

MICUA — MATTERS —

The Newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association



VOL. 1
WINTER 2025

WWW.MICUA.ORG

MICUA Capital Project Requests for Fiscal Year 2026

During the 2025 Legislative Session, MICUA is requesting \$11.96 million in State matching capital grants to support campus construction and renovation projects totaling \$34.7 million at Hood College, McDaniel College, and Stevenson University. These three capital projects are directly related to the mission of each institution, and they support new construction and renovation of academic buildings used for innovative and high-demand academic programs and strategic initiatives of the institutions. The projects will be designed to maximize opportunities for student and faculty collaboration, and to promote and facilitate teaching, learning, and research. The projects are aligned with the Moore-Miller State Plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The State's \$11.96 million investment in fiscal 2026 will leverage nearly \$23 million in private resources and support 250 new construction jobs.

Hood College requests a \$4.0 million grant from the State capital projects program for fiscal year 2026 to support a \$16.6 million renovation project to repurpose the Hodson Annex which was constructed in 1927. The Annex houses the campus' original Central Heating Plant and Laundry. The proposed project will convert the interior space to teaching, research, and training laboratories and associated support spaces. Programs housed in the Hodson Annex will include the Biomedical Research and Training Center (BRTC), an NMR lab, cybersecurity labs, and associated support spaces.



Hood College's Hodson Annex

McDaniel College requests a \$2.96 million grant for fiscal year 2026 to support a \$5.92 million project for the renovation of Merritt Hall to accommodate four new academic programs: Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Neuroscience Minor in Psychology, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology. These funds will support McDaniel's response to addressing the goal of both the Moore-Miller State Plan (Objective 2.1) and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Pillar 2) to expand access to Pre-Kindergarten through the undergraduate major in Early Childhood Education.



McDaniel College's Merritt Hall

Stevenson University requests a \$5.0 million grant for fiscal year 2026 to support construction of a \$12.2 million addition to the Berman Family Performing Arts Center to accommodate a Music Performance Stage. With the addition and expansion of traditional undergraduate programs at the Stevenson University campus in Owings Mills, there was insufficient space to accommodate the university's Music and Performing Arts programs. The Berman Family Performing Arts Center project, which includes a Black Box theater, will provide much-needed facilities where hundreds of student performers, from band and music ensembles to theater and fashion majors, can connect, gather, perform, and forge a sense of community and belonging. The Center is expected to open in Summer 2026.



Stevenson University's Berman Family Performing Arts Center

Capitol Technology University Hosts Project Fair to Showcase Student Innovation

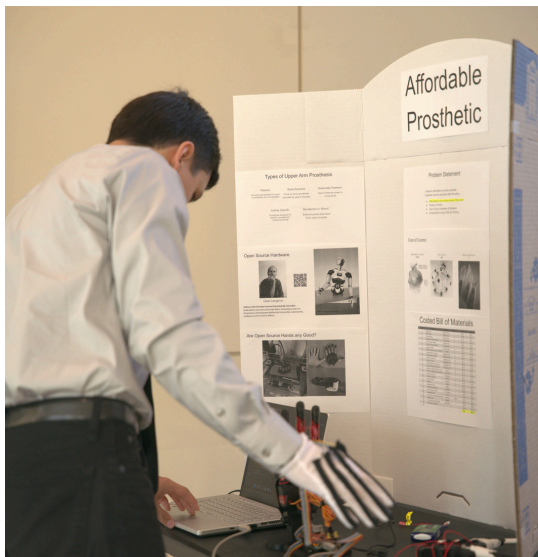


At the end of the Fall 2024 semester, Capitol Technology University hosted an Innovative Student Project Fair to showcase undergraduate projects.

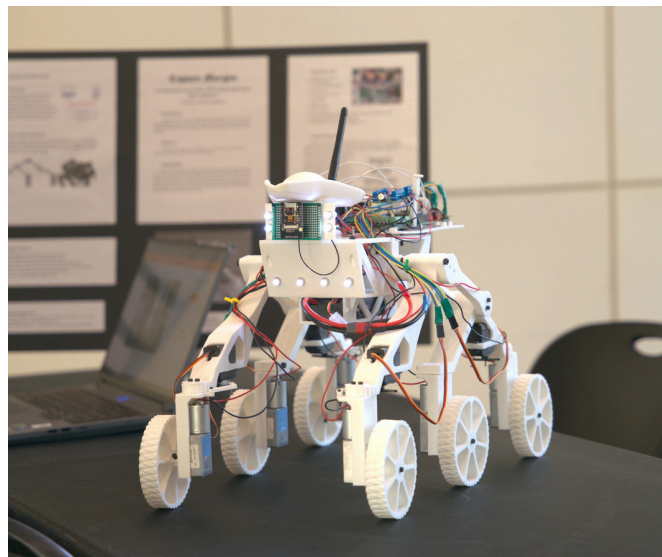
Through captivating demonstrations and intricate displays, Capitol Tech students provided a glimpse into the fascinating world of STEM they study at the University. The local community, tech industry representatives, as well as friends and family of the students were invited to attend for an engaging afternoon at the university campus in Laurel, MD. Computer science, cybersecurity, mechatronics, and engineering students demonstrated their complex project designs and application of knowledge gained from their coursework.

