

Grants & Sponsored Projects NEWSLETTER



Grants and Sponsored Projects

MARCH 2026

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Security Training Requirement

Federal funding agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Health and Human Services, etc.) require research security training as of December 2, 2025. All senior and key personnel named on proposals must complete the training before a proposal is submitted.

New Grant-funded Travel Policy

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects has released a new Grant-funded Travel Policy. More details about the change may be found on the Grants and Sponsored Projects [website](#).

For more announcements go to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects [website](#).

NIH Highlighted Topics vs. Funding Opportunities

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) uses multiple ways to communicate research priorities and funding availability. NIH recently issued [guidance](#) to clarify how these tools should be interpreted.

NIH highlighted topics are informational and signal areas of scientific interest across NIH. They do not include application instructions, deadline or budget guidance and are not funding opportunities. NIH funding opportunities, on the other hand, are formal notices that provide specific requirements for submitting an application, including eligibility, budgets and due dates. Highlighted topics help shape research ideas, while funding opportunities are the official mechanisms used to apply for NIH support.

Post-award Updates

CAYUSE — New Grant Management System Coming Soon!

Cayuse is FDU's electronic system for managing sponsored awards. The fund manager module supports award set-up, monitoring, reporting and closeout, helping ensure compliance, transparency and responsible stewardship of sponsor funds. The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects is currently seeking the input of faculty with current grants to serve as beta testers for this system. If you are interested, please email Melody Bobe-Galeano, sponsored program associate, at m.bobegaleano@fdu.edu.



Institutional Review Board (IRB) Updates

IRB 2026 Meeting Dates:

March 18 (Wednesday)

April 15 (Wednesday)

There are no meetings scheduled from May through August. Please refer to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects [website](#) for submission deadlines.

NEW Online submissions via JotForm coming in March 2026



Spring 2026 Dates to Remember

- **February 2026**
NSF EPIIC Seed Grant Launched – *applications open*
- **March 9, Monday**
Journal Club Back in Session
- **April 13, Monday**
“Know Before Your Spend” Mini Session



Please check the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects [website](#) for details.

RESEARCH FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Melissa Slavin, PhD

Assistant Professor of
Forensic Psychology
Marion Turpan College of
Psychology and Counseling

Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), this research focuses on adapting and testing a digital health intervention for reproductive-aged women involved in the criminal legal system who face substance-use disorders and unmet needs for contraception. The goal is to understand whether the intervention leads to meaningful improvements in substance use and safer sexual behavior.

The intervention uses cognitive-behavioral and motivational strategies to help women build practical skills including problem-solving, managing negative self-talk, navigating complex relationships, accessing substance-use treatment and contraceptive services and setting clear, achievable goals. This study is designed to support women in focusing on aspects of their physical and psychological health where meaningful change is possible, while navigating challenging environmental circumstances.



Yong Guo, PhD

Professor of Pharmaceutical
Sciences; Chair of
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Department
College of Pharmacy and
Health Sciences

The National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded research focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms of how polar molecules are separated in hydrophilic interaction chromatography.

The research aims to develop a quantitative approach to mechanistic studies, which has not been done before. The outcome of the research will not only advance scientific knowledge but also help develop a new tool to evaluate molecules of biomedical and environmental importance.



Kathryn Spence, EdD

Associate Professor of Educa-
tion; Director of the Peter Sam-
martino School of Education
Maxwell Becton College of
Liberal Arts and Education

The School of Education's Para-professional Alternate Route Education (PARE) Program, funded through the New Jersey Department of Education, examines the effectiveness of a "grow-your-own" teacher-preparation model that supports paraprofessionals with bachelor's degrees in earning teacher certification through Fairleigh Dickinson University's accredited alternate-route program. Focusing on two high-need New Jersey school districts, the initiative studies how targeted financial support, structured mentoring, flexible coursework and wellness resources influence certification progress, licensure readiness and early-career retention. The research aims to contribute evidence on strengthening local teacher pipelines while increasing workforce diversity and equity in high-poverty school contexts.



Douglas Evans, PhD

Professor of Criminal Justice;
Graduate Program Director
of Criminology and
Criminal Justice
Maxwell Becton College of
Liberal Arts and Education

Funded by the Clean Slate Initiative, this study examines how best to ensure individuals benefit from laws designed to reduce long-term barriers created by low-level criminal records.

Several states now automatically clear eligible records after individuals remain conviction-free for three to 10 years, yet many people are unaware that this relief has occurred. This research evaluates whether targeted outreach and broad public awareness efforts, including social media campaigns, are effective in notifying eligible individuals about their automatic record clearance and increasing the real-world impact of Clean Slate laws.

CONTACT US

Have something to share or an idea to suggest?

For feedback and suggestions email us at research@fdi.edu.

You may also reach us at 201-692-2095 or through our [website](#).



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