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P.I. Spotlight:

Jamie Roscoe

Sponsored Programs Foundation Distributes $403K to HSU Research Community

Humboldt State University’s Sponsored Programs Foundation (SPF) is distributing $403,000 to faculty, staff, and departments this year, based on their grant activity. These funds are intended to stimulate and incentivize externally sponsored research. The SPF Board of Directors approved the funding at the September meeting. SPF is a non-profit auxiliary of the University, and it exists to administer externally funded grants and submit proposals to funding agencies on behalf of HSU. It receives revenue by receiving indirect costs in each proposal that is submitted through it.

Each year after SPF’s operating costs are met, previously unallocated indirect revenue is available to be distributed back to the campus research community. The purpose is to provide funding that can be applied to further research and student success at HSU. These funds can be used by faculty and staff researchers to expand opportunities for students to participate in undergraduate research, help identify and pursue potential sources of research grants, engage in scholarly and creative activity, or develop their research facilities.

The funds help to support the research goals outlined in HSU’s strategic plan, which include developing a campus-wide focus on externally funded research and to foster supportive collaborations for grant writing and research. Small distributions were made in two prior years, so this allocation is an important milestone for SPF.

Registration for HSU's 2016 ideaFest Now Open

The Office of Research, HSU Library, and MarCom, would like to invite you & your students to participate in the 3rd Annual HSU ideaFest!

More than 100 students and faculty from HSU’s three Colleges will showcase research, performances, digital projects, and more. HSU’s 2016 ideaFest will be held on Friday, April 22nd. If you or your students are interested in presenting, registration for ideaFest 2016 is now open! Click Here for more information or to sign up.
Pre-Award Corner

Are you interested in obtaining grant funding?

SPF is available to assist you at each step along the way. If you are looking for funding sources, please see our resources for finding funding available on our website.

Our Pre-Award Specialists

Erika Wright
(707) 826-5166

Pia Gabriel
(707) 826-5203

Winter Grant Submissions

The second half of fall semester is a busy time, and the holidays will be here before you know it… Are you thinking about applying for any grants with submission deadlines close to the holidays & winter break (December through early February)?

If the answer is yes, please come talk to your Pre-Award Specialist now, so we can create a realistic submission roadmap that takes your holiday plans into account, as well as the campus & SPF holiday closure periods.

“The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible.”

– Arthur C. Clarke

RSCA Awards Coming Soon...

The CSU Chancellor’s Office has designated Humboldt State University to receive $55K for the Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities (RSCA) Awards for distribution during the 15/16 fiscal year.

The Office of Research is now working with the Chancellor’s Office on plans for management & distribution of those RSCA Awards through a new centrally managed software tool called InfoReady.

We’ll be disseminating information on how you can apply for RSCA funding in the coming months. Stay tuned…

Faculty & Staff Brown Bag Research Forums

The Office of Research is once again hosting a series of Brown Bag Research Forums this fall.

Bring your lunch and join us for an interactive discussion regarding your research goals and ideas! Drinks, chips, cookies and the like will be provided. For more information Click Here.

Incentives Program for Proposal Development

The Office of Research is now requesting applications for assigned time funding for the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters, as well as funding for summer salary/overload pay during the summer 2016 session.

In accepting an Award, a Principal Investigator (PI) commits to develop and submit a full proposal for external funding through the SPF Pre-Award office.

Application Deadline to your College Dean: Friday, January 22, 2016
Background Checks for HSU Sponsored Programs

The California State University’s system wide Human Resources issued Policy 2015-08 went into effect August 3, 2015. It serves to incorporate new requirements and to provide a clearer understanding of CSU policy objectives related to background checks for state and auxiliary employees. Auxiliaries have the discretion to determine which positions are considered “sensitive.” HSU SPF will conduct background checks of all paid individuals and volunteers who are hired into sensitive positions on or after January 1, 2016 as defined below:

Sensitive Positions: Individuals who primarily work with minors or are responsible for the care, safety, and security of minors in their positions; or individuals with regular access to Level 1 Confidential Data which is defined as data that comprises identity, health and financial information that can lead to serious identity theft if exposed.

Costs associated with background checks will be incurred by the hiring grant/project associated with the individual. If the charge is deemed unallowable by the funding agency, the costs must be reimbursed by an appropriate trust account or other discretionary funding source. We understand there may be an adjustment period while current employees/supervisors become acclimated to the process. Please feel free to contact our office at (707) 826-4189 with any questions or concerns you may have. For more information Click Here.

