



FAIRMONT STATE  
UNIVERSITY™  
Office of Sponsored Programs

Fiscal Year

2024

Sponsored  
Programs  
Annual  
Report

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

PREPARED BY  
THE OFFICE OF  
SPONSORED PROGRAMS



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amid our fast-paced, deadline-driven environment, we seldom take time to truly reflect on accomplishments and overall progress—aside from the deep sighs of relief when a mammoth proposal has been submitted or the brief moments of exuberant cheering when we receive the exciting news that a grant has been awarded, acknowledging that our hard work has finally paid off.

This inaugural annual report for the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) provides an opportunity to look back over the past year and celebrate the work of our office and the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and administration that directly benefit our campus community.

OSP is pleased to support faculty and staff in pursuing

grants to enhance current programs and develop new initiatives. Through the tremendous and visionary efforts of our faculty, Fairmont State boasts grants through the National Science Foundation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, NASA, WV Higher Education Policy Commission, and many other agencies.

Dedicated and enterprising staff have applied for and received funding to enhance student programming and activities. OSP appreciates the effective collaboration with the Fairmont State Foundation, Inc., to secure grants from corporations and private foundations, such as the Milan Puskar Foundation, the



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EQT Foundation, and Luttamus Communications and Security.

In addition to both the supportive and oversight roles OSP fulfills for all grants at Fairmont State, our office also often spearheads the development of proposals that have a broad institutional focus. This past year, we celebrated receiving the highly competitive Strengthening Institutions Program grant (Title III) as well as the development of a proposal for a TRIO Student Support Services grant, both through the US Department of Education. We celebrated the awarding of nearly \$7 million in

federal funding through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) process, while we simultaneously worked on eight new proposals totaling about \$32 million for the FY 25 CDS application cycle.

We are also pleased to highlight the ongoing success of the Falcon Mini-Grant competition. This internal competition was developed by OSP in 2021 to support a variety of campus needs while also fostering a culture of grantsmanship by providing opportunities for faculty and staff to gain experience in the proposal and award processes.

We celebrate these and other successes in this annual report. As we reflect on FY 24, we look forward with great anticipation to FY 25 and the exciting initiatives already underway!



# FY 2024 At a Glance

## Funding Breakdown

### External Funding

**\$13.2**  
MIL

Total dollar amount funded  
(Includes total amount for new multi-year awards)

**44**

Proposals awarded

**\$39.5**  
MIL

Total dollar amount submitted  
(Includes total amount for multi-year awards)

**60**

Proposals submitted

**32**

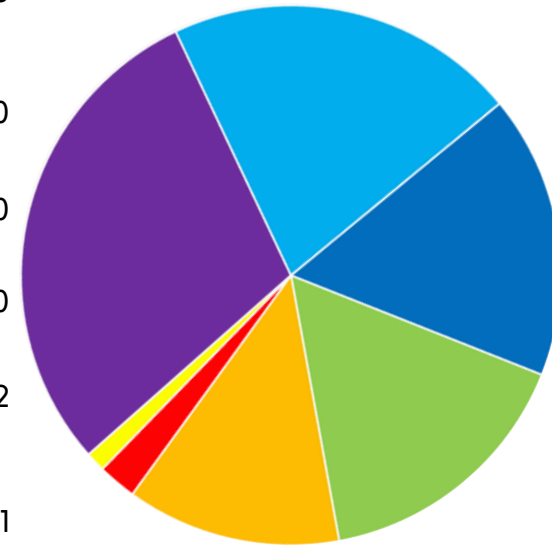
Unique Principal Investigators/Project Leads