Presenters included sophomore Jacob Nussbaumer and his remote-controlled moon rover replica vehicle featuring 6-wheel drive and a point-of-view camera with a rocker-bogie suspension similar to that of NASA's Mars Curiosity Rover. Freshman Turner Howard presented his affordable robotic prosthesis design with intuitive controls intended to provide a more cost-effective alternative to traditional myoelectric prosthetics. These and the additional projects displayed at the event showed true aptitude and creativity by the students, as well as consideration for impactful ways to use what they have learned at Capitol Tech to give back to the community.

The Student Project Fair began in 2023 as an initiative of Dr. Mohamed Shehata, Dean of Academics and Chair of Engineering. Shehata's vision is to further develop this as an opportunity for students to understand the importance of practical technical skills to their career success in STEM.



Capitol Tech student Turner Howard demonstrates his affordable prosthetic project.



Capitol Tech student Jacob Nussbaumer's moon rover replica project.

Goucher College Launches Neuroscience Major

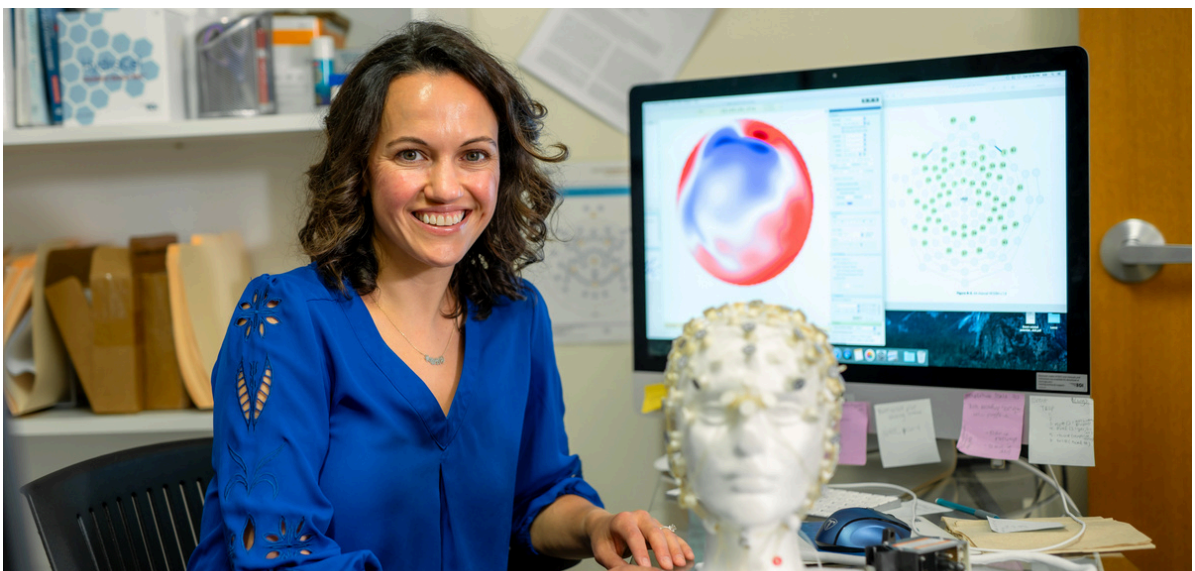
Goucher College has launched a neuroscience major, which provides students with an interdisciplinary path to explore the nervous system and its role in cognition, behavior, and physiological processes.

Through the lens of mind-brain-behavior relationships, students will explore questions about human nature, fostering insights into consciousness, perception, and interaction with the world.

