



Research and Scholarship

JMU Research, Scholarship & Creative Endeavors

Volume 4, Issue 4

Greetings from the Shenandoah Valley!

Our congratulations to the 2019 graduating class of JMU Dukes! During a beautiful spring weekend in May, more than 3,000 undergraduates and 500 graduate students became James Madison University alumni, ready to tackle the many challenges facing our world. The 2019 undergraduate commencement ceremony included 113 Honors College graduates, and a keynote address by alumna Jennifer Morgan, President of SAP's Cloud Business Group. Edna Reid, faculty in the JMU intelligence analysis program, delivered the Graduate School commencement address.

The Shenandoah Valley Technology Council hosted their annual awards gala – Tech Nite – on April 29th. The event recognized [eight award winners out of a total of 32 nominations](#). JMU was represented in two of the awards – 1) Nick Swayne, executive director of 4-VA and JMU X-Labs received the Dr. John Noftsinger Leadership Award, presented by Shentel, and 2) a collaborative, public history project was chosen for the Innovation in Community Impact Award, presented by the College of Integrated Science and Engineering. From their website, "[Exploring Rockingham's Past](#) is a collaborative project between James Madison University (the History Department and JMU Libraries) and the Rockingham County Circuit Courthouse that is making rare documents from Rockingham County's storied past accessible to the public."

JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health & Human Services (IIHHS) hosted a Celebration of Community Dinner on May 1st. Numerous community members, organizations, and JMU faculty and staff were recognized for their efforts in support of the IIHHS mission, including interim director of sponsored programs pre-award, Tamara Hatch, and director of research development & promotion, Benjamin Delp. [Visit the IIHHS website](#) to learn about their many community-focused programs and activities.

Volume 4, Issue 3 UPDATE: Rich Ingram (Department of Learning, Technology and Leadership Education) was invited to present "Empirical Consideration of Psychophysiological Correlates of Frontal Asymmetry in Learning" during a Featured Research Session at the 2019 Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT) International Convention in Las Vegas (to be held in October).

Office of Research & Scholarship
James Madison University

Class of 2019

by the numbers

3,083
Undergrads



538
Graduates

524
Master's
14
Doctoral

TOP 3 MAJORS

1. Health Sciences
2. IDLS
3. Marketing & Finance

TOP 3 PROGRAMS

1. Education - MAT
2. Accounting - MS
3. Speech Pathology - MS



Faculty Grant Awards

For a monthly listing of recent faculty grant awards, please [visit the JMU Office of Sponsored Programs website](#). Here are some notable awards from April 2019:

Robin Crowder (Department of Learning, Technology, and Leadership Education) received a \$125,000 award to coordinate and assist with arrangements for professional development events for approximately 165 educators at six different Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network institutes. This effort is sponsored through a partnership of the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia School Consortium for Learning (VaSCL), and JMU.

Timothy LaPira (Department of Political Science) received a \$10,500 award to measure changes in congressional staffers' behavior over time and assess the impact of real-world political events and Democracy Fund-led professional development interventions in congressional systems and processes.

Christie Liu (JMU Libraries) and Elizabeth Johnson (Department of Geology and Environmental Science) received a \$16,145 award from Virginia's Academic Library Consortium to create an interactive microscopy textbook with a guide for student learning activities for geoscience courses, including Petrology and other courses that use microscopes.

