Externally Funded Grants and Contracts

HHS brought in $11.45 million. (See Figure 1 on page 7 for details.) This reflects a 33% increase over the prior year exceeding the University wide goal of a 5% increase overall, 10% in the area of health and wellness.

Campus wide, there are only 6 academic departments that brought in over $1 million dollars. Three of these are from within HHS.

- PHE ($1.44 million)
- KIN ($1.77 million)
- HDFS ($5.83 million; this is the largest amount of external funding for a department, center or office campus wide)

HHS Initiatives in 2018-2019

HHS Research Advisory Committee: The HHS Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members advise the Associate Dean for Research about a number of matters including the use of resources, research policies, and researcher needs. They also review internal grant applications and serve as the selection committee for HHS Research Excellence Awards. The committee consists of six faculty from HHS departments. The 2018-2019 members were: Cheryl Buehler (HDF); Ben Hickerson (CTR); Jay Poole (SWK); Keith Erikson (NTR); Amanda Tanner (PHE); and Laurie Wideman (KIN).

Summer Grant Writing Fellows Program (SGWFP): Four faculty fellows (1 KIN, 2 NTR, 1 SWK) are participating in the SGWFP this year, each with a senior mentor. Each plan to submit a grant to NIH by June 2020. Three new awards to former summer fellows have just been announced (all R15s) underscoring the value of this program! The participants were: Traci Parry (KIN); Maryanne Perrin (NTR); Seth Armah (NTR); and Yarneccia Dyson (SWK).

The SGWFP fellows attended an orientation session in which characteristics of good mentor-mentee relationships were discussed, completed a writing and mentoring plan, and attended five (5) workshops; the workshops were (1) Grant Writing for Maximum Impact, (2) NIH Biosketch & Rigor and Reproducibility, (3) Comparing and Contrasting NIH and USDA, (4) Specific Aims, and (5) Grant Budgeting 101 and Understanding ASSIST. We received much assistance from other university offices (the Office of Research and Engagement and the Office of Sponsored Programs) in the facilitation of these workshops and in the collaboration with and advice for the fellows. Four faculty and one doctoral student participated in the 2019 cohort, and only the faculty received award payments. This program began in summer 2015 and has had 22 participants (2 have since left the university.) Five of the fellows have received awards for the proposals which were submitted as part of the program; the calculated return on investment (ROI) is $34.01 for every dollar spent. This program will continue into 2019-2020.

Re-configuring the award amounts for the SGWFP was received positively; it offered an option to faculty who were interested in grant proposal preparation allowing them to concentrate solely on a grant proposal.
versus teaching a summer course AND working on a grant proposal. The SGWFP offers training to faculty in order to guide them through the proposal preparation process and offers support via an identified faculty mentor and other faculty with grant-writing expertise; also, OOR provides guidance with budget preparation and financially supports the external review of proposals by both a content expert and an editorial expert. These lend to the strength of the program.

**HHS Faculty Research Grants (FRG) and Top-Off Funding Program (TOFP):** During the fall of 2018, the name of the HHS Research Excellence Grants was changed to HHS Faculty Research Grants (FRG), and a new type of funding was created to better support the needs of researchers; the Top-Off Funding Program (TOFP) was developed. Both the Faculty Research Grants and the Top-Off Funding Program began accepting applications in fall 2018. Three applications were received for the FRG funds, and six applications were received for the TOFP funds. After review by the HHS Research Advisory Committee, all applications were funded. Recipients of the HHS Faculty Research Grants were Donna Duffy (KIN/WHW), Chris Rhea (KIN), Sandra Echeverria (PHE), Traci Parry (KIN), and Justin Harmon (CTR). Recipients of the Top-Off Funding Grants were Will Adams (KIN), Jaclyn Maher (KIN), Jared McGuirt (NTR), Rachel Boit (HDF), Stephanie Coard (HDF), Eric Drolette (KIN), Jenny Etnier (KIN), Yarneccia Dyson (SWK), Jocelyn Smith Lee (HDF), and Erica Payton (PHE). A total of $58,303 was awarded for these projects. Partial funding ($30,000) for these was provided by the ‘Dean’s Initiative’ funding that was received from the UNCG Office of Research and Engagement.

