



# Western Oregon UNIVERSITY

## Sponsored Projects

### Fall 2021 Newsletter

#### Sponsored Projects News at a Glance

- Website updates
- 2021 proposal activity review
- Presentations and Workshops
- Meet the staff

#### Greetings

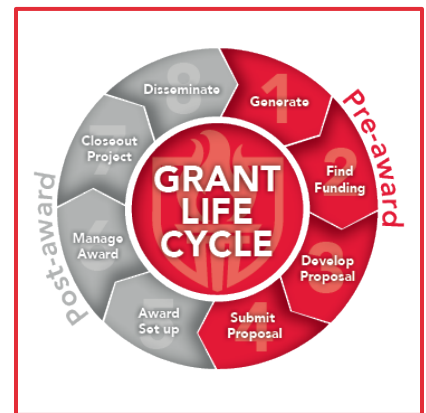
The Sponsored Projects Office at WOU is pleased to help bring in the 2021-2022 academic year. Our doors are open to all faculty, staff, and students Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00, or by appointment. Any grants and funding related concerns should be brought to the attention of the SPO.

#### Check out the Website!

Visit [www.wou.edu/spo](http://www.wou.edu/spo) to learn about the SPO process for submitting grant applications. The site includes a page containing the various forms needed, such as the Intent to Submit and the Routing forms, as well as forms for managing awards. Using the updated versions will help the SPO capture the data it needs to assist with proposal development and award management.

New guidance documents on the website will help grant seekers and grantees, such as **Roles and Responsibilities definitions**, and **Grant Cost Principles** which grantees will need to certify when new awards arrive.

The website also links to the [Research at Western R@W Blog](#) where you can read posts about WOU grants activities. During winter and spring terms, the SPO hosted an intern with the [WOU Community Internship Program](#). The intern wrote five blog posts about sponsored projects activities. The blog also contains helpful information for grant seekers, such as a [video presentation on how to submit a grant at WOU](#), for example.



If you are on twitter, please follow [@WOUresearch](#) to communicate and share the research and scholarship happenings at WOU. This is one way to help recruit students and interests in WOU.



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## 2021 Grant proposal activity: a year in review

In 2021, the SPO helped submit 68 proposals by 39 different faculty and staff members, totaling just under \$23 million. (FY 2020 saw 55 proposals worth \$20.7 million.) As of this writing, 41 of those 68 FY 2021 proposals have been funded, bringing \$11,776,607 in grants and contracts. That's a 59% proposal success rate and brings in additional revenue in the amount of \$1,715,753 indirect dollars the university can use to support faculty, divisions, and grants administration operations. Here are some highlights:



- Biology Assistant Professor [Dr. Gareth Hopkins](#) received \$9,971 from the [Oregon Conservation and Recreation Foundation](#) with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. His project “Conserving Oregon’s Native Turtles through Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Recreation” looks at how recreationists effect conservation efforts of freshwater turtles.
- The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences had a great year of activity and saw 21 proposals submitted. In addition to Hopkins, the [Biology](#) department had grants awarded to Drs. [Bryan Dutton](#) and [Ava Howard](#). In fact, the Division of [Natural Sciences and Mathematics](#) had two proposals from [Feier Hou \(Chemistry\)](#) and another award to [Dr. David Szpakowski \(Earth & Environmental Science\)](#).
- The newly formed [Western Restorative Justice and Re-entry Center](#) took off at a runner’s pace and saw a flurry of proposal activity. Both [Dr. Mari Sakiyama](#) and Center director [Dr. Vivian Djokotoe](#) were each funded by local counties to evaluate surveys and data to help make improvements in their systems.
- Drs. [Maria Dantas-Whitney](#) and [Kristen Pratt](#) had several proposals funded for increasing the number of bilingual teachers in Oregon. They were funded by the [Oregon Department of Education](#) for \$291K and parlayed that effort to get \$87K from the [Meyer Memorial Trust](#), and another \$24,405 from the ODE.
- [The Center for Early Learning & Youth Development](#) received five awards from the [Oregon Department of Education](#). [Candi Scott](#) received \$312,000 to support professional development materials for childcare providers. [Center Director Robyn Lopez-Melton](#) secured \$8,626,170 for four projects to provide training and resources to childcare providers.
- [Director of Academic Innovation Michael Reis](#) was funded by [Umpqua Community College](#) for \$70K to consult on instructional design. As a result, UCC has expressed interest in expanding the contract.
- Director of Smith Fine Arts [Lisa Schachter](#) continues to bring in grants to help grow creative arts events at WOU. She was awarded a [Shuttered Venue Operators Grant](#) from the Small Business Administration. The original award for \$30K has already been amended to \$45K.

The following faculty and staff served as project lead on **4 or more applications**: [Dr. Maria Dantas-Whitney](#), [Tammy Gardner](#), [Dr. Mark Girod](#), [Dr. Sybille Guy](#), and [Robyn Lopez-Melton](#).

FY 2022 continues an upward trend. **By October 2019, the SPO had helped submit \$1.1 million, by Oct. 2020, \$3.7 million, and by Oct. 2021, \$4.5 million!** Thanks to the faculty and staff grant seekers for going to the extra mile to help enrich the culture of research and scholarship at WOU. Their hard work will improve not only their own experiences, but also the experiences for their colleagues and their students.

## Presentations and Workshops

On September 21 during Fall Kick-off, Dean Hillary Fouts and Eric Dickey gave a presentation called **“What’s in it for me? Learn the (new) benefits of receiving a grant.”** The presentation provided an overview of recent WOU grant activity and the WOU grant application process, and highlighted WOU’s new [Distribution of Indirect Cost](#)

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[Recovery Policy](#). This new policy will distribute funds recovered from a grant's indirect costs to the Colleges, Divisions/Centers, and PIs that generated the grant. The recovered funds can be used to promote research and scholarship activities and help incentivize grant seeking.

The next **Write-to-Publish writing workshop** will be in early December. Join your colleagues and take advantage of having unstructured writing time. Past participants have gone on to publish articles, book chapters, and even negotiate book proposals. What are you waiting for? More info to come.

## Meet the Staff

Retirement announcement: Longtime WOU employee Lucinda Milligan has retired after 30 years. Lucinda's knowledge of accounting practices will be greatly missed.



### Dr. Hillary Fouts

Dean Fouts provides leadership and direction to the SPO, and advocates for research efforts at WOU.

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### Ashley Schaumburg

New to the SPO is Post-award Manager Ashley Schaumburg. Ashley comes to SPO after having worked in several units. Her extensive grants management experience has already become a great asset for WOU.

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### Tracie Wicks

Tracie is the new Accountant and provides support to the Centers at WOU. While new to the SPO team, she is a long-time WOU employee and an alum! Welcome!

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### Aaron East

As the Business Manager and Analyst, Aaron helps Centers, Institutes, and Programs manage their budgets and accounts, and provides overall business support for the SPO.

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### Eric Dickey

Eric is the Pre-award Administrator and is here to assist faculty in identifying their research and scholarship objectives, finding funding sources, and submitting grant applications.

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