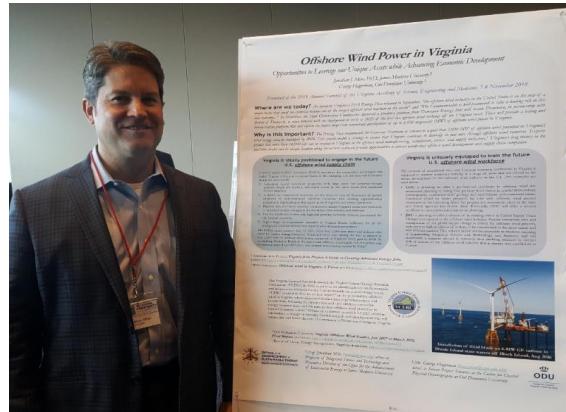
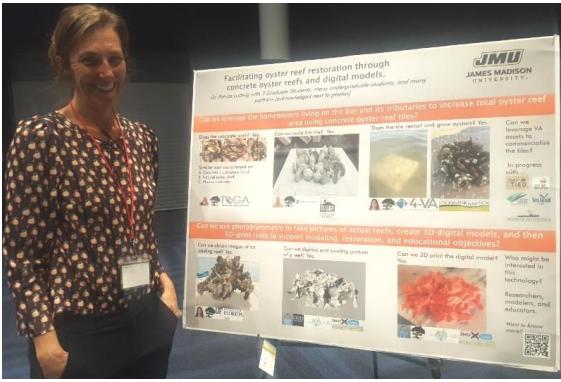
Robert McKown (School of Integrated Sciences) received a \$65,442 award from TearSolutions, Inc. to determine if quantitation of tear lacritin levels is a feasible marker for clinical diagnosis of Sjogren's Syndrome and if topical application of lacritin can restore secretory and anti-inflammatory properties in patients suffering from Sjogren's Syndrome.

Art History Professor Receives National Gallery Fellowship

John Ott, professor of art history, is currently [serving a two-month Paul Mellon Senior Fellowship](#) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Awarded by the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), Professor Ott was selected for this honor to develop his book – *Mixed Media: The Visual Cultures of Racial Integration, 1931-54*. A press release from the National Gallery of Art stated, “This project investigates black and white artists’ efforts towards racial integration, both in terms of imagery and within cultural institutions, from the infamous 1931 Scottsboro Boys trial until Brown v. Board’s 1954 desegregation of public schools.” Research & Scholarship reached out to Professor Ott in late May for an update on his fellowship, and Ott commented that he is conducting

research at the Archives of American Art, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives on New Deal murals from across the country that feature integration—including one in downtown Harrisonburg. Joining Ott as Visiting Senior Fellows are faculty and researchers from Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, University of Chicago, and the University of Oxford.

Faculty Present Research at the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine Annual Summit



Pictured above: Patrice Ludwig, assistant professor of biology. Right Photo: Jon Miles, professor of integrated science and technology

The Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine recently published a report of the 2018 Securing Prosperity in the Coastal Zone summit. Held in Richmond in November, JMU faculty members Jon Miles (School of Integrated Sciences), Carol Nash (School of Integrated Sciences), and Patrice Ludwig (Department of Biology) presented poster displays of research activities taking place in the coastal zone of Virginia. A primary goal of the summit was to “provide opportunities for attendees to begin meaningful dialogues on assets, stressors, and opportunities related to coastal prosperity.”

[Learn about VASEM and view the 2018 Summit Report](#)

JMU Center Engages Women and Girls in Wellness Activities

Founded in 2004, the Morrison Bruce Center works to enhance the well-being of girls and women through the promotion of an active and healthy lifestyle. Led by Kinesiology faculty members Liz Edwards and Sarah Carson Sackett, women of all ages are eligible to participate in a range of fitness activities in non-competitive environments. For the central Shenandoah Valley region, access to a resource like Morrison Bruce is critical, as the Center seeks to combat and overcome the low participation rates, societal norms, and low level of opportunities for women to engage in wellness activities, which are amplified in rural areas. [Read our feature on the Morrison Bruce Center](#) to learn about their programs and research activities.



Girls participating in the Morrison Bruce Center's Girls Have H.E.A.R.T. program outside of Waterman Elementary.

