External Awards and Proposals

During fiscal year 2009, WKU received $23,690,258 in external awards. The dollar amount of awards received increased by $1,566,620 (7%) over the previous year while the 238 awards received was essentially the same as the 240 received in fiscal year 2008. Awards to the Ogden College of Science and Engineering totaled $12,749,465, an increase of 6.5%. Awards to the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences totaled $4,842,609, an increase of 21%. Collectively, those two colleges accounted for 74% of the total award dollars. Sixty-two percent of awards were from federal sponsors, with just over one-half of those (51%) awarded by four sponsors: NASA, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation. Research projects accounted for 46% of the award dollars received. Federal appropriations totaled $2,774,698, an increase over the $2,668,264 received in fiscal year 2008.

Indirect costs collected amounted to $1,706,632, which was an increase of $79,437 over the previous year.

The number of proposals submitted in fiscal year 2009 was down slightly, from 267 to 260, but the dollar amount of $63,203,816 requested was an increase of $10,623,701 (20%) over the previous year.

Internal Awards and Proposals

All of the academic colleges participated in the Faculty Scholarship Council’s internal awards program which includes New Faculty Scholarships, Regular Faculty Scholarships, and Summer Faculty Scholarships supporting direct research costs up to $4,000, $2,000, and $6,000, respectively. For Summer Faculty Scholarships, up to $5,000 of the award can be used for a summer stipend. Faculty Scholarships provide support for research and creative activity to promote faculty growth and enhance external funding potential. These awards support scholarship in its four forms — discovery, integration, application, and teaching — thus, they are inclusive of all scholarly activity by faculty regardless of the discipline. In fiscal year 2009, there were 25 New, 27 Regular, and 45 Summer Faculty Scholarship Applications, of which 20, 23, and 25, respectively, were funded. Many of the internally funded faculty scholarship projects resulted in publications, presentations, posters, performances, and other scholarly products. These projects also involved many collaborations among faculty both at WKU and at other institutions and provided opportunities for student engagement.

The Western Kentucky University Research Foundation, Inc. (WKURF)

The WKURF’s assets increased to $9,080,770. This amount represents an increase of $1,304,929 over the previous year.

The Applied Physics Institute receives a gift from The U.S. Department of Energy, a $2.7 million scanning electron microscope.
Annual Proposals and Awards Reception

The 2009 Office of Sponsored Programs reception to recognize faculty and staff for their efforts in seeking external support for research, service, instruction, and other projects was held on December 1. This was WKU’s first “green theme” ceremony or reception; it embraced the WKU sustainability mission by using seed-infused invitations that will produce a mix of wildflowers when planted, providing award plaques created by Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences students from regionally grown wood, using an electronic program instead of paper copies, selecting locally grown food as much as possible, using china plates instead of plastic or Styrofoam which would end up in a landfill. Award recipients will also be collectively recognized with the planting of a tree on campus to be marked by a plaque in their honor.

This year’s reception recognized the faculty or staff member from each college or division who received the largest dollar amount in a single grant award for the fiscal year. The award recipients were Dr. Wil Clouse, Gordon Ford College of Business; Ms. Colleen Mendel, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Ms. Lucy Juett, College of Health and Human Services; Ms. Carla Hinton Bond, Bowling Green Community College; Ms. Manon Partridge, Division of Extended Learning and Outreach; Dr. Phil Womble, Ogden College of Science and Engineering; Dr. John Hagaman, Potter College of Arts and Letters; and Ms. Linda Gerofsky, Other/Special Programs.

The award for the largest total grant award dollars for the fiscal year ($12,749,465) went to the Ogden College of Science and Engineering, as did the award for the college that achieved the highest percentage increase in grant award dollars over the previous fiscal year (up from $7,094,714 in fiscal year 2008, an almost 80% increase).

The award for the department that received the largest total grant award dollars for the year went to the Department of Physics and Astronomy under the direction of Dr. Keith Andrew. This department was also recognized for having the largest percentage increase in industrially sponsored contract dollars.

This year, three individuals were inducted into the one million dollar club for having reached the milestone of $1 million or more in external awards during their tenure at WKU. The new inductees were Ms. Becky Bennet, Career Services Center; Dr. Michael Carini, Department of Physics and Astronomy; and Mr. Michael Johnson, Student Support Services/Educational Enhancement Programs.

Five individuals were inducted into the 5 million dollar club: Dr. Andrew Ernest, Ogden College of Science and Engineering; Ms. Linda Gerofsky, Educational Television Services; Ms. Lucy Juett, South Central AHEC/Public Health; Ms. Charlene Manco, Educational Opportunities Center/Educational Enhancement Programs; and Dr. Roger Pankratz, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Sam Evans, Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, reached over 10 million dollars throughout his career at WKU, earning a spot in the 10 million dollar club.

Finally, 11 individuals were recognized as first-time extramural grant recipients: Mr. Clifton Brown, Department of Theatre and Dance; Dr. Aaron Celestian, Department of Geography and Geology; Dr. Bella Csaba, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Dr. Vladimir Dobrohotov, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Ms. Amy Eckhardt, Office of Scholar Development; Dr. Gary English, Department of Public Health; Dr. Heather Johnson, Department of Biology; Ms. Cindy Jones, Department of Consumer and Family Sciences; Dr. Hope Marchionda, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Dr. Dan Myers, Department of Economics; and Dr. Bud Schlinker, Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research.

Goals

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) at Western Kentucky University is a service unit that assists the faculty and staff at WKU in obtaining external funds. Assistance is provided across the entire spectrum of sponsored programs activities, from identifying a potential source of funding to reviewing the terms and conditions of awards made to the institution.

Sponsored projects increase the University’s capacity to make important contributions in the areas of faculty research and scholarship, excellence in teaching, student support and student services, and service to the community. Support for faculty research and service projects often increases opportunities for experiential learning as students are engaged in laboratory research, field projects, and community service. The involvement of faculty, staff, and students in sponsored projects represents an important contribution to the realization of the WKU vision of being a Leading American University with International Reach.
Dr. Vladimir Dobrokhотов
Assistant Professor of Physics

Dr. Dobrokhотов’s research interests are in nanoscience and include experimental and theoretical condensed matter physics, synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials, and sensor applications of one-dimensional nanostructures. He was awarded funds in fiscal year 2009 from NASA and the Kentucky Space Grant Consortium to continue his work on computational modeling of nanostructures.
Dr. Hope Marchionda, assistant professor of mathematics, will serve as the Principal Investigator on a $898,781 grant to WKU from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program for a program to increase the number of science and mathematics teachers. The grant will support a program dedicated to increasing the number of highly qualified mathematics and science teachers through a comprehensive recruiting and retention plan.
Dr. Rodney King (associate professor, biology) and graduate assistant Alice Wright research the human genome.
Faculty Scholarship Council

There were eight external grant proposals, one external grant award, seven posters, two manuscripts, 26 presentations, 26 student assistants, and 20 faculty collaborators at WKU and elsewhere among the 114 outcomes.

The Western Kentucky University Research Foundation, Inc. Total Assets

Amy Eckhardt
Director of WKU's Office of Scholar Development

Amy Eckhardt, Director of WKU's Office of Scholar Development, received a grant from the for The Chinese Flagship Institute Pilot Program. The Flagship is an intensive, four-year Chinese language program funded through a Diffusion of Innovation Flagship Partner Planning Grant from The Language Flagship of the National Education Security Program at the U.S. Department of Defense.
Free oral health screenings are offered through the mobile health unit.