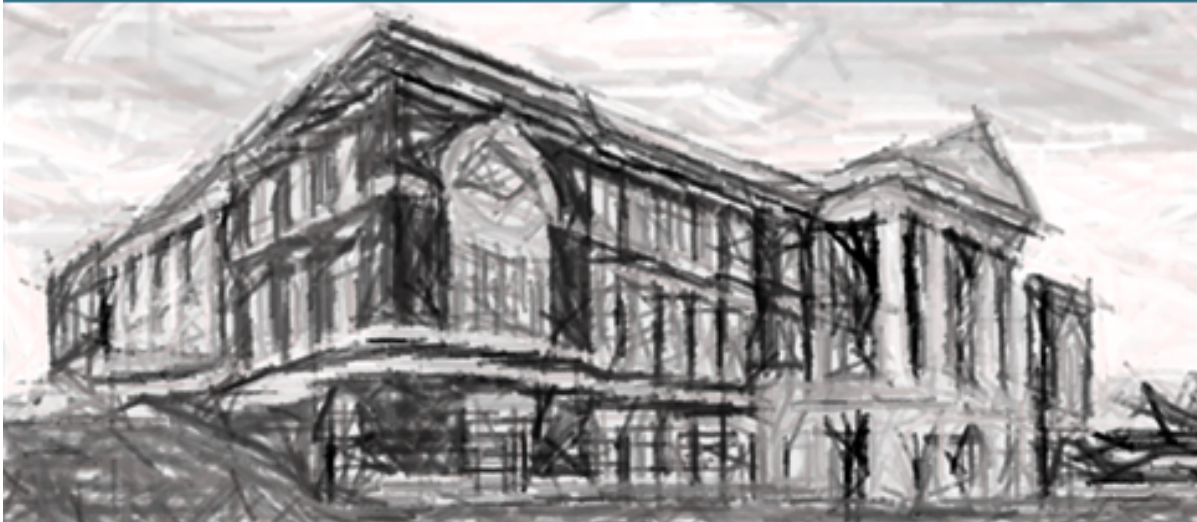




UNC CHARLOTTE

The WILLIAM STATES LEE COLLEGE *of* ENGINEERING

Contracts and Grants Office Newsletter



DURING REDUCED UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), THE CONTRACTS AND GRANTS OFFICE REMAINS FULLY OPERATIONAL. STAFF MAY BE CONTACTED BY EMAIL, PHONE, AND VIDEO CONFERENCE AS NEEDED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

Congratulations to Dr. Brigid Mullany, appointed as the first *Associate Dean for Research* in The William States Lee College of Engineering



The William States Lee College of Engineering has announced that Dr. Brigid Mullany will be the College's new Associate Dean for Research. Currently a professor in the Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science Department, Dr. Mullany will begin her new role for the College on February 1st, 2021.

Dr. Mullany is nationally and internationally recognized for her work in manufacturing and has extensive experience with industry and with federal agencies including the National Science Foundation. Her research interests include finishing of freeform surfaces, precision abrasive processes, and surface characterization.

"I'm honored to be selected for this role and am excited about the many opportunities it presents," Dr. Mullany said. "Within the College we are extremely fortunate to have faculty conducting research at the highest levels and excellent staff and students supporting these endeavors. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to develop new strategies and mechanisms that can accelerate the success of our faculty, and hence that of the College."

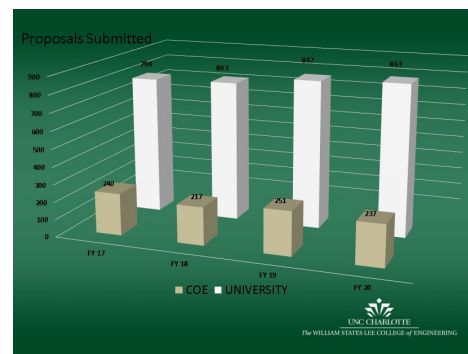
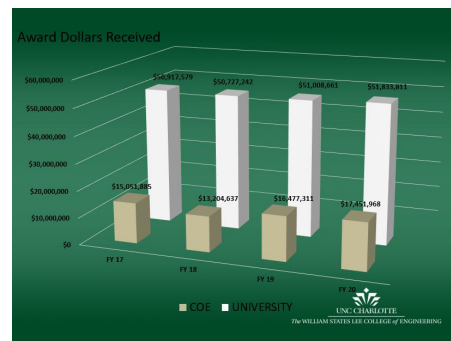
[Read More](#)

PROPOSAL AND AWARD ACTIVITY

The College of Engineering FY 21 (7/1/20 -12/31/20)

PROPOSALS Submitted:
106 for \$36,249,988

AWARDS Received:
65 for \$7,807,815



NINER RESEARCH
(will replace NORM)



Niner Research is a customization of InfoEd Global®'s enterprise-level eRA (electronic research administration) system. This system is currently live with

the Conflict of Interest module only. Other modules will become available very soon. [Details here](#)

Congratulations to Ms. Stacy Leotta on earning her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte!