**11**

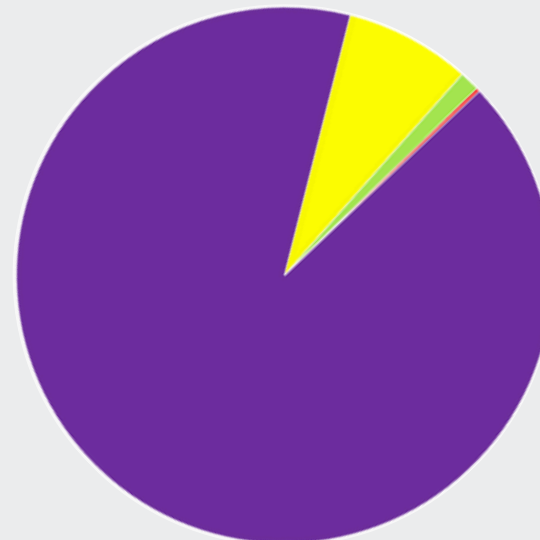
New Principal Investigators/Project Leads

College of Nursing	\$3,903,040
College of Science and Technology	\$2,788,833
Institution-Wide Programming	\$2,248,190
Library	\$2,131,000
Residence Halls	\$1,701,000
Other Academic Units	\$305,482
Other Campus Services	\$156,081