Education Professor Publishes Article Exploring Text Difficulty and Comprehension

Sarah Lupo, assistant professor of early, elementary and reading education, [published “An Exploration of Text Difficulty and Knowledge Support on Adolescents’ Comprehension”](#) with co-authors from Michigan State, UVA, Southern California, and SUNY Buffalo. Published in *Reading Research Quarterly*, the article seeks to “determine whether easy or challenging versions of texts, when accompanied by different types of instructional support, improved adolescents’ reading comprehension, particularly for students with below-average reading comprehension.” Upon collection of experimental data and analysis, the authors stated, “The results suggest that most students, even if struggling with comprehension, can read challenging versions of texts when accompanied by instructional support.”

Faculty Q&A - Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication (WRTC)

Cathryn Molloy, an associate professor of writing, rhetoric and technical communication (WRTC), sat down with JMU communications associate Hannah Robinson for a conversation about her research, which focuses on the rhetoric of health and medicine, and specifically addresses “ways that stigmatized patients consciously and subconsciously use rhetoric to rebuild their credibility after being unfairly doubted due to demographic factors.” A current research project of Molloy’s is *Rhetorical Ethos in Health and Medicine: Patient Credibility, Stigma, and Misdiagnosis*, which advances a “burgeoning body of narrative work on patient mistreatment in mainstream U.S. health and medical contexts; [the research] extends and challenges this area of inquiry by avoiding critiquing healthcare providers and focusing, instead, on patients’ empowering rhetorical moves for undermining biases in clinical settings.” Through her teaching and scholarship, Molloy employs personal narrative methods to “create space for silenced voices to be heard.”

[Read the full Q&A](#)



Management Faculty Publishes in Annual Review of Organizational Psychology and Organizational Behavior

Interim department head and associate professor of management, Laura Leduc, co-authored a paper in the *Annual Review of Organizational Psychology and Organizational Behavior*. Published with Murray R. Barrick from Texas A&M, [“Selection for Fit”](#) examines “how and why people who are well matched to their organization experience optimal psychological reactions and performance.” Leduc teaches classes on human resource management and her primary research interest focuses on “understanding how individual differences, such as personality and values, impact a variety of workplace outcomes (for example, motivation, performance, citizenship behaviors, deviant behaviors, leadership, and ethical decision-making).”

JMU Hosts Conference on Integrity, Civility and Grace

In April, JMU’s Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures hosted its

seventeenth annual conference – *Integrity, Civility and Grace: Yesterday's Virtues?* Collaborating with faculty representing departments in the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Education, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the College of Health and Behavioral Studies, and the College of Integrated Science and Engineering, both students and faculty approached the virtues of integrity, civility and grace from the unique lenses of a variety of disciplines. Also on display during the two-day event was interdisciplinary research connecting the social and natural sciences, law enforcement, medicine, visual arts, literature, and pop culture. The conference focus was inspired by Virginia's Speaker of the House of Delegates, Kirk Cox ('79), who urged his colleagues to practice integrity, civility and grace in service to the Commonwealth after a recent election. [View the conference proceedings](#)

Bridging the Divide



House of Delegates Speaker, Kirk Cox ('79), discusses "[Bridging the Divide](#)" to find common ground in the Virginia General Assembly.

[View past issues of our newsletter](#)

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STAY CONNECTED





Office of Sponsored
Programs

July - August 2019 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Featured Funding Opportunity** - Petroleum Research Fund: Undergraduate Research and Undergraduate New Investigator
- **Director's Announcement** - Grants.gov Grant Writing Tips
- **Sponsored Programs** - Personnel Changes
- **Compliance Corner** - Disclosing Foreign Ties

Featured Funding Opportunity

Petroleum Research Fund: Undergraduate Research and Undergraduate New Investigator

The American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund announced the upcoming cycle for the Undergraduate Research (UR) and Undergraduate New Investigator (UNI) grant programs. The submission window for both programs will be from September 23, 2019 to October 18, 2019. A brief overview of each program can be found below. Make sure to click on the appropriate program link for more information.

Undergraduate Research (UR) - This program supports research programs of established scientists and engineers within non-doctoral departments for seed money that also provides financial support to undergraduate students to become involved in advanced research opportunities.