Data was collected in fall 2018 from previous recipients of the HHS Research Excellence Grants to determine the return on investment; the ROI was $0.79 for every dollar spent. Additionally, as a set, the studies funded by these grants resulted in 27 manuscripts to date (published, under review, or in prep) and 41 conference presentations. The level of dissemination is high given most projects are still ongoing. In addition, results have been shared in media outlets, including the local news, NY Times, and UNCG Research Magazine. These awards have also benefited students, resulting in 5 dissertations, 1 master’s thesis, and 1 undergraduate research project. Twelve of 19 respondents indicated this work would not have been possible without this funding. The remaining 7 respondents indicated that the project would have been reduced in scope or its completion delayed. Conclusion: Preliminary evidence suggests this mechanism is effective in that it is tied to research productivity/dissemination. We must continue to monitor over time given it likely takes several years to complete pilot projects and then seek/obtain external funding, which is one of the primary goals of the mechanism. These mechanisms will continue to be offered in 2019-2020.

**Course Release for Dedicated Time to Write a Grant Proposal:** This supports faculty members’ grant-writing efforts by providing funds to pay an adjunct instructor to teach one of their courses. Dr. Jennifer Erausquin was awarded an HHS Course Release to Write a Grant in spring 2019; the outcome of this will be reported in future years, once the grant proposal is submitted.

**HHS Faculty Excellence Awards:** The Faculty Excellence Awards winners were Laurie Wideman (KIN) for the Senior Research Excellence Award, Lenka Shriver (NTR) for the Junior Research Excellence Award, and Michael Hemphill (KIN) for the Community Engaged Scholar Award.

**Graduate Research Assistantships:** The HHS Office of Research worked in conjunction with the HHS Graduate Office to sponsor a competitive process for funding graduate research assistants; this funding was offered in order to support HHS faculty with active research projects and to fund graduate students in research. HHS Faculty submitted applications outlining their research and the role that the graduate
A researcher would play in this research. Ten awards were made for a total of $67,200 funded by the School of HHS; these assistantships are for the 2019-20 academic year.

**Scientific and Editorial Review of External Proposals:** The Office of Research supported the external review of eight HHS proposals.

**Special Projects Initiative:** Through the Special Projects Initiative, we were able to provide funding for equipment in interdisciplinary labs providing for enhanced collaborative work by the users. Requests may be for internal bridge funding, seminar speakers, research equipment, research supplies, scientific software, or other research-related items. In 2018-2019, three of these ‘Special Projects’ requests were funded; for example, we assisted in funding lab and refrigerator upgrades in a Kinesiology research laboratory.

**Travel Support for Research-Related Training or Consultation Initiative:** We provided support to two individual faculty through the Travel Support for Research-Related Training or Consultation Initiative; these individuals attended workshops to increase their knowledge-base and hone skills needed for their respective research areas. Through this same initiative, we are funding a proposal submitted by three PHE faculty. A research-related training opportunity for 25 faculty & doctoral students in early September 2019 was approved; this will be a 2.5-day Qualitative Data Analysis Camp facilitated by ResearchTalk, Inc. who are based in Cary, NC. This will allow attendees to use their own data from current projects as the facilitators walk them through ResearchTalk’s Sort and Sift, Think and Shift© method. UNCG attendees will gain expertise in the Sort and Sift, Think and Shift© method by engaging with their data and getting feedback from the ResearchTalk team. This process will allow attendees to enhance their qualitative analysis strategies while making progress on their current qualitative data analysis and analysis planning.

**Research Networking and/or Team Building Initiative:** Forging collaborations was the intent of the funding to support the Research Networking and/or Team Building Initiative. Three individuals/groups involving four faculty were supported by this. Two individual faculty traveled to collaborate with others in their field in order to foster a relationship that would enhance the UNCG researchers’ portfolio and create building blocks for future professional relationships and possible externally funding grant proposals. One group used the funding to create an advisory board to formalize and oversee community-engaged and basic research related activities of the Montagnard/Southeast Asian Health Disparities Research Network. The culmination of the work of the group was a meeting attended by various community leaders, interested persons, volunteers, UNCG students and faculty.