Stacy is the *Associate Director of Sponsored Research* in the Contracts and Grants Office. Stacy works with the College of Engineering Faculty on proposal development and administration and recently celebrated her 5 year anniversary at UNC Charlotte.

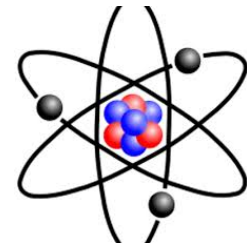
Please join us in celebrating Stacy's hard work and service to the University. We are so proud of you Stacy!

Congratulations to Darlene Booker on her promotion to Associate Director of Grants and Contracts



NUGGETS OF KNOWLEDGE

FUNDING RESOURCES



- **Pivot**, formerly the Community of Science, is a subscription service provided by the University for faculty and staff with research responsibilities. The most comprehensive global source of funding opportunities, Pivot offers searches for many funding types in all disciplines.
- The **Grants Resource Center (GRC)**, a unit of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, offers tools, services,

publications and expertise to help you secure competitive grants from federal and private sponsors.

- For any funding resource questions, please contact **Susan Robinson** by [email](#) or at 70-687-1869. [Details here](#)

HANOVER RESEARCH CONSULTING SERVICE

Hanover Research queues will be managed centrally by Lesley Brown and the Center for Research Excellent (CRE). This consulting service provides reviews of proposals and assists with the preparation of a complex, interdisciplinary proposal prior to submission. CoEN faculty should contact the [Contracts and Grants Office](#) for details about the priority. [Details here](#)

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. Mei Sun,

Assistant Professor, CEE

DOD recently awarded Dr. Sun a grant entitled "*Passive samplers for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances with innovative sorbents*"

This award has a **four-year duration** with a total of **\$887,556**.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic contaminants ubiquitous in the environment. The goal for this project is affordable and sensitive characterization of PFAS concentrations in surface water, with the results more representative for the temporal variation of the concentration patterns. The team will develop passive sampling devices with innovative materials, and validate/predict the device performance in both controlled environment in the laboratory and in the field. Successful implementation of the project will enable better sampling and analysis of PFAS in the environment, more accurate and precise assessment of the extent of contamination, and eventually improved and more cost-effective management of PFAS-impacted sites. **Dr. Frank Leibfarth (UNC Chapel Hill), Dr. Jia Niu (Boston College), Dr. Jinyong Liu (UC Riverside) are Co-PIs for this project.**



[READ MORE ABOUT DR. SUN'S RESEARCH](#)

Dr. Steven Schmid, *Belk-Woodward*

Distinguished Professor, MEES

Dr. Brigid Mullany, Professor, MEES

NSF recently awarded Dr. Schmid and Dr. Mullany a grant entitled "*FMNet: Future Manufacturing: A Network for Cybermanufacturing in Machining*".

This award has a **five-year duration** with a total of **\$500,000**.

The objective of this proposal is to convene the Machining and Machine Tool industry to roadmap future basic research needs in cyberphysical systems in order to dramatically improve the machines of the future. Drs. Schmid and Mullany lead a ten university effort, with an intent to leverage American strengths in mechanical engineering, materials science and computer software to transform American manufacturing. The goal is to use divergence to identify and plan for research initiatives that can be transformative in the machining industry.



[READ MORE ABOUT DR. MULLANY'S RESEARCH](#)

Dr. Jun Xu, Assistant Professor, MEES Western Michigan University (flow through funding from DOE) awarded Dr. Xu a Research Grant entitled "*Enabling Advanced Electrode Architecture Through Printing Technique*".

This award has a **three-year duration** with a total of **\$780,769**. The main goal of this project is to deliver a novel printing process at TRL-4 for high volume electrode production with precisely controlled electrode architecture. The objectives of this project is to enable manufacturing lithium ion batteries (LIB) with fast charging capability, while maintaining the cost competitive and required energy density.



[READ MORE ABOUT DR. XU'S RESEARCH](#)

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Mr. Austin Fifield

Lecture

Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Mr. Wayne Goff

Lecture

Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Mr. Ronald Graham
Lecture
Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Dr. Charles Jenckes
Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Dr. Bamdad Lessani
Teaching Associate Professor
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Dr. Dipankar Maity
Assistant Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Steven Schmid
Belk-Woodward Distinguished Professor
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Dr. Rachael Sherman
Assistant Professor
Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Mr. Benjamin Smith
Program Director
Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Dr. Elizabeth Smith
Assistant Professor
Engineering Technology and Construction Management

Dr. Artur Wolek
Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science

Dr. Lei Zhu
Assistant Professor
System Engineering and Engineering Management

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Research Administration Conferences

SRA INTERNATIONAL

Virtual Online Training: Basics of
Research Administration
2/4/21 - 3/11/21
Financial Management Conference:
A Virtual Academy

NCURA FRA & PRA VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

FRA 3/15/21- 3/17/21
Workshop 3/18/21 - 3/22/21
PRA 3/23/21 - 3/25/21