Funding Amount: \$70,000 over 3 years

Undergraduate New Investigator (UNI) - This program is intended to initiate the research program of new scientists and engineers who are faculty members at undergraduate research institutions and to provide financial incentives for students at those institutions to become involved in research activities leading to employment or continued study in graduate school.

Eligibility - PIs must be within the first 3 years of their first academic appointment

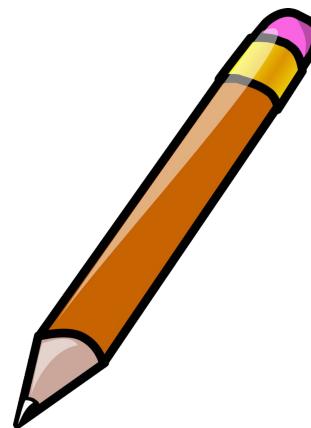
Funding Amount: \$55,000 over 2 years

Please get in contact with OSP if you would like to submit a proposal to either program.

Director's Announcement

Grants.gov Grant Writing Tips

Grants.gov's July 2019 Newsletter contained grant writing tips for developing a strong budget justification where you can view tips for building a strong budget justification for federal agencies. Recent trends at the university are shifting towards a more precise and descriptive justification for budget items. Check out the recommendations and view what sponsor templates are available in the full article available [here](#).



The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has several budget justification templates and examples posted on our [Forms, Tools, and Resources web page](#) for your use. OSP personnel can also assist with strengthening your justification. Be sure to provide us with a draft 5 business days in advance of the submission date for adequate review and input!

Sponsored Programs Accounting

Personnel Changes



We are pleased to welcome two "new" employees to the office of Sponsored Programs Accounting.

[Donna Crumpton](#) accepted the position of Manager of Sponsored Programs Accounting in June. Donna has 19 years of experience with the office which has made the transition to her additional duties very

smooth. Donna will manage the day to day operations of the office as well as supervise the two Financial Administrator employees.

[Carmen Witmer](#) has recently accepted the offer to fill Donna's vacant Financial Administrator's position. Following the retirement of Brenda Wilburn last spring, Carmen has done a great job in a wage position assisting with Brenda's duties. Again, the experience Carmen has with the office should make the transition go smoothly.

With [Kyra Shiflet](#) in the other Financial Administrator's position we are very pleased that Sponsored Programs Accounting is now back to 'full strength' and operating under experienced management with such excellent employees. There will be some realignment of job duties under this new organizational structure, but feel free to contact Donna, Kyra, or Carmen with any post-award need.

Compliance Corner

Disclosing Foreign Ties

A recent topic of interest in the federal grants space is disclosing any foreign ties in Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosures. Agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have started to issue clarifications to their long existing policies to ensure the protection of US research. When completing your Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms and at the proposal stage of the grant seeking process, make sure to indicate any foreign ties including both monetary and non-monetary support of research (such as supplies or travel payments). The university will be liable and must repay any federal support if an agency discovers noncompliance from a PI or other Senior or Key Personnel.



You can view NIH's clarification to disclosing Other Support [here](#) and NSF's Dear Colleague Letter on the topic [here](#). OSP has increasingly come across articles discussing the developments on this topic over the past few months. If you are interested in staying abreast of this topic, we recommend reading the recent American Institute of Physics article published on July 12, 2019: ["Universities Under Pressure as Lawmakers Push Research Security."](#)

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- [Funding Activity](#)
- [Office of Sponsored Programs Directory](#)
- [Sponsored Programs Accounting Directory](#)

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Office of Sponsored
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September 2019 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Featured Funding Opportunities** - Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) - **Limited Submission**; Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund; Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research,
- **Director's Announcement** - Save the Date: Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception; Budget Justifications
- **National Science Foundation** - Supplement Information for Existing Awardees

Featured Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation: Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) **Limited Submission Due September 11, 2019**

To allow ample time for teams to formulate winning proposals, the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has been asked to publicize an **URGENT limited competition deadline** for the National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI). Though applications are not due to the NSF until January 20, 2020, it is imperative for JMU to identify the most competitive proposals during the concept phase. OSP will collect abbreviated information outlining the potential applicant(s)' MRI proposal plan. If necessary the OSP will then coordinate a Limited Submission competition internally to identify the most meritorious proposals to move forward.