### By Area



### By Source

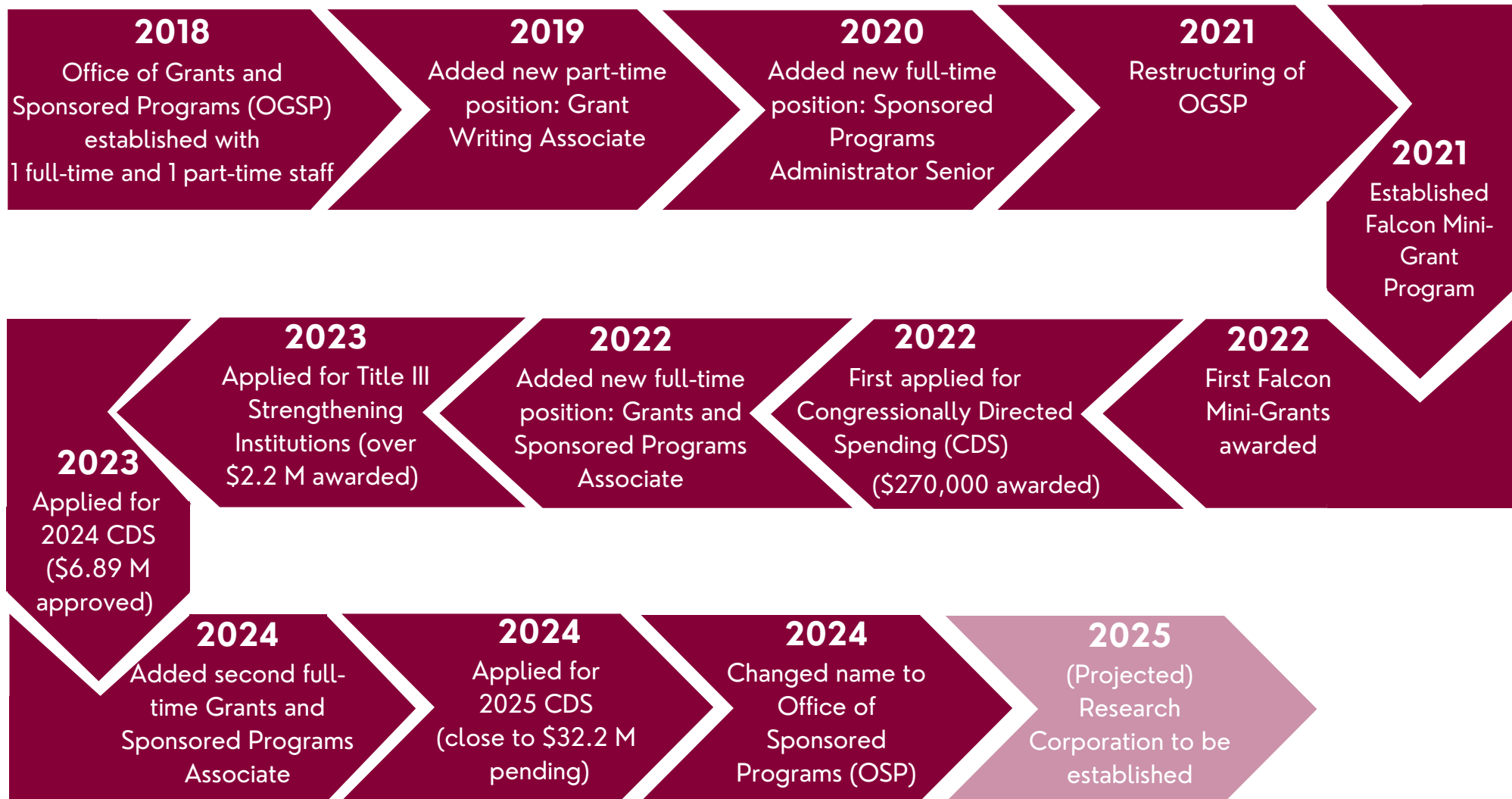


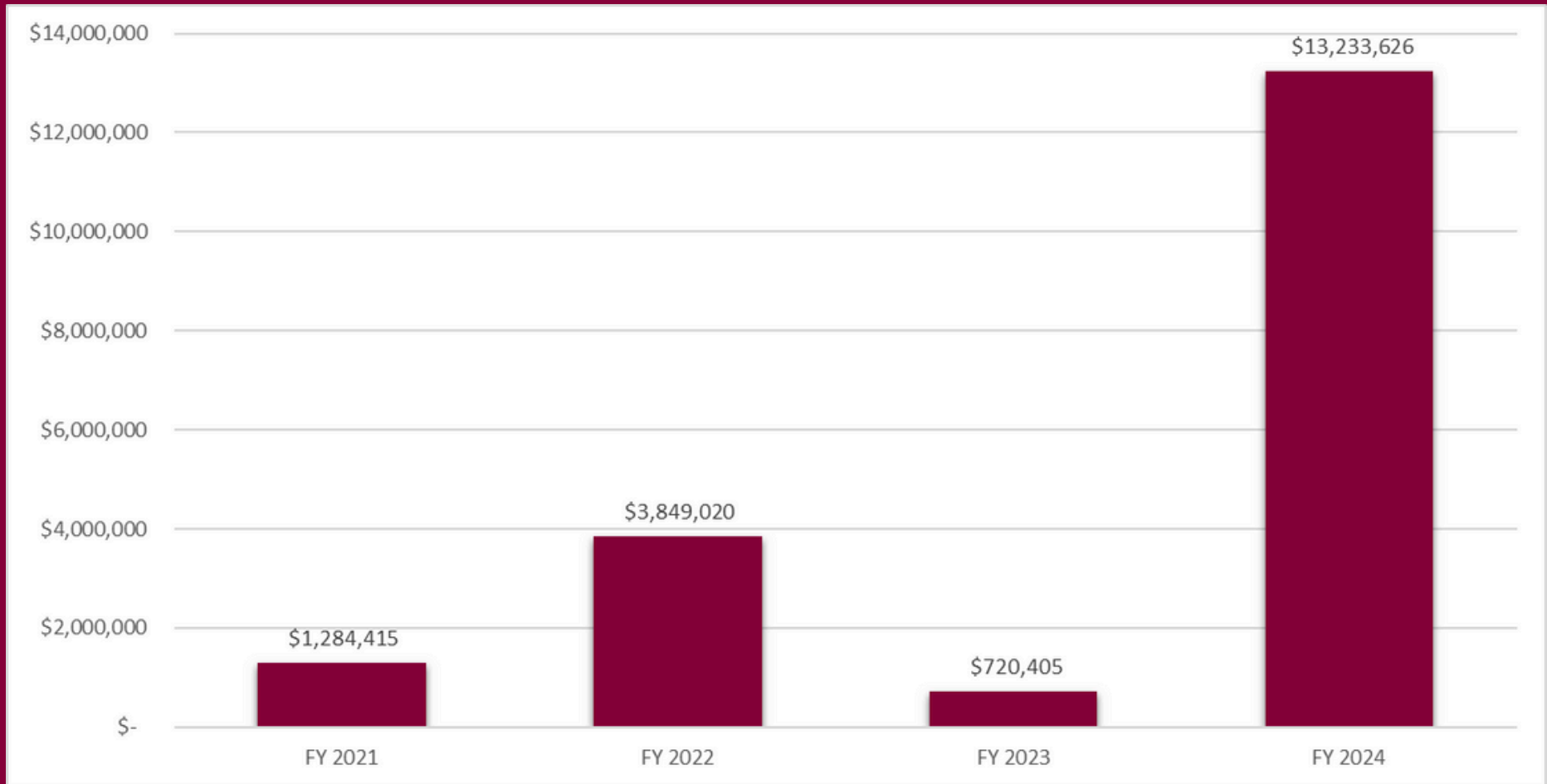
Federal	\$12,042,229
State	\$1,004,685
Private	\$161,714
Federal Pass-Thru	\$25,000



