



# ACHIEVE

RESEARCH & GRANTS ACTIVITIES @ ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY • 7th Edition Volume 2 • Spring 2022

## Vice President’s Message

The Research & Grants Administration (R&GA) is happy to share the Spring 2022 issue of the R&G Newsletter. We hope this newsletter will play an important role in showcasing research & grant activities at RMU.

In this issue, we feature three grant applications submitted by RMU faculty from July to December 2021. A few grant applications are not listed due to their sensitive nature. The summaries presented here are in the Principal Investigators’ own words. Some of these applications have been awarded and others are pending. For this period, thirteen opportunities were discussed/explored and six proposals were submitted. Most grant proposals were written by our faculty and staff with support from Research & Grants Administration, and Financial Operations. As always, supporting institution data was provided by the Office of Institutional Research.

The Research & Grants Administration encourages all faculty and staff to pursue research and participate in various research & grants related activities. The R&GA is available to help you answer questions related to grant searching, writing, budgeting, and managing. Please contact us with your questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns.

Have a great Spring semester!

Sincerely,

**Sushil Acharya**  
*Vice President for  
Grants, Research, and  
Global Initiatives*



## ➤ Reimagining Nursing Initiative

### Grant Agency: **The American Nurses Foundation (ANF)**

The aim of the grant submission from the RISE Center, funded by the ANF is to pilot a program utilizing an AI platform from HealthStream technologies called “Jane” to assess baccalaureate prepared nurse’s level of competency upon graduation. The grant, if awarded will support efforts for the RISE Center to measure the impacts that quality simulation has on a nurse graduates’ ability to be “practice ready.” The grant will also allow us to provide professional development opportunities for RMU faculty/staff as well as others in the region searching for solutions to meet the demands of producing “practice-ready” nurses upon graduation. It is the hope that “The Reimagining Nursing Initiative” will ultimately unleash the potential of a diverse, dynamic nursing workforce to propel society into a healthier future. As many as 11 innovative pilot programs will receive three-year grants totaling a combined \$15 million. Pilots will implement bold, innovative, and risky (but not reckless) ideas within and across focus areas that will accelerate widespread transformation in nursing.



**Nicole Szalla**  
*Principal Investigator  
Director, RISE Center  
SNEHS*

### Grant Proposal Activities - July to December 2021



**Grant Opportunities  
Explored**



**Grant Proposals  
Submitted**

## ➤ **Analysis of Morphological and Material Properties of Plastics Due to Laser Welding**

Grant Agency: **Department of Community and Economic Development**

Associate Professor of Engineering Ben Campbell submitted a grant application to the PA Manufacturing Innovation Program sponsored by the Department of Community and Economic Development entitled "Analysis of Morphological and Material Properties of Plastics Due to Laser Welding" requesting \$68,358 from the state to match the pledged in-kind support from an industry partner, MECCO, valued at \$57,930. The funding would support RMU students to make test-samples and conduct laser welding experiments at MECCO's laser applications lab and send the samples out to a lab for material analysis to assess the quality of the weld. MECCO would also loan a laser at no cost to RMU for the duration of the program. The funding decision is expected by March 1, 2022.



**Ben Campbell**  
*Principal Investigator*  
Associate Professor of Engineering,  
SEMS



**Jacob Peng**  
*Project Director*  
Professor of Accounting,  
SBUS

## ➤ **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**

Grant Agency: **Internal Revenue Service via United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania**

Department of Accounting and Taxation has partnered with the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania to operate a volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) site for 2021 tax returns. The grant provides funding for paid internship for two students managing the overall activities of the site, and engages a group of volunteers who include students and members of the community. The program provides income tax preparations for low-income individuals and families. This year, the operation has expanded to include traditional in-person, virtual, and drop-off modalities and an additional site in Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall. Staff and student interns will be trained and certified by the IRS to complete foreign student returns, military returns, and advanced individual returns.

**In addition, three other grant proposals were submitted to CVS, NSF, & IFYC.**

### Contact us:

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