INSTRUCTIONS

Those interested in submitting any MRI grant application in January 2020 must send a "MRI notice of interest" e-mail to jmu_grants@jmu.edu along with a completed Limited Submission Form by **Wednesday September 11** to inform the OSP and reviewers of their MRI proposal plan. Only proposal materials submitted by this deadline will be under consideration. **to submit a full NSF MRI in January 2020.**

The body of the email should include the name of the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators, and which track the proposal will fall under.

In most cases, applicants will be notified of decisions within ten business days

of the above stated deadline.

*Note: it is very important to read the new solicitation([NSF 18-513](#)) to determine which Track your request addresses. The number of MRI proposal submissions allowed per institution continues to be a maximum of three, two (2) for Track 1 and one (1) for Track 2.

Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund: Matching Funds Program Letter of Intent due November 6, 2019

The [Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund \(CRCF\)](#) advances science- and technology-based research, development, and commercialization to drive economic growth in Virginia. To do so, CRCF creates and fosters high-potential technology companies while encouraging and strengthening collaboration and partnerships between the public and private sector. The Fund seeks to advance Virginia's position in strategically important areas including, but not limited to human health, cyber security, smart communities, and unmanned systems.

The Matching Funds Program assists qualified organizations in commercializing research or technologies with high potential for economic benefit to Virginia and/or leveraging federal and private funds designated for commercialization. A one-to-one match is required.

Award Amount: \$150,000 max

LOI: This year the LOI will call for more information about the proposed technology and why funding its development would be a good investment for the Commonwealth. LOIs are to be a maximum of 2.5 pages and prepared using the template with Arial font, size 11, and with .5" minimum margins. The response for each section should be no more than 1200 characters, including spaces. The LOI is due **November 6, 2019** and is mandatory.

Note that the competition is limited to four submissions per institution, so this may become a limited submission if interest peaks.

Information Session: CIT representatives will be on campus on **October 2, 2019** from 1:30 to 3:00pm at the [JMU Ice House](#) for interested parties, including individuals from the surrounding community. [Registration](#) is required in advance due to space limitations.

Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research

Although the 2020 grant cycle has not been released, this is a funding opportunity to keep on your radar. Applications are typically due in February and this may become a limited submission if there is a heavy interest. Last year, James Madison University filled all five of our allotted slots for submission.

The [Jeffress Trust Program](#) provides \$100,000 awards as seed funding to

support one-year pilot studies that encourage the development of innovative interdisciplinary strategies that integrate computational and quantitative scientific strategies across a broad range of scientific disciplines. Full-time faculty at institutions in Virginia that are within seven years of their first faculty appointment are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators. Student participation is a requirement of the proposed research plan. Eligible research areas for Jeffress support include astronomy, biosciences, chemistry, computer sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, material science, mathematics and physics.

Please contact OSP if you intend to apply for this funding opportunity so we can monitor if a limited submission competition is required.

Director's Announcement

Save the Date: Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception

We hope you will join us for the **2019 Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception**, scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Festival Ballroom. The program will feature remarks by President Alger and Provost Coltman, faculty recognition awards presented by the Office of Sponsored Programs Pre-Award, a keynote address by the 2019 Provost Award Winner for Excellence in Research and Scholarship Dr. Sharon Mazzarella, and an interactive music activity produced by representatives from the Center for Inclusive Music Engagement. A catered reception featuring faculty scholarship will follow the formal program. Make sure to [REGISTER](#) by October 30th.



