

## SPECIAL EDITION: Supporting Student Success



Student Success



Recent Grant Awards



What is Research Development?



Director's Introduction

## More Than \$3 Million in Awards Support Student Success

### TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

In August 2020, the U.S. Department of Education announced that University of Detroit Mercy will receive a federal **Student Support Services (TRIO SSS)** grant of \$1,309,440 over five years to annually help 140 low income, 1<sup>st</sup> generation and disabled students succeed in and graduate from college. Detroit Mercy's TRIO SSS program was established in 2015 and has assisted more than 700 participants helping them to increase their skills and gain the confidence to complete their baccalaureate degree.

Led by Amber Johnson, TRIO SSS provides an array of comprehensive services including:



- Academic tutoring
- Financial aid advice
- Career and college mentoring
- Assistance with course selection
- Locating public and private scholarships
- Applying for admission to graduate and professional schools
- Developing financial and economic literacy skills

TRIO SSS, now celebrating its 50th year, has made important contributions to individuals and communities across the nation. This evidence-based model enhances academic success while ensuring that underrepresented students not only graduate from college, but enter their professional life with the lowest possible debt.

Many TRIO SSS alumni have gone on to great success, among them Emmy, Tony and Academy-Award winning actress Viola Davis, U.S. Representative Gwendolyn Moore of Wisconsin's 4th District and Franklin Chang-Diaz, the first Hispanic astronaut. Detroit Mercy's TRIO SSS participants have been awarded merit-based scholarships, presented research at national conferences, received academic achievement awards and obtained prestigious internships at companies such as DTE Energy, Fiat-Chrysler Automotive, Ford Motor Company and the Karmanos Cancer Institute. They have also been accepted to recognized graduate, professional and doctoral programs.

TRIO SSS works with students at any point in their undergraduate academic career; however, Detroit Mercy has learned that engaging freshmen from the very moment they step on campus results in greater overall success. For this reason, staff has implemented an intensive summer transition program for first-year and transfer students in addition to summer counseling sessions for all TRIO participants. Students also have access to various experiences, including visiting graduate/professional schools, joining social justice service immersion trips and attending to cultural events throughout the greater Detroit area. Developing a collaborative relationship with students allows the TRIO SSS office to foster a family-oriented atmosphere that is characterized by its trust, comradery, accountability and unwavering support.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the systemic inequality and financial hardship which keeps promising students from succeeding in college. TRIO SSS is needed now more than ever."

- Maureen Hoyler, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education

When the U.S. became devastated by a global health pandemic, the learning environment was altered for all students. TRIO SSS programs consequentially became more necessary than ever. Detroit Mercy has adapted its services to enhance accessibility for participants in a remote learning environment.

TRIO SSS is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the McNichols Campus Library, room 314. If you are interested in or would like to recommend a student, please contact TRIO SSS at or 313-993-1108 for more information.

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EQUITY DEVELOPMENT (SEED) PROGRAM

A team of Detroit Mercy faculty were awarded a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that continues a long tradition in the College of Engineering & Science (E&S) to increase access to fulfilling careers in STEM for low-income students. The grant was awarded under the S-STEM priority area and will establish the Science and Engineering Equity Development (SEED) program to support two cohorts of 10 students each across disciplines in engineering, computer science and mathematics. The program provides substantial scholarships and will employ a range of high-impact practices that have been empirically proven to work with underrepresented students in STEM. Lessons from ReBUILDDetroit are also incorporated to improve student outcomes. The program design aims to establish a novel model, distinguished by its intensive career development component, that can be replicated by other smaller, under-resourced institutions.



"Interns are a key part of RIIS' recruiting strategy. It's a great way for the student to get to know RIIS and for RIIS to get to know the student. We've been looking for ways to hire interns from disadvantaged backgrounds for some time now and are really excited to be a part of this program."

- Godfrey Nolan, President and CEO Research Into Internet Systems (RIIS)

SEED is led by Dr. Shadi Bani Taan with co-PIs from E&S including Assistant Dean for Research and External Initiatives, Dr. Rick Hill, and faculty, Drs. Megan Conrad and Mariam Faied. This diverse team also includes co-PI, Dr. Jocelyn Bennett-Garraway from the Department of Counseling and Addiction Studies who will spearhead the research investigation along with Dr. Kathy Zhong serving as Senior Personnel. The SEED program will leverage existing on-campus resources and external industry partners in a financially sustainable manner to facilitate student development. Other unique elements of the SEED model include 1) industry-specific co-operative internships and mentoring, 2) group counseling sessions, and 3) a comprehensive system of common courses and non-residential cohort-building activities. Detroit Mercy's Counseling Program Practicum Clinic and TRIO SSS program are integral partners to this effort. E&S has leveraged an impressive lineup of companies including Ford Motor Company, Walbridge, Roush, Research Into Internet Systems (RIIS) and A2Mac1.

