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Office of Vice President for Research

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DISCOVERY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Electronic versions available at wmich.edu/research/news.html

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OVPR VISION AND MISSION

VISION: TO BE A LEADER AND CATALYST FOR SCHOLARSHIP EXCELLENCE

MISSION: THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH ADVANCES THE OVERALL SCHOLARSHIP AGENDA OF THE UNIVERSITY; SUPPORTS THE SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVES OF WMU FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF; AND ASSURES COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS.

**WWW.WMICH.EDU/
RESEARCH**

DISCOVERY SUCCESS RECOGNIZED

President Dunn and Provost Greene hosted a luncheon recently for a special group of faculty and staff to celebrate their excellence in Discovery. It was my privilege to be able to share a few remarks and preside over the presentation of certificates by President Dunn to those who have made significant contributions to scholarship and resources at Western Michigan University.

There are many measures of excellence for those in academia. There are the internal standards we set for ourselves - the personal measures and metrics others may not even know about. Then there are the external standards of peer-reviewed publications, citations, promotions, honors, awards, and accolades of various types that come from others - both individuals and organizations.

There is also the special recognition received from external reviewers of our work, who are so convinced it is good, that they are willing to give some of the limited money and resources they have, so we can do what they think is very important to advance research and society as a whole. Often this recognition is after close peer review and only goes to the top 20% who have submitted their record and proposed work for scrutiny.

Such recognition is personally rewarding but is also important to the University in many ways. External funding contributes to the University reputation and is a nationally recognized measure used by many agencies to categorize universities. It is usually measured by the value of submissions, awards, and expenditures. WMU has been classified as a Research University based in part upon the amount of our annual research expenditures. External funding also provides resources to help in research, scholarship, education, student support, and facilities. Last year the State of Michigan provided approximately \$97.2 million to the WMU general fund, while external funding expenditures contributed approximately \$22.4 million or 23.1% in additional resources for activities that supported our vision of being Learner Centered, Discovery Driven, and Globally Engaged. External funding increases our ability to accomplish our mission. We have great potential to increase this even more.

We previously reported some major successes in awards for individuals and collaborative groups here at WMU. Part of this special event was to

recognize those responsible for record external funding dollars received in the first half of FY 2014-15. In a three-month period, awards to WMU topped \$13 million, and by mid-year reached \$21 million. Also recognized for their outstanding work were 35 principal investigators who over the past five fiscal years (July 2009-June 2014) have each received cumulative external funding awards of over \$1 million (The Million Dollar Club). During this same five year span, 260 PIs brought in, cumulatively, over \$124 million. The 35 PIs (13.5%) who brought in a million dollars or more each represent approximately \$77 million of that total, or 62.3%.

Among the group of faculty and staff honored for fall 2014 were those who brought in Department of Education grants— the nationally recognized “First in the World” and the Turnaround School Leaders Program and School Leadership Program— and other grants from the Geneva Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Noteworthy among the Million Dollar Club were Professor Bob Bensley and Professor James Henry who were awarded slightly above and slightly below five million dollars, respectively, during the five year period.

This time we were able to acknowledge the work of all the team participants on the individual grants for fall 2014, and the principal investigators for the five year period. Each year we do list all recipients of internal and external awards in the WMU Annual Research Report. We look forward to honoring others in the future for various levels of excellence as we expand our discovery agenda. We hope this recognition luncheon is the first of many events.

WMU's vision is to be Learner Centered, Discovery Driven, and Globally Engaged. External funding contributes to our work of furthering discovery, scholarship, education, student support, and facilities while being vital to our reputation as a research university. Our vision and mission is to support your discovery activities as we generate, transmit, and apply knowledge and educate our students to do the same. Please let us know how we can support your discovery efforts.

~Dan Litynski, VP for Research

EXCELLENCE IN DISCOVERY LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

In Fall 2014-15

Andrea Beach, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Walter Burt, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Gregory Flamme, Speech Pathology and Audiology
John Geiser, Biological Sciences
Megan Grunert, Chemistry
Helen Lee, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
Nancy Mansberger, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Stephen Tasko, Speech Pathology and Audiology
Luchara Wallace, Special Education and Literacy Studies
Martha Warfield, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Elizabeth Whitten, Special Education and Literacy Studies
Jennipher Wiebold, Blindness and Low Vision Studies

Over \$1 Million Level for 5 years 2009-2014 and in Fall 2014-15

Charles Henderson, Physics
James Henry, Social Work
Paula Kohler, Office of the Vice President for Research
Stephen Magura, Evaluation Center
Jianping Shen, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology
Susan Stapleton, Graduate College and Chemistry