Budget Justifications



Detailed budget justifications are extremely important for the fiscal management of your sponsored program. It has come to our attention that extra scrutiny is being made to expenditures on sponsored programs that may have been approved by the sponsor but not explicitly stated within the budget justification. To ensure that the fiscal management of your project runs

smoothly on post-award, make sure to explicitly state deviations from JMU's [Financial Procedures Manual](#) within the budget justification at the proposal stage.

A common expenditure that should be mentioned within the budget justification is promotional items. Per JMU policy, these items cannot exceed \$10 per person. If the sponsor allows for the purchase of a promotional items that exceed this threshold, simply including the line-item within the approved budget is no longer sufficient. Make sure that the specific item and estimated cost should appear within the budget justification.

This also serves as a friendly reminder that expenditures on sponsored projects must be in accordance with the awarded line-item budget and budget justification. Make sure to contact OSP if you need a budget revision *before* purchases are made that deviate from the awarded budget. If the revision needs prior approval from the sponsor, the sponsor must approve and/or issue the appropriate modification *before* the revised budget can be followed.

National Science Foundation

Supplements to Active NSF Grants

Did you know that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has supplemental funds available for projects? Some requests can be made in conjunction with regular competitive proposals and others may be requested as supplemental funding to an existing NSF award. The Office of Sponsored Programs has compiled a list of current supplements



available on our [NSF Toolbox](#) webpage. Some supplemental opportunities include Research Opportunity Awards, Research Experience for Undergraduates, and Supplemental Support.

Check out our webpage to learn more about the different supplemental funds available and if your project may qualify. If you are interested in pursuing a supplement from NSF, make sure to let OSP know early in the process so that we can assist.

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- [Funding Activity](#)
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- [Sponsored Programs Accounting Directory](#)

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October 2019 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Featured Funding Opportunities** - Reminder: Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund: Matching Funds Program Letter of Intent
- **Director's Announcement** - Registration Open for the Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception; Changes to Departmental Delegation and Purchasing Policy; College of Science and Mathematics Undergraduate Research Tour; Parking at the Office of Sponsored Programs
- **National Institutes of Health** - "All About Grants" Podcast on Letters of Support; When in Doubt, Reach Out

Featured Funding Opportunities

Reminder: Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund: Matching Funds Program Letter of Intent due November 6, 2019

The [Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund \(CRCF\) Matching Funds Program](#) assists qualified organizations in commercializing research or technologies with high potential for economic benefit to Virginia and/or leveraging federal and private funds designated for commercialization. Each application and award is to address the research or commercialization of a discrete technology. A one-to-one match is required.

LOI: This year the LOI will call for more information about the proposed technology and why funding its development would be a good investment for the Commonwealth. LOIs are to be a maximum of 2.5 pages and prepared using the template with Arial font, size 11, and with .5" minimum margins. The response for each section should be no more than 1200 characters, including spaces. The LOI is due by **noon on November 6, 2019** and is mandatory.

Note that the competition is limited to four submissions per institution, so this may become a limited submission if interest peaks. Please contact OSP as soon as possible if you intend to apply so that we can keep track of our applications. As budgetary information is not a requirement of the LOI, university approval for submission will not be required at this stage.

Director's Announcement

Registration Open for the Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception

Registration is open for the 2019 Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception, scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Festival Ballroom. The purpose of the event is to showcase ongoing scholarship by faculty at the university and is open to all who wish to support their colleagues and learn more about their work. Make sure to [REGISTER](#) by October 30th. We hope to see you there!



Changes to Departmental Delegation and Purchasing Policy



As of September 16th, departmental Small Purchase Credit Card transaction limits and eVA orders have been increased to \$10,000. This means that equipment, skilled services contracts, and other purchases up to \$10,000 no longer need to go through Procurement before purchasing, however mandatory contracts and JMU Financial Procedures still need to be followed.