# Office of Sponsored Programs Timeline

The creation of the Office of Sponsored Programs (formerly the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs) in 2018 marked the re-establishment of a centralized, coordinated, and strategic approach to securing external funding on campus.





## New Funding Awarded by Fiscal Year\*

(includes total amount for multi-year awards)

\*Based on project start date



# PI IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DR. ROBERT NIICHEL

**Q: What got you interested in grant writing?**

**A:** As a mathematician, you know, our field is sort of esoteric. Pursuing these grants became a way to help people in ways that were tangible and meaningful to them. For instance, in the S-STEM program, we give scholarships to students and that's a way I can directly impact a student's life that I can't always in my ordinary job.

**Q: Why do you pursue grant-funded projects when it's an extra workload on top of your teaching commitment?**

**A:** I just wanted to pursue some other projects that would challenge me a bit more and provide something I could really sink my teeth into. I wanted to pursue solutions to practical problems that require connecting systems and thinking about how the world actually functions because, in the moment, solving those types of problems is

Dr. Robert Niichel, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in Fairmont State's College of Science and Technology (Sci-Tech), is an active faculty grant writer who is currently the Principal Investigator on three major STEM grants. OSP interviewed Dr. Niichel to get some insight into his motivation for pursuing grant funding.

unpleasant but when you get to the other side, there's a pretty rewarding feeling to it.

**Q: What advice do you have for other faculty seeking grants?**

**A:** Start small. The NASA Space Grants are good for those of us in Sci-Tech. If you can't start small, try to get some experience in a secondary position before being a PI. Be honest about your skills and abilities. Recognize you're going to need your colleagues to help you.

**Q: Is there a current or upcoming project you're excited to work on?**

**A:** I really enjoyed the Research Experience for Undergraduates this summer. This was our third year, and I had a really good group of



students that I personally mentored. A couple of my students were actually runners-up in the WVU Symposium. I also think the upcoming Appalachian Regional Commission grant has the potential to change the way the University interacts with the community a little bit, at least on the STEM front.