The SEED program will shore-up the STEM pipeline from disadvantaged local schools to Detroit Mercy. Notable among E&S' efforts are the recently established innovating Detroit's Robotics Agile Workforce (iDRAW) program, as well as the College's longstanding partnership with the Detroit Area Precollege Engineering Program (DAPCEP).

## KING, CHAVEZ, PARKS (KCP) STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The State of Michigan Department of Education renewed its nearly \$200,000 King, Chavez, Parks (KCP) grant. The KCP program is available to all students and despite the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, this year promises to provide the same level of professionalism, academic support and spirit as it always has with a healthy dose of fun. With new staff transitions come new ideas, mindsets and goals. Through KCP, Detroit Mercy and its peer universities seek to increase the number of students who complete a college degree and are fully equipped to begin their careers while also meeting Michigan's talent needs. The KCP program helps students overcome obstacles to success and develop positive habits that will serve them for the rest of their lives.



The staff at the Student Success Center (SSC), located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the McNichols' Campus Library, have crafted a new vision for current and future KCP participants. The KCP program offers professional mentorship to assist students with academic challenges by, for example, intervening between professors, connecting students with advisors, helping students register for classes, referring them for financial aid assistance, and teaching time management strategies. Students can meet with their mentor as much as is necessary and access a menu of academic supports as needed. A major focus of the KCP program is to support students who might be considered academically "at risk" to create and maintain the scaffolding to prepare them for real world challenges.

Other services offered at the SSC include:

- 1stGen Network
- Academic Interest & Major Exploration (AIME)
- Health Exploration program (HEX or Health Ex)

Health Exploration is an extension of the AIME program and is designed for students considering any major that prepares them for a career in the health professions. At the SSC, students can find one-on-one or group style tutoring, in addition to offerings at the Testing Center and Disability and Accessibility Support Services. The latter offers custom accommodations for qualifying students including, but not limited to, extra test time, alternative locations for testing and note taking.

COVID-19 has affected KCP's current structures and the staff at the SSC have responded to an ever-changing environment. The SSC has been outfitted with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and all programs and events are virtually accessible to students.

For more information please feel free to contact:

- Felicia Hartinger, Director at [mitrovfl@udmercy.edu](mailto:mitrovfl@udmercy.edu)
- Wyman Stewart, KCP Coordinator/Professional Mentor at [stewardm@udmercy.edu](mailto:stewardm@udmercy.edu)
- Laura Bagdady, Assistant Director of Disability & Accessibility Services at [baqdadlm@udmercy.edu](mailto:baqdadlm@udmercy.edu)
- Erica Graze, Academic & Career Advisor at [grazeem@udmercy.edu](mailto:grazeem@udmercy.edu)
- Sr. Sarah Foster, RSM, Professional Mentor at [fostersa@udmercy.edu](mailto:fostersa@udmercy.edu)

### Faculty Breakfast

Scheduled for **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:45AM**, this B.Y.O.B. (Bring your own breakfast) opportunity will allow faculty and students to virtually get to know one another outside of the classroom.

Contact any SSC staff to register.

## Detroit Mercy Leads Fly-CURE Consortium



Fly-CURE is a consortium of seven universities participating in an undergraduate genetics laboratory Classroom-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) centered on the genetic mapping and characterization of *Drosophila melanogaster* mutants isolated from a genetic screen. With a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) of \$292,489 Fly-CURE will expand to twenty institutions across the U.S. This will allow for engagement of more than 800 undergraduate students in authentic, hypothesis-driven research over the next three years.

The scientific data generated by these students will contribute to a better understanding of the genetic intricacies regulating developmental processes. This model, has already resulted in four peer-reviewed publications with 135 student co-authors. Detroit Mercy will assess the impact that participation in Fly-CURE has on student's ability to meet common learning objectives in undergraduate genetics lab courses. We will also study the effects of how multiple research experiences change student attitudes towards scientific research, thus shaping their career trajectory.