Equipment is still defined as purchases \$5,000 and over with a use life of over one year. Equipment purchases between \$5,000 and \$9,999 that do not need to go through Procurement still need to be tagged by Fixed Assets. Make sure to prepare a "Receiving Report" for these purchase for your departmental records that include the date received.

For more information on how this new policy will effect grant management, please see OSP's [Pre-Award Guide for Procurement](#).

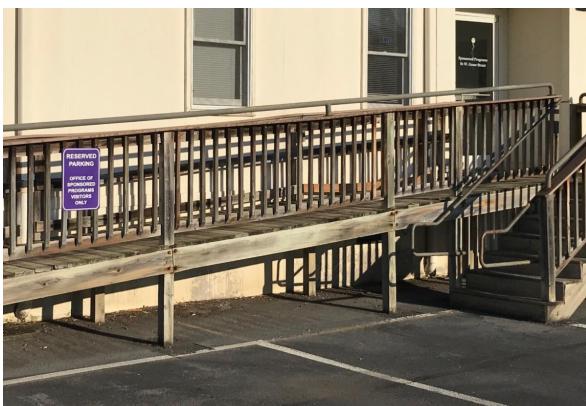
College of Science and Mathematics Undergraduate Research Tour

On September 30 leadership from across campus, including representatives of Research and Scholarship and the Division of University Advancement, were invited to tour the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM)

facilities and learn first-hand about faculty-mentored undergraduate research taking place in the college. One attendee commented "We had the opportunity to hear from both faculty and their students on their innovative scholarly endeavors. I was truly delighted to see the impact research and engaged learning experiences have on JMU students."



Parking at the Office of Sponsored Programs



The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and Scholarship worked with Parking Services to obtain one parking space for our visitors in front of our building. When you come to OSP for meetings or to drop off paperwork, you may now park in the available spot without the risk of receiving a ticket. If the spot is full when you arrive, you must either park in Anthony Seegar or the Chesapeake Parking Deck as the other spaces are reserved for Facilities and Maintenance vehicles.

National Institutes of Health

"All About Grants" Podcast on Letters of Support

Did you know that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a podcast series covering various topics? The September 23, 2019 installment discussed letters of support including required content, what should be omitted, and how letters of support differ from other letters submitted as part of an application. If you would like more clarification on letters of support an [MP3](#) and [Transcript](#) are available. More information on the entire series, including ways to subscribe and past installments can be found [here](#).

When in Doubt, Reach Out

Did you know that many federal funding agencies encourage grant seekers and recipients to reach out to their staff for questions? NIH is no exception to this rule and has a plethora of resources for those involved in external funding to access the help that they need. After browsing the [NIH Grants & Funding](#) website for information, the NIH encourages grant seekers and recipients to reach out to their staff for assistance. Use the [Contacts link](#) to view the roles, responsibilities, and contact information for NIH staff at each stage in the grant

seeking process to find the best person to get in contact with.

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November 2019 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Featured Funding Opportunities** - Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research
 - **Director's Announcement** - Proposal Deadlines; Updated Travel Lodging Policy; Vehicle Rentals; Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception
 - **Grants.gov** - Crafting Need Statements in Federal Grant Proposals
-

Featured Funding Opportunities

Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research - Expected due date January 2020

The Jeffress Trust Program provides \$100,000 awards as seed funding to support one-year pilot studies that encourage the development of innovative interdisciplinary strategies that integrate computational and quantitative scientific strategies across a broad range of scientific disciplines. Up to five applications will be accepted from each nonprofit academic or research institution in Virginia, nominated through their own internal selection process. Full-time faculty at institutions in Virginia that are within seven years of their first faculty appointment are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators.

Eligible research areas for Jeffress support include astronomy, biosciences, chemistry, computer sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, material science, mathematics and physics. Student participation is a requirement of the proposed research plan.

While the due date for this year's cycle has not yet been released, we expect submissions to be due in January 2020. You may use the following link to sign up for alerts relating to this funding opportunity: <https://hria.org/tmf/jeffress/>

Note that the competition is limited to five submissions per institution, so this may become a limited submission if interest peaks. Please contact OSP if you intend to apply so that we can determine if we need to run a limited submission competition.

