

Research News

Updates from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Volume 3 | Fall 2018

In This Issue

About ORSP

P. 2

New ORSP Staff

P. 2

Fiscal year 2018 Submissions and Awards

P. 3

Question Corner

P. 3

2018-2019 Seed Grant Winners

P. 4

Coming Soon! Automatically Receive Your Budget Summaries

ORSP is implementing a new automated email system that will show a principal investigator's budget summary for their sponsored project. If you are a principal investigator, you will soon receive an automated email from ORSP once a month that shows your available budget and expenditures. For more information, contact ORSP at 569-8474 or orsp@ualr.edu.

Editing Services

A well-written grant proposal is key to a successfully funded project. Even if your ideas are compelling, a poorly written proposal can prevent you from being funded by a sponsoring agency. Because of this reality, establishing a strong relationship with an editor can help you organize your project's goals in a way that will catch the eye of funding agencies.

ORSP can help you create the best proposal for your project. The editor on staff, Lydia Perry, can assist you in all aspects of the proposal, from structuring your content to checking for grammar and punctuation issues. If you want to work with Lydia on your proposal, contact her at least two weeks before your deadline (leperry@ualr.edu).

A good editor will inspire you to communicate your ideas with clarity, help you define your goals, and show the uniqueness of your project.

New Grants.Gov Mobile App

Grants.gov has released a new app for searching and sharing federal funding opportunities on the go. Available for both iPhone and Android devices, the app allows you to search for grants by topics and funding providers. You can also subscribe to funding announcements that you want to save and receive notifications when they are updated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact ORSP at 569-8474.

Announcements

On July 1, UA Little Rock instituted a new federally negotiated Indirect Cost Rate. This new rate will remain in effect until June 30, 2022.

Please note the following rates for different types of activities:

Organized research and instruction **on campus** - 43.5%

Other sponsored activities **on campus** - 37.5%

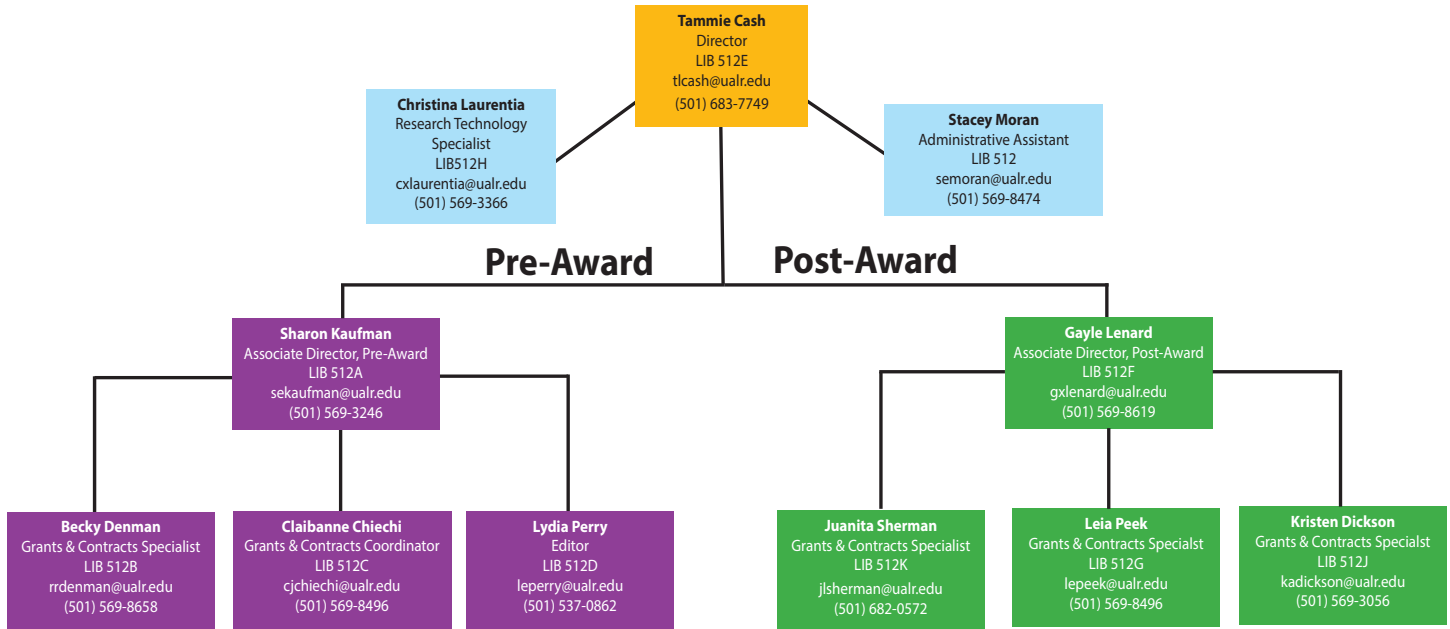
All programs **off campus** - 26%

Off-campus indirect cost rates pertain to all activities performed in facilities not owned by UA Little Rock and to which rent payments are directly allocated to the project's budget, then the off-campus indirect cost rate will apply to that specific criteria. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-site, then the off-site rate will apply to the entire project.



About the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is located on the fifth floor of Ottenheimer Library in Suite 512. ORSP offers grant management services for the entire lifespan of the grant. The director of ORSP reports to the Vice Provost for Research.



New ORSP Staff

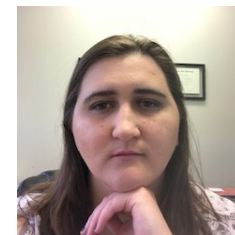
Claibanne Chiechi became the new grants and contracts coordinator for pre-award in June 2018. She previously worked for 21 years at UAMS in the research compliance and research regulatory departments. She received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics at the University of Central Arkansas. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, knitting, and learning Italian.