These studies will not only drive improvements in the implementation of Fly-CURE, but will also contribute more broadly to our understanding of the effects of undergraduate research experiences on student success and persistence toward STEM careers. Principal Investigator Jacob Kagey has piloted expansion of the project and this award will bring Fly-CURE to 20 colleges and universities across the nation, both private and public, and of varying sizes and student demographics. Together they will be developing novel pedagogical instruments, training and communication tactics all along the way. Participating institutions include the following:

- Nevada State College, Co-PI: Kayla Bieser
- Illinois State University, Co-PI: Alysia Vrailas-Mortimer
- University of Evansville, Co-PI: Joyce Stamm
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Albion State University
- Ohio Northern University

For more information contact Jacob Kagey, [kagejja@udmercy.edu](mailto:kagejja@udmercy.edu)

## Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Scholarships

University of Detroit Mercy was awarded a **Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program** grant of \$30,000 to support tuition and fees for graduate students in nurse anesthesia. This funding is critical to our students, since the Nurse Anesthesia program is academically demanding and time-consuming; the average student's time commitment is approximately 65 hours per week, which eliminates the option for students to work while enrolled.

There are 73 graduate students in Nurse Anesthesia at Detroit Mercy as of October 2019. Success of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship program is judged by the attrition rate (<15%) for current students, and on the basis of graduates who seek employment in underserved or rural areas (>60%). While nurse anesthesia is not a primary health care service, the services nurse anesthetists provide support the delivery of primary care for a very diverse and disadvantaged patient population, including persons of African American, Hispanic, and Middle Eastern descent.

The purpose of this grant is to improve access to health care for rural and underserved populations, with combating the opioid crisis as a priority. To fulfill the objectives of the grant, trainees receive a thorough grounding in proper use of opioids, and alternatives to opioids for surgical patients. The objectives of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Grant will be accomplished by the project director, who will collect and collate data needed to ensure that our high rate of success in training and placing graduates in underserved areas continues. To aid in this, two new rural and underserved clinical rotations have recently been established.



For more information contact Michael P. Dosch PhD, CRNA [doschmi@udmercy.edu](mailto:doschmi@udmercy.edu).

"Community service is an integral component of the Detroit Mercy Dental's mission to develop socially and ethically sensitive dental professionals."

First funded in 1994, the **Ryan White Dental Reimbursement Program** assists institutions with accredited dental or dental hygiene education programs by defraying their unreimbursed costs associated with providing oral health care to people living with HIV. Detroit Mercy received a grant totaling \$130,198, which places the School of Dentistry among the largest grantees in the nation.

For more information contact Dean Aksu at [aksumn@udmercy.edu](mailto:aksumn@udmercy.edu).

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## OSPRA Director's Introduction

As I celebrate my first year as the Director of the Office for Sponsored Programs and Research Activities at Detroit Mercy, I am grateful for all the help and patience that was afforded to me by faculty and staff across all three campuses. Everyday, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve students and the community through supporting faculty in attracting external resources.



Prior to joining Detroit Mercy, I was at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, primarily working in the engineering and science disciplines, seeking corporate and foundation support. Before that, I spent more than thirty years in non-profits across a variety of sectors including the arts, human services, law, PreK-12 education, social justice, youth development, health and public policy to name a few. This background allows me work across a comprehensive university like Detroit Mercy, bringing both subject knowledge and an understanding of government grants management.

My approach is centered on the idea that OSPRA is first, a service office. My job is essentially to make it as easy as possible for faculty to increase their research and scholarship. In order to achieve this, I look to create effective strategies to move my constituents from ideation to mission-driven outcomes that result in tenure, engagement with our communities, innovation and advancement of the University's highest aspirations. I firmly believe that trust, transparency and honesty are core to the relationships I hope to build across Detroit Mercy's campuses. This is not always easy, but is vital in order to move the research enterprise forward in ways that are enduring. It is in this spirit that I invite your inquiries and challenges, especially in these unprecedented times.

My vision for the OSPRA office is further grounded in a commitment to equity and inclusion. Beyond fulfilling the basic functions of this role, I look to transform Detroit Mercy's ability to plan for and respond to calls that require a large-scale collaborative approach. The diversity and location of our campuses represents an untapped cache of expertise as well as perspectives that can lead to the germination of "moon shots" to make us highly competitive in the grants space. This emerging practice area is known as "Research Development" and this is discussed more in below.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who have made me feel welcomed. I look forward to partnering and making new discoveries together.