# FY24 Sponsored Projects

Principal Investigator	Area	Sponsoring Agency	Project Title/Description	Amount	
OSP	College of Nursing	Congressionally Directed Spending	Relocation and Expansion of the Nursing Simulation Center	\$3,059,000	7
Hemler, Debra	College of Science and Technology	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	NASA Education Resource Center 2023-2028	\$2,548,265	
OSP	Institution-Wide Programming	US Dept. of Education	Bridging the Gap for Underserved Students: Constructing a Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure for Student Success at Fairmont State University	\$2,248,190	
OSP	Library	Congressionally Directed Spending	Creating a Learning Commons at the Ruth Ann Musik Library: Phase 1	\$2,130,000	
OSP	Residence Halls	Congressionally Directed Spending	Security Upgrades	\$1,701,000	
Clayton, Laura	College of Nursing	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Fairmont State Nursing Program Expansion, Year 2	\$824,040	
Kirk, Joel	Other Academic Units	Air Force JROTC	Flight Academy	\$272,637	
Bamberger, Greg	Athletics	National Collegiate Athletic Association	Hiring an Assistant Director of Athletics for External Affairs and Resource Development	\$121,964	
Henson, Kristy	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Increasing Undergraduate Research Opportunities at Fairmont State University (SURE Grant)	\$66,165	
Townsend, April	College of Science and Technology	National Science Foundation	Fairmont State University Institutional Team Support for 2023-2024 (supplemental)	\$42,499	
Niichel, Robert	College of Science and Technology	Appalachian Regional Commission	Exploring, Bulding, and Developing: Industry/Higher Ed Partnerships in West Virginia (POWER Planning Grant)	\$34,604	
Hemler, Debra	College of Science and Technology	WV Dept. of Education	Elementary Earth and Space Science Literacy	\$31,000	
Owens, Barbara	College of Education, Health, and Human Performance	WV Dept. of Education	FY24 Professional Development Schools Partnership	\$25,845	
Eades, Lisa	College of Nursing	Milan Puskar Foundation	Caring for Our Neighbors and Beyond: The Underserved Population	\$20,000	
Sadowsky, Daniel	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Acquisition of a Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrometer to Support Laboratory Courses Across the Core Chemistry Curriculum	\$20,000	
Roof, Steven	College of Science and Technology	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	NASA WV Space Grant Consortium: Student Research	\$17,000	
Yoke, Heather	Other Campus Services	Truist WV Foundation	Financial Literacy	\$7,000	
Collins, Chelsea	Student Health	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Campus Mental Health Grant- FY24	\$5,000	
Collins, Chelsea	Student Health	Marshall University Research Corp.	Falcon 5 Resource Booklet	\$5,000	
Flood, Mark	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Opportunity Grant FY24 - Forensic and Analytic Chemistry Technology (FACT) Camp	\$5,000	