**HHS Scholars’ Travel Fund:** This provides faculty members with supplemental travel funds to support presentation of their research, scholarship, or creative activity, to serve as chairpersons, to participate as panelists, or to contribute in other appropriate manners at scholarly meetings. Six HHS faculty members received funding from this initiative in 2018-2019. In 2019-2020, our office will take over management of the HHS portion of the UNCG Scholars’ Travel Fund that was previously managed by ORE and will also manage the HHS Scholars’ Travel Fund. We expect the number of applications to remain steady and possibly increase as the office will directly promote these travel funding opportunities to the HHS faculty.

**HHS International Travel Fund:** Given that international travel is quite costly, the HHS International Travel Fund was used to supplement the research-related travel of six faculty. This funding allowed the individuals to attend conferences and represent UNCG on an international level. Through this initiative, we funded five faculty for international research-related travel.
**HHS Speaker Series**: Three HHS faculty jointly submitted an application for the HHS Speaker Series. The application was funded and brought to campus an expert in the Human Development and Family Studies field. The identified speaker was Dr. Barbara Fiese, The Pampered Chef Endowed Chair in Family Resiliency; Director, Family Resiliency Center; Professor, HDFS, University Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Fiese has expertise in family resilience and rituals, obesity prevention, and cells to society approach to nutrition in early childhood. Her work is multidisciplinary and multi-method. Her visit was in the spring of 2019, and the title for her talk was: Why Family Mealtimes Matter: The Science and Politics of Food, Family, and Children's Nutritional Health. The talk was held in Albanese Auditorium in the Stone Building, and it was attended by many faculty, staff, and students.

**Research Space Allocation**: HHS maintains, allocates and supports a number of research facilities for faculty. Space in all of UNCG’s buildings is very limited, so priority for the allocation and use of research space is always given to externally funded projects. Needs for space are identified at the time of proposal submission and brought to the attention of the Associate Dean for Research; all investigators are asked to send a formal request when proposals are submitted. When a project is funded, the Associate Dean for Research will work with the investigator to identify space options. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Office of Research worked with ten (10) faculty members to allocate space for use during their research. The use of this research space is re-evaluated each year, and the faculty are asked to re-establish their application for use of the space annually. It is worth noting that the HHS research space is aging and will need updates to furnishings and to facilities (paint, carpeting, etc.) in the near future.

A new HHS Research Space Allocation Policy is being developed and will be disseminated in the fall of 2019.

**REDCap**: With the increased need for data management, a greater focus is being placed on helping researchers with management of their research data. Through Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap), a secure web application designed for online database construction and management, HHS is able to provide HHS researchers with tools for efficient electronic data capture and management, improved data quality and security, and a ready-made solution for inter-departmental or multi-site research efforts; this application is used in support of work with/by HHS researchers and students and extends the research-related offerings of the office. At the end of 2018-2019, there were 100+ projects currently in REDCap. This does not mean that 100+ different research studies use REDCap as some studies employ multiple projects to separate things like screenings, e-surveys and in-person data collection; other projects are being used for quality improvement, operational support, etc. There is growing interest in REDCap by non-HHS units and offices, and discussions are being held with these parties to arrange access and provide training.

**General Information**

We have posted the ‘**HHS OOR Timeline for Successful Grant Submission**’ on our website; we encourage faculty to adhere to the timeline so that we can provide the best service possible to faculty during the proposal development phase and through final submission. Faculty are also encouraged to share their external and internal funding submission plans with their department chair when creating an annual work plan, during their annual evaluation, and to update chairs as plans may change throughout the year.
**Plans for 2019-2020**

HHS RAC members in 2019-2020 will be: Cheryl Buehler (HDFS), Ben Hickerson (CTR), Jay Poole (SWK), Lenka Shriver (NTR), Kelly Rulison (Fall; interim PHE)/Amanda Tanner (spring; PHE), and Laurie Wideman (KIN).

In 2019-2020, we will begin developing guidelines on best practices for grants management for faculty PIs. We will also maintain the same services/initiatives as recent years (Faculty Research Grants, Top Off Grants, Travel Funding, External review of grants for scientific content and/or technical writing, workshops, etc).