For more information contact Ann Serra at [serraam@udmercy.edu](mailto:serraam@udmercy.edu).

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## What is Research Development?

**Research Development** encompasses a set of strategic, proactive, catalytic, and capacity-building activities designed to facilitate individual faculty members, teams of researchers in attracting extramural research funding. This is achieved through creating relationships and implementing strategies that increase institutional competitiveness and excellence,



Research Development professionals initiate and nurture critical partnerships and alliances throughout the institutional research enterprise, between institutions, and in an inclusive manner with external stakeholders. With the goal of enabling competitive individual and team research, research development professionals build and implement strategic services and collaborative resources that span across disciplinary and administrative barriers.

Research Development includes a broad spectrum of activities that vary by institution, including: funding opportunity identification and targeted dissemination; grant/contract proposal development; research team building; interaction with funding agencies and institutional research administration and leadership; interaction with institutional federal relations; and outreach activities and training.

Samarapita Sengupta is a science writer at *Neuroscience Research Development (NeRD) Office at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center* and the **NORDP Liaison** to the National Postdoctoral Association. This article was published by the National Postdoc Association, October 2017.

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## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

The **Johnson & Johnson Scholars Award Program** aims to fuel development of female STEM<sup>2</sup>D leaders and feed the STEM<sup>2</sup>D talent pipeline by awarding and sponsoring women at critical points in their careers, in each of the STEM<sup>2</sup>D disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Manufacturing and Design.

**Applications are due October 15, 2020 and will close at 9:00AM HST (Honolulu Standard Time).**

The awards will fund one woman per STEM2D discipline who has completed her advanced degree, is working as an assistant professor (or global equivalent faculty position) and is not yet tenured at an accredited university, institution or design school. The goal is to fuel the research passion of the awarded women and inspire career paths in their respective STEM2D fields. Johnson & Johnson is looking to identify global women leading in both their research fields and leading as mentors, to be a vision for girls and other women in STEM2D.



### NIH Office of Research Infrastructure: S10 Grants



**ORIP's S10 Instrumentation Grant Programs** support purchases of state-of-the-art commercially available instruments to enhance research of NIH-funded investigators. Instruments that are awarded are typically too expensive to be obtained by an individual investigator with a research project grant. Every instrument awarded by an S10 grant is used on a shared basis, which makes the programs cost-efficient and beneficial to thousands of investigators in hundreds of institutions nationwide.

S10 awards are made to domestic public and private institutions of higher education and non-profit domestic institutions such as hospitals, health professional schools, and research organizations. To be eligible for an S10 award, an institution must identify three or more Principal Investigators with active NIH research awards who demonstrate the substantial need for the requested instrument. **Applications are due the first week in June** each year. These grants require a lot of planning, so it's something to consider when contemplating NIH funding.

Awards are issued for one year, and matching funds are not required. However, ORIP expects institutions that compete for S10 awards to provide an appropriate level of support for associated infrastructure, such as space to house the instrument, technical personnel, and post-award service contracts for instrument maintenance and operation. Types of instruments supported by S10 funding include, but are not limited to X-ray diffraction systems, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometers, DNA and protein sequencers, biosensors, electron and confocal microscopes, cell-sorters, and biomedical imagers.

Please contact Ann Serra at [serraam@udmercy.edu](mailto:serraam@udmercy.edu) if you are interested in learning more.

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## National Institutes of Health Offers Regional Seminar

NIH's Regional Seminars are valuable biannual events that convene investigators, administrators and NIH staff to discuss wide-ranging research topics, including funding mechanisms, research integrity, data sharing, foreign collaborations, clinical trials, SBIR/STTR, and more. Dozens of NIH staff are available to network with attendees, highlight funding priorities, and answer questions.



This year, NIH will offer its popular conference online October 27-30. Registration is scheduled to open September 9th.

See <https://grants.nih.gov/news/contact-in-person/seminars.htm> for more information.

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## Colleague Development Day Goes Virtual with OSPRA



On August 17th Ann Serra presented the session: Partnering with OSPRA: Strategies for Successful Proposal Development at the annual Colleague Development Day. Successful proposal development is a multi-faceted process that requires coordination between principal investigators, funding agencies, and institutional staff. The presentation provided information, strategies, and examples of how to collaborate with OSPRA to take full advantage of all the resources the office has to offer. The learning objectives included:

- Know the process for engaging with OSPRA and the resources available through its website.
- Distinguish between the components of the grants life cycle including Prospecting, Budgeting, Pre-award, Award Acceptance, Post-award, Compliance and Technology Transfer.
- Describe the emerging focus on research development as part of a larger emphasis on building institutional capacity and individual research portfolios in a highly competitive environment.
- Understand common proposal components and terminology used in developing and submitting proposals to sponsors.
- Identify challenges and solutions for developing successful large-scale, collaborative grant proposals, the emerging importance of team science, and the role of the research administrator in facilitating these complex projects.