# FY24 Sponsored Projects

Principal Investigator	Area	Sponsoring Agency	Project Title/Description	Amount
Glenn, Mikaylah	Athletics	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Multi-Cultural Celebrations	\$5,000
Hemler, Debra	College of Science and Technology	WV Space Grant Consortium	Re-Discovering CATS Cadre Experts	\$5,000
Jividen, Caitlin	Student Services	EQT Foundation	Essential Support Initiative: Nourishing Student Success	\$5,000
Revels, Joshua	College of Science and Technology	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Going Global in WV with Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)	\$5,000
Sadowsky, Daniel	College of Science and Technology	Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh	Acquisition of a Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrometer to Support Laboratory Courses Across the Core Chemistry Curriculum	\$5,000
Ensign, Todd	College of Science and Technology	WV Dept. of Education	Robotics Support	\$3,000
Warren, Lydia	Frank & Jane Gabor WV Folklife Center	WV Dept. of Arts, Culture, and History	Sand and Fire: 200 Years of West Virginia Glass	\$2,000
McCormick, Jeff	Police Academy	Lauttamus Communications & Security	Police Academy Flagpole	\$2,500
Sharma, Ganga	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Attending American Association of Physicists in Medicine	\$2,300
Crihalmeanu, Musat	College of Science and Technology	WV Space Grant Consortium	Travel Funds for the Robotics Club	\$2,000
Warren, Lydia	Other Campus Services	WV Humanities Council	Sand and Fire: 200 Years of West Virginia Glass	\$2,000
Warren, Lydia	Other Campus Services	Library of Congress	Gerald E. and Corrine L. Parsons Fund Award Ethnography Fellow	\$1,032
Agee, Maria	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for 2201 Instructional Technology	\$1,000
Haney, Andrea	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for CHEP 3345 Needs Assessment Course	\$1,000
Haney, Andrea	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for 3350 Health Promotion and Planning	\$1,000
Lafferre, Tabitha	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for CIVL 3305 Hydraulics & Hydrology	\$1,000
Leary, Janie	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for CHEP 3000 Epidemiology	\$1,000
MacLennan, Barbara	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for GEOG 3315 Urban Geography	\$1,000
Richards, Aimee	College of Liberal Arts	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for COMM 2241 Argumentation and Debate	\$1,000
Sakaguchi, Sarah	Other Campus Services	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	Study WV Travel Grants: EPICS Travel to NAFSA Conference	\$1,000
Sharma, Ganga	College of Science and Technology	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for PHYS 1102 Introduction to Physics II	\$1,000
Sherman, Jacquelynn	Library	Network of National Library of Medicine	Falcons in the Night Sky	\$1,000
Stone, William	College of Business and Aviation	WV Higher Education Policy Commission	OER Course Redesign for MSBA 5600 Marketing for Managers	\$1,000
Warren, Lydia	Frank & Jane Gabor WV Folklife Center	WV Dept. of Arts, Culture, and History	Travel for WVDACH Arts Conference & Arts Day at the Legislature	\$335
Bamberger, Greg	Other Campus Services	Mountain East Conference	Academic & Life Skills Award	\$250

# Sponsored Project Highlights

- **Congressionally Directed Spending**

**Amount:** \$6,890,000

**Funding Agency:** Federal Appropriations

**Purpose:** To relocate and expand the College of Nursing's Simulation Center, launch the first phase of renovations to the Ruth Ann Musick Library to create a centralized "learning commons," and upgrade campus security systems

- **NASA Education Research Center (ERC)**

**Amount:** \$2,548,265 (over five years)

**Funding Agency:** Katherine Johnson NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V)

**Purpose:**

To extend the existence of the ERC, which promotes NASA IV&V's vision and mission by expanding opportunities for West Virginia's STEM students and educators



- **Title III: Strengthening Institutions**

**Amount:**

\$2,248,190

(over five years)

**Funding Agency:**

U.S. Department of Education

**Project Title:** Bridging the Gap for Underserved Students: Constructing a Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure for Student Success at Fairmont State University

**Purpose:** To support institutional capacity-building initiatives for student success, including the creation of a Student Professional Corps and the expansion of HyFlex courses

- **Summer/Semester Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**

**Amount:** \$66,165 over three years

**Funding Agency:** West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, STaR Division

**Project Title:** Increasing Undergraduate Research Opportunities at Fairmont State University

**Purpose:** To support undergraduate-led research within the College of Science and Technology and other departments with related research opportunities





● **Division II Strategic Alliance Matching Grant**

**Amount:** \$121,964 (over five years)

**Funding Agency:** National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)

**Purpose:** To create the Assistant Director of Athletics for External Affairs and Resource Development position in the Department of Athletics

● **Milan Puskar Foundation Grant**

**Amount:** \$20,000

**Project Title:** Caring for Our Neighbors and Beyond: The Underserved Population

**Purpose:** To support provision of healthcare services to community members in need by College of Nursing faculty and students

● **Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)**

**Planning Grant**

**Amount:** \$34,604

**Funding Agency:** Appalachian Regional Commission

**Project Title:** Exploring, Building, and Developing: Industry/Higher Ed Partnerships in West Virginia

**Purpose:** To investigate how university STEM departments can collaborate with economic and industry stakeholders to address the needs of Appalachia's changing economic landscape