Closeouts & Final Reports

The ‘Closeout’ of an award is the process by which SPF determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work of an award have been completed. During Closeout SPF is required to submit final administrative materials (invoices, reports, etc.) within the ‘mostly standard’ 90 days after the end date on awards. Often times the last component preventing ‘Closeout’ is the submission of the final report from the PI to the funder. When your final report/deliverable is complete, please be sure to submit it to your Grant Analyst as soon as possible; you do not need to wait 90 days. By closing out awards in a timely manner (or earlier than 90 days) it helps mitigate audit risks and streamlines the closeout process, saving both you and your Grant Analyst time.

Minimum Wage Increase 1/1/16

Effective January 1st 2016, the California minimum wage will be increased from $9.00 to $10.00/hr. This change also affects exempt employees. To be classified exempt, you must earn at least double the minimum wage, which will be $20.00/hr. after the first of the year.

If you have employees currently appointed at less than these new minimums, please contact our office before January to re-appoint those affected by this change. Additionally, our PI’s of Federal Awards need to keep in mind their employees working on Federally funded projects are subject to the Federal Minimum Wage of $10.10/hour.

Post-Award Corner

Our focus for Post-Award grants management encompasses three areas: training, monitoring, and reporting. Post-Award services provide support to your project throughout the life span of your grant.

Our Post-Award
Grant Analysts

Anthony Johnson
(707) 826-5164

Cece Torres
(707) 826-5167

Leslie Rodelander
(707) 826-5163

“Among the certainties of life are death, taxes, and the need to close out sponsored projects after the expiration of the award.”

— National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA)
$5 Million Blue Lake Rancheria Microgrid Project

Humboldt State University’s Schatz Energy Research Center, Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally recognized Native American tribe, and other major partners broke ground on Aug. 24 for a low-carbon community energy microgrid. Schatz Energy Research Center Founding Director Peter Lehman announced plans for a low-carbon microgrid that will be constructed at the Blue Lake Rancheria. The Blue Lake microgrid will be funded through a $5 million Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) grant from the California Energy Commission. Its development and construction will be led by Schatz Lab engineers and the Rancheria. Partners include Pacific Gas & Electric Co., international technology giant Siemens, Idaho National Laboratory, and REC Solar. To read the entire article click here.

$800K Baker Cypress Grant

Three Humboldt State researchers have secured an $800,000 grant from the Bureau of Land Management to study the rare Baker Cypress, and how fire suppression has limited its ability to reproduce. Roughly 800 acres are all that remain in 10 separate populations scattered across Northern California and Southern Oregon. David Greene has teamed with Jeffrey Kane (both in Forestry & Wildland Resources) and Melanie McCavour, (Environmental Science and Management) to conduct a 10-year study. To read the entire article click here.

$1.87 Million TRiO Award

HSU has received a $1.87 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund its Student Support Services (SSS) program, which helps low-income and first-generation students finish college.

HSU will receive $373,378 each year for the next five years. “We are excited to be able to continue to provide support to low-income students who will be the first in their family to earn a college degree,” said Dan Saveliff, director of the Educational Opportunity Program & Student Support Services at HSU. By providing guidance in the form of financial aid counseling, academic tutoring, and career tips, SSS helps students who are transitioning to college reach their full potential. To read the entire article click here.
Jamie Roscoe, Director of the HSU Cultural Resources Facility (CRF) and Principle Investigator on numerous projects, has received 36 successfully funded awards through SPF over the past four years. The Cultural Resources Facility, located in the Behavioral & Social Sciences Building on the HSU campus, works with a number of government and tribal agencies and individuals to study, preserve and manage the community’s cultural resources to ensure they survive for future generations. At any moment staff, student employees and volunteers at the facility might be surveying project areas for the presence of Native American ancestral sites or recording examples of local historic architecture.

To determine cultural significance, Roscoe, his staff and a number of undergraduate students, examine a project area. Through consultation with local tribes, site mapping, construction monitoring, historical research, and sometimes test excavation, the facility seeks to determine if sites are considered “significant” according to the California Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Although other campuses have similar contractual research programs, the level of undergraduate involvement at HSU is unique. “Our goal is to protect significant cultural resources,” says Jamie Roscoe. “From 5,000-year-old village sites to trails, roads and old mines, we complete a variety of tasks to identify and make recommendations to manage sites of cultural significance.” For more information Click Here.