“As our innovative Commons Curriculum forefronts solving complex problems, our new neuroscience major builds on that ethos, combining core classes and research in psychology, biological science, and data science,” said Elaine Meyer-Lee, Goucher College provost and senior vice president of academic affairs. “Many of our students go on to pursue graduate education, and Goucher’s small classes and hands-on faculty mentors support student success as they pursue their career goals and explore important scientific topics, which are globally and social justice focused.”

At Goucher, students will have the opportunity to participate in mentored research experiences, internships, and engagement with real-world issues while applying their classroom learning to practical situations and learning firsthand how neuroscience can be used to solve complex problems. For the neuroscience major capstone, students will either join a lab, where they will be closely mentored by a faculty member in neuroscience research techniques, or they will collaborate with a faculty mentor to conduct an independent research project. Students may also complete supervised internships at various placements around Maryland.

Goucher is currently developing a new science innovation center that will feature interdisciplinary learning environments and state-of-the-art labs, which will expand faculty and student hands-on research opportunities like Goucher’s Summer Science Research program.



Gillian S. Starkey, associate professor of human neuroscience at Goucher College, is helping to launch the new neuroscience major.

Hood College Names Inaugural Director for New Biomedical Research & Training Center



Hood College is proud to announce Rana Khan, Ph.D., as the inaugural director of its new Biomedical Research and Training Center (BRTC). The position was made possible with funding from the Maryland Department of Commerce's Maryland E-Innovation Initiative as well as private funding.

"I am excited to join the Hood community and eager to bring my skills to the table and contribute to the building of BRTC and help establish it as a leader in fulfilling the educational and training needs of the workforce in Frederick County and Maryland," said Khan.

Khan's contributions to launching successful education and training programs at the University of Maryland Global Campus and Yeshiva University highlight her passion and expertise in program development. In her role at Hood, Khan will draw on this experience to establish partnerships and create curricula and programs that meet the specific needs of aspiring students, current professionals, and industry partners.

The BRTC will be a vital hub for collaboration between the sectors of higher education, government and the biomedical industry, serving the heightened demand for highly trained biomedical professionals. The Center's programs will include specialized training modules, internship and job placement opportunities, and professional development workshops, all geared toward upskilling students and professionals alike.

Under Khan's direction, the Center will aim to forge strong connections between academia and industry, creating a pipeline of skilled talent ready to enter the workforce.



Rana Khan, Ph.D., inaugural director for the biomedical research and training center, poses outside of the Center's future home within the Hodson Science and Technology Center.



Johns Hopkins Volunteers Distribute More Than 500 Holiday Turkeys

Families and organizations in Baltimore benefit from employee donations.

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine hosted the 48th annual Vernon Rice Memorial Turkey Drive on Friday, Nov. 22, distributing more than 500 turkeys and 400 boxes of produce to Baltimore-area residents. The event was held in partnership with Mack Lewis Gym, Destiny Christian Church, 901 Arts, and St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

The outreach extended beyond individual families, with 16 local organizations also receiving turkeys and produce boxes. Some of the partnering organizations included the Men and Families Center, Sons of Phoenix, Comité Latino de Baltimore, Bayview Community Association, and New Shiloh Baptist Church in Turner Station.

The program was made possible through the generous contributions of Johns Hopkins employees, who donated nearly \$10,000. Johns Hopkins Development and Alumni Relations made an additional contribution to the program, demonstrating the unity and generosity of the Hopkins community.

The Vernon Rice Memorial Turkey Drive is named for Vernon Rice, a former JHU employee who launched his own unofficial charity effort in 1976. Vernon, a maintenance mechanic for the Homewood campus vehicle fleet, wanted to bring help to people in need in Baltimore.



Volunteers at the Turkey Drive



Loyola Students Launch National Public Health Campaign for Children With Pacemakers



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Fourteen Loyola seniors are launching a two-pronged national public health campaign to support children who have pacemakers.

The Pediatric Pacemaker Project (The PPP) features an informative website along with a strategic awareness campaign that aims to unite dispersed resources and information for patients, parents, and caregivers, including teachers. The campaign is also designed to raise awareness to build community and safety for those involved. The website is live, the direct mail outreach to pediatric cardiologists nationwide has begun, and the social media campaign across LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube started on January 1, 2025.

The PPP is the result of the work of students in Loyola's public relations and digital media capstone courses offered through Loyola's award-winning Department of Communication and Media.

"This campaign has been such an incredible experience to work on," said Catherine Kutson, a senior from Potomac, Maryland, who is majoring in communication and media with a specialization in advertising and public relations. "It's really inspiring to see all the work we're doing come to fruition to make a difference in people's lives—to help children with pacemakers live their best lives."