● **West Virginia Humanities Council Mini-Grant**

**Amount:** \$2,000

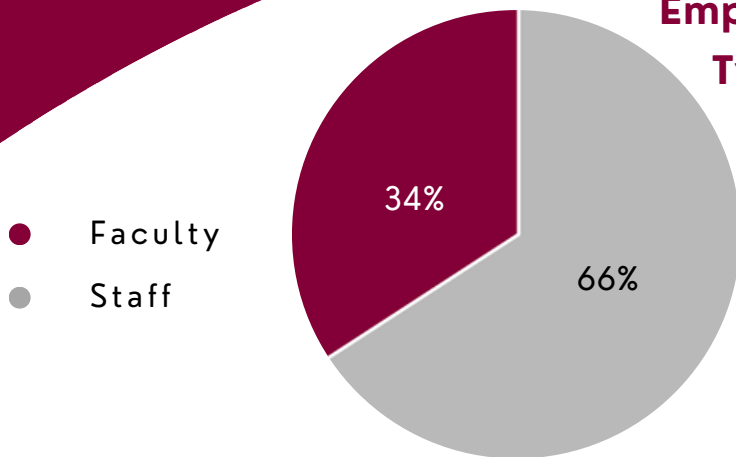
**Project Title:** Sand and Fire: 200 Years of WV Glass

**Purpose:** To curate and promote a WV Folklife Center exhibit highlighting how the glass industry led to significant economic development in West Virginia during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

# FALCON MINI-GRANTS FY 2024

Through the Falcon Mini-Grant program, Fairmont State employees can apply for institutional funds for a variety of initiatives to support the University's mission while fostering their grant writing skills. FY 2024 marks the fourth year since this popular program's inception.

**Awardees by Employee Type**



**Funding Range**



41

Projects funded

\$75K

Total dollar amount funded

22

Different units that received funding

23

New PIs this year



**CHRISTY BURNER**  
Director

Christy Burner, a proud first-generation Fairmont State alumna, has served as the Director of Sponsored Programs since 2021. She joined OSP in 2020 as the Sponsored Programs Administrator Senior as part of an organizational plan to build the capacity for administering grants on campus. Given her past experience as the Associate Director of Fairmont State's GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant through the US Department of Education, her leadership in the Office of Recruiting, and her experience supporting a number of grants in the College of Science and Technology as the Operations Coordinator, Christy brings a breadth and depth of experience both with the institution and with grants administration.

Carolyn Thele was hired in 2022 as the Grants and Sponsored Programs Associate. Prior to joining Fairmont State, Carolyn worked with several different nonprofit organizations, including the Homestead Farm Center of Grafton, WV, in programming, grant writing, and administrative support roles. In 2024, she served as a review panelist for the National Science Foundation. She currently serves on Fairmont State's Strategic Planning Process Committee.

**CAROLYN THELE**  
Sponsored Programs  
Associate

# Our Team



**AMANTHA COLE**  
Associate Director

Amantha Cole has been employed by Fairmont State since 2007, serving in a variety of roles in the former Office of Institutional Advancement, including Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations where she worked to secure funding from private sources. In 2012, she had the opportunity to expand her experience to include federal funding, assisting with the submission of and then serving as the Project Director for Fairmont State's second Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant (2012-2017). In 2018, she helped to re-establish a centralized grants office on campus. She is a proud first-generation Fairmont State alumna.

**ISABELLA TENNANT**  
Sponsored Programs  
Associate

Isabella Tennant is the most recent addition to the OSP team. She was hired in June 2024 as a Grants and Sponsored Programs Associate. Before that, she worked as a writing consultant at West Virginia University's Eberly Writing Studio throughout her undergraduate experience. From 2021 to 2024, Isabella taught English at East Fairmont High School, serving on the technology and discipline committees. In her current position, Isabella works with the OSP team to draft the bi-weekly newsletter, media releases, and various other texts generated within or out of the office.





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Office of Sponsored Programs

## Contact Us



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