Director's Announcement

Proposal Deadlines

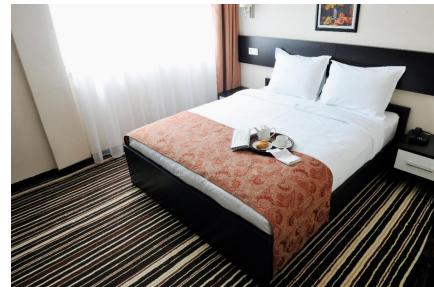


The Office of Sponsored Programs will be short staffed in late November to early December. If possible, we are requesting that all proposals be received in OSP at least 2 weeks before the deadline – for proposals due November 15 to December 6. For early January deadlines, we recommended starting your budget development early and obtaining approvals of your AUH and

Dean before we leave for winter break on December 19. As you know that time of year can be dicey to get approvals and the weather is also unpredictable. We may not be able to meet the submission deadline if proposals are not received at an early date.

Updated Travel Lodging Policy

Effective mid-October, the university will only reimburse lodging at traditional hotels/motels and alternative accommodations such as an Airbnb or dormitory style lodging are no longer permitted. The university will allow for exceptions, provided that the [Alternative Lodging Request Form](#) is completed 14 days prior to reserving the accommodations. If you have special lodging accommodations built into your sponsored programs, such as the use on on-site housing at a collaborating university or national lab, camping at field sites, or special accommodations internationally, you will need to complete the Alternative Lodging Request Form as soon as possible to ensure your travel will be reimbursed.



If you have any questions regarding this [policy](#), please contact Accounts Payable at acctspayable@jmu.edu.

Vehicle Rentals



This is just a friendly reminder that JMU has a contract with Enterprise and strongly encourages its use for business travel. You can even contact [Transportation](#) for assistance with making the reservation, even if you need to reserve the vehicle for use out of state. Advantages of using the Enterprise contact include a lower vehicle rental rate and complimentary supplemental insurance.

Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception

Last Wednesday, November 6, 2019 the Office of Sponsored Programs and Office of Research Development and Promotion within Research and Scholarship hosted the Noftsinger Celebration of Madison Scholarship and Recognition Reception in the Festival Ballroom. In addition to a presentation from Dr. Sharon Mazzarella, Provost Award



Winner for Excellence in Research and Scholarship, and a musical performance from the Center for Inclusive Music Engagement, scholarly artifacts from the 2019 Madison Scholars were on display during the reception. The seven recipients of the Research and Scholarship Outstanding Faculty Award were also announced during the formal program. The awardees are as follows:

- Tim Bloss, Biology
- Anca Constantin, Physics & Astronomy
- Pat Kennedy, Early, Elementary, & Reading Education
- Juhong Christie Liu, Libraries
- Roderick MacDonald, School of Integrated Sciences
- Jerry Weniger, Health Professions
- Nathan Wright, Chemistry & Biochemistry

You can find the entire program, including Cumulative Funding Tiers, First Time Proposal Submissions, First Time Award Recipients and First Year Faculty Recognition on our [webpage](#). We look forward to this event each year to celebrate scholarship at the university. Thank you to all who were able to attend and help make this year's event happen.



Crafting Need Statements in Federal Grant Proposals

Grants.gov maintains a [Community Blog](#) that contains helpful grant writing tips as well as grant policy, eligibility and other information for those seeking federal funds. From the Grant Writing series, Grants.gov shared three tips for writing need statements:

- Address the need that the funding opportunity is intended to fill - not the university's need for funding;
- Communicate the university's familiarity with addressing the defined need;
- Illustrate the need with a concise but concrete story.

This blog post contains examples for each tip, as well as a link to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [database of funded proposals](#) for applicants to view. Make sure to check out the entire post [here](#).

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