Lydia Perry became the ORSP editor in November 2016. Before this position, she worked in the proposal marketing department at Garver Engineers. She received her BA and MA in Professional and Technical Writing at UA Little Rock. While working on her master's, Lydia worked as a graduate assistant in the Center for Arkansas History and Culture. In her free time, she likes to make jewelry, practice guitar, sing in choir, and study photography.



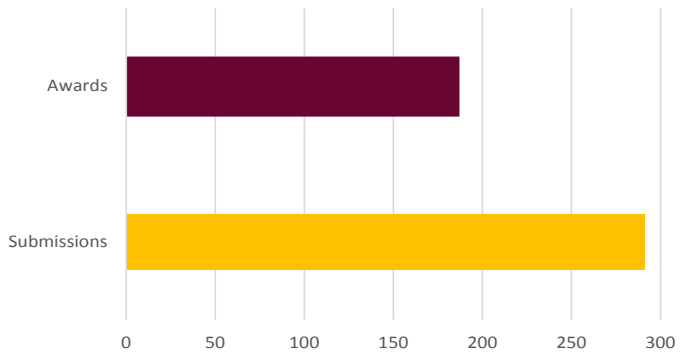
Kristen Dickson rejoined ORSP in 2017 as the grants and contracts specialist for post-award after previously working in the department from 2013-2016. Before rejoining, she worked for the Cooperative Extension Service. Kristen received her Master's of Business Administration from Henderson State University in 2010. Outside of work, she enjoys reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and going to concerts.



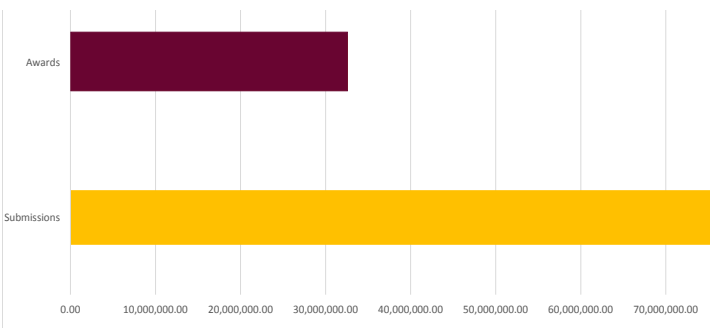
Fiscal Year 2018 Submissions and Awards

291 submitted proposals totaling **\$75,220,521**

186 awarded proposals totaling **\$32,634,330**



Number of Submissions and Awards



Submission and Award Dollar Amounts

Question Corner



Question

I need to use part of my federal grant award for travel expenses. How am I allowed to use my funds for traveling?

Answer

Anyone funded by the U.S. federal government is required to use U.S. air carrier services for air travel and cargo transportation. This rule is in accordance to the “Fly America Act” (U.S.C. 40118).

If you need to use foreign carriers, the U.S. government has entered into “Open Skies Agreements” that allow use of foreign air carriers for travel and cargo transportation.

You can find the list of Open Skies Agreements at the U.S. General Services Administration website. <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/travel-management-policy/fly-america-act>

Question

What is the Uniform Guidance?

Answer

The Uniform Guidance streamlines and monitors the federal grant process more effectively. These new policies offer guidance on federal awards; reduce administrative burden on the government; strengthen oversight of funding to discourage waste, fraud, and abuse; set standard requirements for award management across all agencies; and ensure the best use of award funds. Furthermore, eight OMB circulars will be consolidated into Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Highlighted Revisions

ORSP will keep faculty and staff apprised as we adapt university policies to comply with the new guidelines. For more information on Uniform Guidance revisions, visit <https://ualr.edu/orsp/new-omb-uniform-guidance/>

You may read the Uniform Guidance at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-26/pdf/2013-30465.pdf

2018-2019 Seed Grant Winners

UA Little Rock is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018-2019 Seed Grant Competition.

This year, the competition accepted research proposals in two tracks. Four out of six proposal submissions were awarded in Track A with funding capped at \$6,000. In Track B, two out of eight proposal submissions were awarded with funding capped at \$12,000.

The UA Little Rock Seed Grant Competition aims to kickstart compelling research projects that can later be funded by external support after the term of the seed grant.

Proposals were judged based on the significance of the research or creative activity, quality of the research plan, expected outcomes and direct impact to the community, strength of plan to seek external support, ability to enhance and acquire external support, and qualifications of the researchers.

The grant period for each award is from Aug. 16, 2018 to Aug. 15, 2019.

Track A

Name: Ann Childers and Lianfang Lu

Department: Mathematics and Statistics

Title: Placement and Retention in Developmental Mathematics at UA Little Rock

Name: Amar Kanekar and Joseph Williams

Department: Counseling, Human Performance, and Rehabilitation; Rhetoric and Writing

Title: Health Quest - A Training Simulation for Health Education Students and Workers

Name: Rebecca Glazier and Heidi Skurat Harris

Department: School of Public Affairs; Rhetoric and Writing

Title: Identifying Reliable Indicators of Instructor-Student Rapport in Online Classrooms

Name: Fusheng Tang

Department: Biology

Title: Osh6-Mediated Sterol Redistribution Extends the Lifespan

Track B

Name: Hirak Patangia

Department: College of Engineering and Information Technology

Title: An Experimental Investigation of a Faster Voltage Equalizer for a String of Batteries in Electric Vehicles

Name: Shanzhi Wang and Brian Berry

Department: Chemistry

Title: Investigation of the Pre-steady State of MTANs from *Borrelia burgdorferi*