

# Grants & Sponsored Projects

## NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2026

### NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Prohibition on Collaborations with Restricted Entities

The NSF has issued guidance prohibiting certain collaborations with designated restricted entities. Faculty and researchers should review the requirements carefully when developing proposals or establishing research collaborations to ensure compliance with applicable federal restrictions. For more information click [here](#).

#### Helpful Reminders to Ensure Integrity of NIH-supported Research When Using Artificial Intelligence

The NIH has provided helpful reminders for researchers using artificial intelligence in NIH-supported research, emphasizing research integrity, transparency and responsible use of AI tools. Faculty and researchers are encouraged to review the guidance to ensure AI use aligns with NIH requirements and research integrity standards. For more information click [here](#)

#### FDU Research Fellows Program

The **FDU Research Fellows Program** is a new pilot initiative connecting undergraduate students with faculty mentors for meaningful, guided research, scholarly and creative experiences during the spring 2027 semester. Up to five full-time, tenure-track faculty members will be selected as Faculty Research Mentors. Selected research opportunities will be shared with undergraduate students University-wide, who will apply to the opportunities that most interest them. Applications are due by October 16, 2026.

To apply click [here](#).



#### Research Integrity Update: Generative AI in Research

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity (ORI) has released new guidance addressing the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in research and its potential implications for research misconduct. The guidance encourages researchers to disclose the use of generative AI tools in research and in the preparation of manuscripts and grant applications to promote transparency and reproducibility. Researchers are encouraged to review the guidance and remain mindful of disciplinary standards, sponsor requirements and institutional expectations when using generative AI in their research activities. More details can be found [here](#).

#### Fall 2026 Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, October 6**  
*National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Workshop*
- Friday, October 16**  
*Application Deadline: NSF EPIIC Seed Grant, Round 3*
- Friday, October 16**  
*Application Deadline: FDU Research Fellows Program*
- Sunday, November 1**  
*Application Deadline: Interdisciplinary Collaborative Grant Proposal Initiative*
- Friday, November 20**  
*Cookies and Chat with GSP Office (via Zoom)*



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

## RESEARCH FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



### **Christopher Stubbs, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Technology;  
Director of Center for Artificial Intelligence  
Gregory H. Olsen College of Engineering and Science**

This NSF-funded research tackles the agricultural crisis of 'stalk lodging,' where wind-damaged crops lose farmers billions of dollars in yield every year. We are using robotic 'plant exercise' platforms and advanced computer modeling to uncover how plants naturally adapt their stem structure to mechanical forces. This project aims to engineer more climate-resilient crops while providing hands-on research opportunities for our undergraduate students.



### **Zakia Clay, DSW**

**Assistant Professor of Social Work; Chair and Director of Master of Social Work Program  
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

Two Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded projects are helping build a stronger, more diverse behavioral health workforce for communities that need it most. Building on a previous HRSA award, one project expands training for professionals in integrated behavioral health care for high-need, high-demand areas, while the other prepares peer specialists to support youth and families navigating opioid and substance-use disorders. Together, these efforts aim to close critical gaps in access to care.



### **Andrea Cole, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Social Work  
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

Dr. Andrea Cole's research focuses on supporting youth and young adult mental health, especially those that have been impacted by community violence and continuous traumatic stress. She is currently the program director for the FDU STRONG grant, which was awarded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration. This grant funds the development and implementation of the Opioid Impacted Family Support Specialist certificate at FDU, an opportunity for undergraduate students to be trained as peer specialists serving youth and families impacted by opioid and substance-use disorders.



### **Naira Chaouch, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering and Civil Engineering Technology  
Gregory H. Olsen College of Engineering and Science**

River ice jams pose a serious threat to communities across northern watersheds, causing damages that exceed \$100 million annually. Naira Chaouch, assistant professor of civil engineering and civil engineering technology, is leading research on river ice monitoring and prediction using remote sensing, machine learning and hydrological modeling to address the growing challenges of ice-jam flooding in northern watersheds. Her research aims to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's operational capabilities and help communities prepare for extreme conditions.

## CONTACT US

*Have something to share or an idea to suggest?*

For feedback and suggestions email us at [research@fdu.edu](mailto:research@fdu.edu).

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



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