A variety of HHS internal funding opportunities will be offered in 2019-2020. These opportunities are managed by HHS, and only HHS faculty are eligible to apply. They are as follows:

**Research Funding:**

- **HHS Faculty Research Grant** applications due January 27, 2020 at 5 pm. Up to $5,000 for individual investigator awards and up to $10,000 for collaborative projects from January 2020 through June 2021. All full-time faculty whose workloads include research are eligible. https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/

- **HHS Top-Off Funding** applications due January 27, 2020 at 5 pm. For individuals or teams who were recently awarded New, Regular, or HHS Faculty grants to enhance to existing projects in some way. Funds may not exceed the initial award amount. Available funds are limited so requests should be limited to essential costs and must primarily be expended within the fiscal year (i.e., by June 2020). https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/

- **HHS Graduate Research Assistantship** applications due February 10, 2020 at 5pm. These funds are intended to support ongoing faculty research, not student-generated research. Faculty (a) with ongoing external grants whose budgets have been cut, (b) with recently completed grants but ongoing work, and/or (c) conducting work that will likely lead to strong external funding applications may apply. https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/

**Travel Funding:**

- **Scholars' Travel Funds** are provided to full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty to support presentation of their research, scholarship, or creative activity; to serve as chairpersons; to participate as panelists; or to contribute in other appropriate manners at scholarly meetings in the **USA, Mexico, or Canada**. Faculty can apply for up to $500 per academic year (with a $250 match). Note: all HHS faculty must submit applications to Lisa Walker at lbwalke2@uncg.edu. These are no longer submitted to Barbara Hemphill in ORE. Most funds come from ORE; when these are depleted, HHS OOR may supplement with internal funds. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but must be received in advance of travel. https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/

- **HHS International Travel Fund:** Up to $600 with $250 match. May supplement funding from International Travel Fund and/or be awarded years faculty are ineligible for ITF funding. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but must be received in advance of travel. https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/
Dedicated Time for Grant Writing:

- **HHS Summer Grant Writing Fellows Program** supports faculty in their efforts to submit strong grant proposals. Fellows must identify a mentor, attend a series of summer workshops, and agree to submitting a grant within the following year. Fellows receive a $4,000 summer stipend. Upon successful grant submission within a year, they receive an additional $1,000 and their mentors receive $500. Applications for summer 2020 are due February 28, 2020. [https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/](https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/)

- **HHS Course Release to Write a Grant** supports faculty members grant-writing efforts by providing funds to pay an adjunct instructor to teach one of their courses. Applications for releases for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 are due on September 13, 2019. [https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/](https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/)

Other:

For both below: Applications accepted on rolling basis; the majority of funds must be expended by June 10, 2020. [https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/](https://hhs.uncg.edu/wordpress/office-of-research/internal-support/hhs-internal-funding-mechanisms/)

- **HHS Funding for Individual Training or Consultation (limited funds available)** supports tuition/registration/travel to attend research related workshops, training programs, short courses; and meetings with grant officers or consultants critical for planned research.

- **HHS Funding to Build Research Collaborations** supports expenses related to forging strong collaborative relations that will lead to externally funded research. This may include funds for travel, hosting meetings or events, etc.

- **HHS Special Projects Funding** supports new projects or existing projects that do not fit with the timing or criteria for existing internal mechanisms. University F & A (from ORE, Departments, and/or faculty) or other resources should be used for these purposes whenever possible. For instances in which that is not possible, a small amount of funds is being set aside to assist. The HHS RAC will assist in creating a priority list that will guide decision making for such requests.
HHS remains the highest academic unit in external funding at $11.45 million. This reflects a 33% increase over the prior year exceeding the University-wide goal of a 5% increase overall, 10% in the area of health and wellness. The below graph illustrates patterns of external funding over time, by unit.

The below graphs illustrate award and submission data by departments within HHS. Awards are up compared to last year in all departments, except for PCS. Notably, PHE, KIN, HDFS, and NTR all increased between $600K and $1 million. Submissions are up in CSD, CTR, and SWK. Departments that gained the most in awards were down the most in applications consistent with the view that the two are cyclical.
Fig. 3

Applications by Department

- Communication Sciences and Disorder
- Community and Therapeutic Rec
- Department of Nutrition
- Genetic Counseling
- Human Development & Family Studies
- Kinesiology
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Public Health Education
- Social Work

Financial data for various departments over the years 2012-13 to 2018-2019.