We have had one heck of a good year! Thanks to all of you, our valued Principal Investigators and to the incredible staff in ORECD & SPF. We have had record successes. A huge accomplishment is the allocation of $403,000 in indirect revenue for uses related to research; this is a result of years of effort and planning. We also now have a $4Million Pre-award Checking Fund and we have increased proposal submissions and awards. The Chancellor’s Office is providing funding for Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities ($55,000) and we received two years funding ($500,000) from the Agricultural Research Institute for Ag-related research. We are submitting our first ever request to use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in research, and five of six student researchers received awards in the CSU Outstanding Research Competition. It has been the hard work of all involved. We look forward to providing you all with continued support as we work together to accomplish the goals of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan that call for increased and expanded research opportunities for all. Best wishes!
4th Annual P.I. Celebration at HumBrews in Arcata

This past October, staff, faculty and student researchers mingled while enjoying drinks and appetizers at the Office of Research’s 4th Annual P.I. Celebration. This yearly event is put on to show our support to all the campus researchers and staff who work on all facets of research rendered here at Humboldt State.

Dean of Research, Rhea L. Williamson, began the festivities followed by Interim Provost Kalikow and her words of encouragement. The evening consisted of four “TedTalk” inspired presentations by graduate student researcher Ian Kelmartin and Principal Investigators Matt Johnson (Wildlife Management), Amy Sprowles (Biological Sciences), and Frank Shaughnessy (Biological Sciences). Thank you to everyone involved and we hope to see you again next year!

Fun with Metrics…

With the release of HSU’s strategic plan, the Office of Research is looking at the University’s goals for the next five years as they relate to research. One of the objectives (4.3) aims to increase HSU’s external funding by 25%, increase grant proposal submissions by 25%, and increase grants over $25,000 by 30%. In assessing how best to meet those goals, our office routinely evaluates proposal & award metrics which can be quite inspiring. For instance, did you know…

- In just the first four months of FY 15/16, HSU SPF has routed 79 new proposals, requesting $18.2 million in new research funding
- In just the first four months of FY 15/16, HSU SPF has received 63 new awards, totaling $13.5 million

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<th>HSU SPF Highlights of the past 4 Fiscal Years (11/12 through 14/15):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals Routed</td>
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<td>1002</td>
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<td>Awards Received</td>
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HSU Students Big Winners at CSU Student Research Competition

Six HSU students were chosen as HSU’s 2015 Outstanding Student Researchers, and these students participated in the statewide CSU Student Research Competition in May. Three of the students won first place and two won second place in their divisions at the competition. This was an amazing result, since there were 200 presentations and only 38 awards shared among 23 campuses. First place winners received $500, and second place winners received $250. The following students represented HSU at the competition at CSU San Bernardino:

- **First Place**: Haley du Bois, Biological Sciences  
  Faculty advisor: Amy Sprowles, Biological Sciences
- **First Place**: Nathan Graham, Geology  
  Faculty advisor: Brandon Browne, Geology
- **Second Place**: Jairo Luque Villanueva, ERE  
  Faculty advisor: Andrea Achilli, ERE
- **Nominee**: Sylvia Nicovich, Geology  
  Faculty advisor: Mark Hemphill-Haley, Geology
- **Second Place**: Madelinn Schriver, Forestry & Wildland Resources  
  Faculty advisor: Rosemary Sherriff, Geography
- **First Place**: Joao Paulo de Sordi Curti, Forestry & Wildland Resources  
  Faculty advisor: John-Pascal Berrill, Forestry & Wildland Resources

All of the students competed based on their written summaries and oral presentations of their research. The level of competition was high, and all of the students gave outstanding presentations. The Office of Research, Economic & Community Development was proud to underwrite the travel costs of the students and their faculty advisors. Kudos to the students and their professors, who are examples of how student research is produced, supported, and promoted at HSU. A call for student research submissions will go out in late fall, 2015, and we hope to involve even more students in the next CSU Student Research Competition.

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**COMPLIANCE CORNER: Time & Effort Certifications**

HSU SPF must prepare the Time and Effort expended by individuals once they work one hour or more on a federally funded project. Time spent on individual projects is tracked and expressed as a percentage of one’s entire effort on campus. Effort Certification Statements (ECS) are compiled by the SPF Compliance Officer for the spring, summer and fall. If you receive an ECS, it should be reviewed for accuracy prior to being signed and returned. More information on HSU SPF’s Effort Certification Policy can be found here.

**CeNCOOS Oyster Conditions**

HSU CeNCOOS, under the direction of Frank Shaughnessy (Biological Sciences) in collaboration with local oyster growers, is proud to announce the release of the Humboldt Bay Oyster Conditions dashboard. The culmination of months of work between CeNCOOS developers, Humboldt Bay scientists, and shellfish growers, the product provides easy access to ocean information for the region’s mariculture industry. The new dashboard gives users access to real-time, historical, and some forecasts of relevant ocean parameters. A special thanks to technician Kyle Weis for his contributions in the development of this project.
The Office of Research wants to congratulate all of our PI’s and their amazing Staff on their many accomplishments and notable awards this year.