We look forward to offering new services in the coming year as we expand our presence on the Westfield State University campus and web site.

This Opportunity Knocks newsletter will be issued every quarter and will offer Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP) newsworthy information relevant to pre- and post-award research administration, including announcements of upcoming workshops and important tips.

A "PI Portal" has been developed on WSU’s web portal to specifically address the needs of our faculty and all primary investigators (PIs). At present the portal includes links to key funding sources, but will be expanded to include more useful information, such as writing tips, links to agency specific support sites, and to University and federal policies and regulations.

Finally, a menu listing key forms and templates required for proposal submission is available on Odyssey under "Academic Affairs" in the WSU web portal, so faculty, librarians and staff have easy access to the most current forms and templates.

Any suggestions you have or would like to see in this newsletter are welcome. We look forward to serving you!

Louann D’Angelo

Welcome to Opportunity Knocks!

SPIN: A Customizable Grant Researching Tool

SPIN is a service subscribed to by Westfield State University through InfoEd, Inc. It contains solicitations from both public and private sources. Faculty and staff at Westfield State University who are interested in accessing SPIN may contact the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP) for directions how to register, or may go directly to the GENIUS component of InfoEd to create a profile for themselves. After creating a profile, only opportunities that match your interests are sent to you. A SPIN "Getting Started" Powerpoint Presentation and A SPIN Users Manual (PDF) can be found on the Employee Resource tab in the WSU Portal in Odyssey under Academic Affairs. Training in the use of SPIN is available through the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs.
An IPI grant is offered to educators who identify, and apply non-traditional methods of instruction. Innovative pedagogy is student driven, and believes that alternative methods of instruction can co-exist with traditional methods i.e. lecture, drill, and test, in order to tap into a given student’s learning style or achieve a more interdisciplinary framework. Innovative Pedagogy believes education should be flexible and adaptive, and geared toward energizing, inspiring, and generating interest at the individual level.

A misconception is that an IPI grant is solely to incorporate state-of-the-art, or cutting-edge technology into the classroom. It can be that, but the focus is not on bells and whistles instead, it is in developing strategies which appreciate the diversity of our students, seek to be interdisciplinary, and recognize the existence of Gardner’s “multiple intelligences.” As we push ourselves to explore different methods of instruction, we push our students to become active learners, and facilitate the self-recognition in every one of them that they can learn, achieve, and become better citizens.

The total award available is $1500. Proposals should include a plan to share the results of the innovative pedagogical program with the campus community.

The Downtown Art Gallery was established through University and community collaboration and is aided by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Gallery’s mission is to energize local involvement in the arts, strengthen ties between the University and the City, while generating interest in the community of Westfield.

Partnerships have been solidified with such civic organizations as Noble Hospital, the Athenaeum, Westfield Business Improvement District, the Historical Society, and Westfield Public Schools. The Gallery is becoming a vigorous cultural resource while reaching significant milestones in its third year of operation. The Gallery has supported over 31 well attended exhibits by respected artists in many media. Opening receptions customarily draw an audience of 100 or more, monthly attendance of 300, including frequent visitors from the Boston area. The Gallery recently hosted The New England Watercolor Society Exhibit and is recognized as a “must see” gallery space.
Innovative Pedagogical Initiatives Awards for Fall 2011

Seven IPI Grants were awarded during the Fall 2011 term.

1. Carsten Braun, Geography and Regional Planning; to attend the Fourth International Conference on Ubiquitous Learning, in November, 2011 in Berkeley, CA.

2. Marijoan Bull, Geography and Regional Planning; to attend the Center for Digital Storytelling Workshop in January 2012.


4. Sophia Sarigianides, English; for a project entitled “Thinking Adolescence: Teacher and Student Conceptions of Youth in the ELA Classroom.”


6. Teresa Fitts, Movement Science; for a project entitled “Your Move: Using game based learning to enhance teaching and learning.”

7. Brian Jennings and Volker Ecke, Mathematics; for a project entitled “Writing an Inquiry Based Modern Geometries Course.”

About the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP) is the University’s clearinghouse for proposals submitted by all faculty, staff, and librarians of the University as well as the recipient of all grants and contracts awarded to the university.

The OGSP is the liaison to the granting agency on matters of contract negotiation, certifications, assurances, and compliance, etc.

Westfield State University guidelines require that all proposals to external agencies exit the institution through the OGSP after budget review by the OGSP director and approval of the Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs. The Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs is the university’s official authorized person to sign grant and contract agreements on behalf of the institution.

For more information please contact Louann D’Angelo, Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs at 572-5622.

Discovering the Art of Mathematics

Julian Fleron’s “Discovering the Art of Mathematics” is an NSF/Harry Lucas supported project in which he and his colleagues, Christine von Renesse, Volker Ecke and Philip Hotchkiss are creating a library of Inquiry-based Learning Guides for Mathematics in Liberal Arts. These guides provide accessible, yet intellectually challenging mathematical explorations. In addition to the guided discovery approach, each guide provides connections between the mathematics and the arts, philosophy, history, humanism and culture. These books being conceived will contain connections between current research such as the Millennial Problems, historical moments, popular cultural, and philosophical trends. One of the goals for this project is to make the materials as easily accessible and affordable as possible. To this end, draft materials in PDF format (either full versions or completed chapters) for each book, have been posted, on their website, http://artofmathematics.wsc.ma.edu.

“As we push ourselves to explore different methods of instruction, we push our students to become active learners, and facilitate the self-recognition in every one of them that they can learn, achieve, and become better citizens.”
The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs is the department at Westfield State University responsible for the solicitation and management of funding from external sources. This includes the identification, submission, post-award management, and compliance for various types of funding (i.e. grants, contracts, sub-contracts, cooperative agreements) from corporate foundations, private foundations, and public entities at the local, state and federal levels.

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FoundationSearch

FoundationSearch is North America’s leading source of fundraising information for non-profits and charities. This online resource from Metasoft Corporation includes more than 120,000 foundations, representing billions of dollars in annual granting, and includes tools to locate grants by type, value, year, recipient, donor and historical giving trends, and much more.

Along with BIG Online, FoundationSearch is a key resource for the nonprofit sector, and can help Westfield State faculty and staff efficiently identify and manage the relationships and resources vital to the fulfillment of WSU’s teaching mission. FoundationSearch has additional sections that can help development staff with identifying Directors (Director Connections) who volunteer their time at other non-profits.

FoundationSearch has many important features that make finding a prospect easier. Foundation Manager has an intelligent funder-selection system which applies researchers’ defined project funding needs to our database of over 100,000 funders and generates a list of “best prospects” for a project. In addition, Global Search can quickly generate a comprehensive list of information on any particular foundation, corporation, giving interest or issue. This will help you identify the best funding prospects by providing the full scope of all related activity and will be especially interesting to investigators whose interests transcend borders, including health, education, religion, social services and the environment.

Contact the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs to learn how to use FoundationSearch to help you find funding for your program or project at Westfield State.