\*Slides are available on Blackboard

If you would like to bring this workshop to your department, contact Ann Serra at [serraam@udmercy.edu](mailto:serraam@udmercy.edu).

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## Find Funding on the Web

InfoEd SPIN is an extensive funding opportunity database which contains over 40,000 opportunities from more than 10,000 sponsors. By creating a profile, you can save searches and receive email alerts. Instructional videos are also available on the site. SPIN is generously funded by the Detroit Mercy Libraries. It's available through the OSPRA website, the Detroit Mercy Libraries database website, and also at [www.infoed.org](http://www.infoed.org).

Grants.gov is comprehensive resource for federal Requests for Proposals (RFP) or Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) across all government agencies. Federal grants support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA). On Grants.gov you will find everything you need to know about federal funding, which can be a bit daunting. Learning how to use the site's search feature is a nuanced skill. OSPRA is available for training, one-on-one guidance and transmission of grants.gov resources upon request.



Please feel free to contact OSPRA for help navigating grants.gov to find prospects that are worth your time.

Foundation Directory Online Foundation Directory (FDO) online contains over 108,000 U.S. foundations and corporate donors, over 3 million recent grants, and over half a million key decision makers. FDO can be accessed at [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org).

Contact Yvonne Lindstrom, Corporate and Foundation Relations at [lindstym@udmercy.edu](mailto:lindstym@udmercy.edu) for login information.

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## ReBuild Detroit Pilot Grants



The NIH-supported ReBUILDetroit programs have funds available for pilot projects (up to \$25K each) that are intended to be a catalyst for faculty to successfully submit full proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more substantive awards in subsequent years. Many faculty have found this to be a great way to both gain immediate funding and learn strategies that are useful for NIH submissions

**Letters of Intent (LOI) are due on Sept. 25th.** So that we may plan to provide you with the tools you'll need to submit a full-application, simply complete the form available at the following link: [https://waynestate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9WUMqfM6iBkXwtD](https://waynestate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9WUMqfM6iBkXwtD)

OSPRA in partnership with ReBUILDetroit PIs will host workshops on preparing your proposal for the pilot funds this fall. Faculty who have been past award recipients will be on-hand to answer questions. The process is designed to mirror the NIH submission requirements with the goal that faculty will be equipped to seek larger grants as a result of the experience gained. This includes going through the review process and receiving feedback from seasoned readers. This opportunity is only available to Detroit Mercy faculty and is thus less competitive than a regular NIH submission.

For more information about ReBUILDetroit visit <http://rebuildetroit.org>

For more information about the pilot process please contact Ann Serra at [serraam@udmercy.edu](mailto:serraam@udmercy.edu).

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## Recent Grant Awards

SOURCE	AMOUNT	PI/ PROJECT LEAD
MSP 2020 Campus Sexual Assault Grant	\$20,000	Chief Gallihugh
ED-GRANTS-121719-001 TRIO Student Support Services	\$1,265,160	Amber Johnson
National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease	\$203,387	Eric Krukonis
Quebec United States Grant Program	\$550	Lara Wasner
NSF 19-601 Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources (IUSE: EHR)	\$296,989	Jacob Kagey
HRSA-20-007 - PKG00257235 Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships (NAT)	\$30,000	Mike Dosch Greg Bozimowski
HRSA-20-069 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F Dental Reimbursement Program	\$234,322	Dean Mert Aksu
NSF20-526 S-STEM	\$998,476	Shadi Bani Ta'an; Mariam Faied; Rick Hill; Xiaohui Zhong; Jocelyn Bennett-Garraway; Megan Conrad
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,371,373</b>	

## OSPRA Workshops

- Friday, October 23, 2020 at 1:00PM: **OSPRA Proposal Processes**
- Friday, October 16, 2020 at 1:00PM: **Faculty Research Awards 2021**
- Friday, November 20, 2020 at 1:00PM: **Find Funding for your Project**

Register by contacting Ann Serra at [serraam@udmercy.edu](mailto:serraam@udmercy.edu).



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