Over \$1 Million Level for 5 years 2009-2014

David Barnes, Geosciences
Manuel Bautista, Physics
Robert Bensley, Human Performance and Health Education
Erika Carr, Division of Multicultural Affairs
Charlotte Giscombe, TRiO Student Success Programs, Center for Academic Success Programs
Diana Hernandez, Division of Multicultural Affairs
Christian Hirsch, Mathematics
Dae Shik Kim, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
William Liou, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Richard Long, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
Yan Lu, Biological Sciences
Conn Macomber, Construction Services
Ruth Ann Meyer, Mathematics
Michael G. Miller, Human Performance and Health Education
Nickola Nelson, Speech Pathology and Audiology
Jun-Seok Oh, Civil and Construction Engineering
John Patten, Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management
Stephanie Peterson, Psychology
Daniela Schroeter, Evaluation Center
Mohamed Sultan, Geosciences
Maryanne Sydlik, Mallinson Institute for Science Education
Edmund Tsang, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Ron Van Houten, Psychology
Robert Wall Emerson, Blindness and Low Vision Studies
Lori Wingate, Evaluation Center
Jiabei Zhang, Human Performance and Health Education
Stephen Ziebarth, Mathematics



Assembled in the Fetzer Center atrium are the honorees for the inaugural Excellence in Discovery Luncheon 2015, pictured with President Dunn, Provost Greene and Vice President for Research Litynski



In closing remarks, Provost Greene shared insights on the remarkable work undertaken by our faculty and staff.



President Dunn shared opening remarks and welcomed the WMU faculty and staff honorees



In his remarks, VP Litynski described the collective efforts of those gathered and recognized their contributions to our research mission.

DISCOVER DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

Three workshops remain in this year's Discover Discovery series. You can register at wmich.edu/research. While these workshops are part of an effort to assist new faculty with launching their research agenda, the sessions are open to all at the University. You are welcome to join us.

- March 17: How Will You Know it Worked? Designing Project Evaluations
- March 31: Designing Your Own Funding Alert — We'll Show You How
- April 14: Getting it Out the Door — 10 Easy Steps to Get Your Proposal Written and Submitted on Time

Workshops are 12:30–1:45 p.m. at Fetzer Center, room 1055. Register early!

NINTH ANNUAL RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES POSTER DAY — APRIL 24, 2015

The Ninth Annual Research and Creative Activities Poster Day event provides graduate students a great opportunity to showcase their research and creative efforts as a graduate student and to gain experience making professional presentations.

Students will need to register to participate and talk with a faculty member in their department to sponsor them. Information about the guidelines in creating the poster and the judging criteria available at wmich.edu/research.

SFSA WINNERS

Support for Faculty Scholars Awards were granted to 15 faculty members this semester:

Sally Hadden, history; **Robin Criter**, speech pathology and audiology; **Jon Davis**, mathematics; **Laurel Ofstein**, management; **Chien-Juh Gu**, sociology; **Stephen Malcolm**, biological sciences; **Joyashish Thakurta**, geosciences; **Matthew Hoge**, special education and literacy studies; **David Huffman**, chemistry; **Michael Nassaney**, anthropology; **Gellert Mezei**, chemistry; **Megan Slayter**, dance; **Patricia Villalobos Echeverria**, art; **Luigi Andrea Berto**, history; and **Claudia Hansford**, mechanical and aerospace engineering.

TWITTER

WMU Research
@WMUOVPR

Follow us on Twitter for updates on funding opportunities, recognition of awards, and reminders of deadlines.



FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COST RATES (F&A)

The work of WMU faculty, staff, and students on externally-funded projects includes direct and indirect costs. Direct project costs are usually straightforward and easily attributed to a specific project. Indirect costs, termed Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A), are also real costs that are essential for a project's implementation, but would take much time by faculty and staff to attribute and track in relation to specific projects.

F&A costs include such expenses as research space and equipment, utilities, custodial services, security, payroll, purchasing, fiscal management and tracking, and department administration. To relieve the burden on researchers, F&A costs are agreed upon through formal negotiations every four years with our cognizant agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They are based upon data presented by the University via a cost analysis and are expressed as a percentage of total direct costs minus exclusions.

Having such a rate helps the university reduce the costs of having to determine how much of these resources each individual project uses or consumes. WMU recently concluded this process and new rates for research- and instruction-related projects funded externally for both the University and WMed have been established as follows:

- July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015 = 50% of modified direct costs
- July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017 = 51% of modified direct costs

Project budgets are required to include full recovery of F&A costs at the appropriate negotiated rate. More information about specific rates and F&A policies are available on the OVPR website (www.wmich.edu/research/policies/proposalsubmit).

Contact Information

Office of the Vice President for Research

210 W. Walwood Hall
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5456
Phone: 387-8298

Dr. Daniel M. Litynski, Vice President for Research

Dr. Paula Kohler, Associate Vice President for Research

Editor: Diana Berkshire Hearit

Dr. Clark Bennett, Tech Transfer Interim Director

Research Officer Constituent Areas

Annie Lenfest: CEAS

Sarah Pratt: CAS (Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Math, Statistics, Geosciences, Geography, Physics), Mallinson Institute for Science Education, Environmental Studies

John Risley: CAS (Social Sciences), COEHD, Evaluation Center, HCOB, TGC, International Studies, LHC, EUP, Seita Scholars, Graduate College, FRACAA Internal Funding

Kim Squiers: Aviation, CAS (Humanities), CFA, CHHS, CDS, Humanities Center, Libraries, VP for Student Affairs, Academic Skills Center, Miller Auditorium, Unified Clinic

A complete list of constituency areas is posted online at wmich.edu/research

Contracts and Compliance

Kathy Purnell: Research Contracts Administrator

Julia Mays: Research Compliance Coordinator