**RESEARCH**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Research Division has a bipartite mission: first is to facilitate the research, scholarly, and creative endeavors of faculty, staff, and students and second is to translate research and creative activities into a positive impact on the region.

**PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

The Office of Research promotes, encourages, and provides assistance for research, scholarly activities, and creative endeavors for all disciplines of the University faculty, staff, and students. The Office also facilitates the transfer of knowledge in the form of know-how, discoveries, creative works, inventions, and processes resulting from research and scholarly activities to the private sector to support economic development and improve the quality of life in the region.

Quality research and scholarly initiatives enrich the academic community at WKU and beyond to our broader constituencies. Basic and applied research enable the faculty, staff, and students to focus upon innovation and discovery and address needs of the local community, region, state, nation, and world.

The Office of Research, in support of the WKU mission and vision, provides leadership and support for programs, opportunities, and activities designed to promote:

* The research, scholarly, and creative activities of students, faculty, and staff;
* Significant and sustained increases in federal, state, local, and private research funds;
* Significant and sustained increases in private grant-supported research funds;
* Grant opportunities to support a comprehensive research agenda; and
* Grant opportunities to support the WKU Quality Enhancement Plan theme, “Engaging Students for Success in a Global Society.”

The Office of Research supports the educational mission of WKU, encouraging students and faculty alike to participate in the discovery process. The Office also supports the key mission of WKU in improving the quality of life including contributing to economic development. The Office of Research has a key role in increasing the reputation and impact of WKU. The Office holds firmly to WKU’s tradition of student centeredness and its vision of becoming “A Leading American University with International Reach.”

**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

University departments reporting to the Vice President for Research include the Office of Sponsored Programs, the Office of Compliance, the Center for Research and Development, as well as university-level centers for research and outreach.

**GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

The Research Division, working together with other WKU units, is responsible for leading, coordinating, and advancing the University commitment to research endeavors. To this end, the main focus of the Division will be to involve faculty, staff, and students in significantly increasing the research productivity of WKU. Specific goals for the division include:

* Focusing scholarly efforts on WKU’s priorities, including research funds with specific emphasis on increased production of publications, books, performances, and creative products;
* Increasing the number of faculty and staff who submit quality research proposals;
* Increasing the success rate for proposal funding by faculty and staff;
* Facilitating the growth of companies and commercialization opportunities through the Center for Research and Development;
* Facilitating the involvement of faculty and students in translational research and high-tech business;
* Increasing the number and amount of externally funded research grants awarded to WKU;
* Increasing the number of research scientists and other scholars working at WKU;
* Increasing innovation by faculty and students; and
* Increasing the local, national, and international positive impact of WKU.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

 **2010-11 Revised Budget\* 2011-12 Proposed Budget**

 **Pos. Unrestricted Budget Pos. Unrestricted Budget**

Educational and General

Personnel/Fringe Benefits 20.0 2,155,602 20.0 2,423,949

Operating Expenses 5,091,849 4,001,026

Student Aid 35,000 35,000

Capital Outlay 266,167 217,447

 Total Expenditures 7,548,618 6,677,422

Educational and General **Pos.**  **Restricted Budget** **Pos. Restricted Budget**

Operating Expenses 26,273,000 21,470,000

Student Aid 400,000 400,000

 Total Expenditures 26,673,000 21,870,000

\*For comparison purposes, the 2010-11 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization.