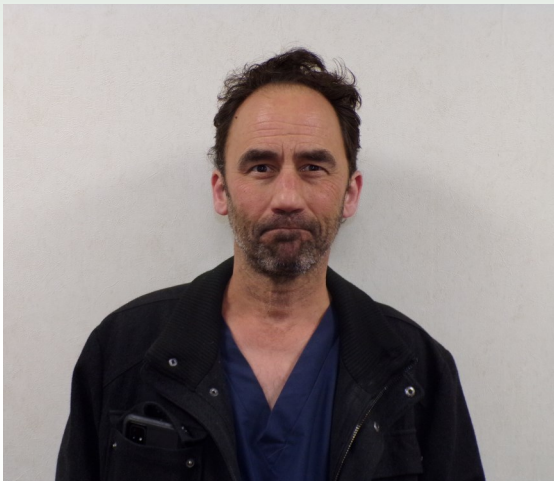
**Amount Awarded:** \$171,885

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

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## Dr. Timothy Smith

Physical Therapy  
College of Health Professions



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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.





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## 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.

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## 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).

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## Dr. Alessia Zanin-Yost

Bailey Library  
College of Liberal Arts