The student-developed website hosts a series of video interviews and infographics to raise awareness and make medical terminology around pediatric pacemakers more accessible. The site also has a "Triumphs and Tributes" page where supporters—such as family members and caregivers of children with pacemakers—can submit shoutouts. See the site at <http://www.pediatricpacemakerproject.org>.



Loyola's Fall '24 Senior Capstone PR students pose for a photo with Professor Tania Cantrell Rosas-Moreno, Ph.D., and her family—including her daughter, Scarlet (9)—after their final presentation and launch of the Pediatric Pacemaker Project campaign. Scarlet suffered a health trauma while an infant resulting in the need for her pacemaker and, through her experiences, is the inspiration for the project. Photo Credit: Tianna Lee, '26

Reclaiming the Walls: Mural Painting Course at MICA Tells a Different Story

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) students are transforming historical narratives through art. By creating vibrant counter-narrative murals that highlight Maryland's diversity and challenge exclusive colonial depictions, these students are fostering empathy, sparking dialogue, and reshaping public spaces to reflect a more inclusive and equitable vision for the future.

At the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), adjunct instructor Ernest Shaw led a mural painting course that challenged students to reimagine a colonial-era mural in MICA's main building, which presents a Eurocentric view of Baltimore's history. Students were instructed to design murals that amplify marginalized voices, celebrate Maryland's cultural diversity, and reimagine its imagery with vibrant, inclusive representations.

One of the four groups depicted the MICA community's diverse backgrounds, while another incorporated indigenous symbols and elements to provide a more comprehensive historical view. The murals, temporarily displayed in the Fitzgerald Building on Mt. Royal Avenue adjacent to the school, sparked community dialogue by showcasing how art can foster understanding. Through the process, students gained valuable experience using their work as a tool for social change. Shaw reflected, "We are not just painting murals; we are painting a more equitable and inclusive future."

Artie Sadahiro, a junior in the Ecosystems, Sustainability, and Justice program, shared, "This was an incredibly rewarding experience that opened my eyes to the art around me on campus and beyond. Every time I see [the original mural], I wonder how often other students notice they don't see themselves represented in it."

Babafemi Fatoki, a sophomore in the Painting program, discovered how art can foster a more inclusive and empathetic society. "Our mural reflects what MICA stands for today," Fatoki shared. "We wanted to show how different people with different backgrounds can unite and push each other to greater heights."



Students showcase their murals, highlighting the focus and approach they used to engage with the counterculture themes of the original artwork displayed in the University's main building. Photo Credit: M. Weiss

McDaniel College and LifeBridge Health Announce Landmark Partnership

MCDANIEL
COLLEGE

Leaders from LifeBridge Health and McDaniel College recently announced a landmark partnership that will combine the liberal arts with the technical knowledge and skills to prepare future nurses to practice in diverse health care settings. The partnership will address the nursing shortage in the region and will benefit McDaniel Nursing students and LifeBridge Health team members.

Students in the College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will now have early and frequent access to Carroll Hospital and other LifeBridge Health locations in the Baltimore area as their primary clinical site placement locations.

"We are eager to create a new model designed to create a long-term solution to address the critical need for nurses," said McDaniel College President Julia Jasken.

Beginning in fall 2026, McDaniel's Nursing students will attend classes and labs in Carroll Hospital's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Kahlert Foundation Simulation Center. The Kahlert Foundation also presented a \$2.5 million grant to the College to support McDaniel's Nursing program. The foundation had previously awarded a \$150,000 grant for the program's development.

In recognition of the partnership between the College and LifeBridge Health, President Jasken announced the establishment of the LifeBridge Legacy Scholarship for the children of LifeBridge Health employees who apply to and are admitted to the College. This guaranteed scholarship is valued at up to \$132,000, or \$33,000 annually for four years. LifeBridge Health also announced their CARE BRAVELY scholarships are open to McDaniel Nursing students if they commit to working in the LifeBridge Health system after graduation.



McDaniel President Julia Jasken and Greg Kahlert



McDaniel College Nursing Students



MSMU's Training Center Opens With Offering of Advanced Crime Analysis Course

The Advanced Law Enforcement Training Center (ALETC) in Mount St. Mary's University's Division of Continuing Studies began operation in January 2025 with the offering of an Advanced Crime Analysis course that will better equip crime analysts with skills to leverage data for strategic and tactical operations.

ALETC offers fully accessible talks, seminars, workshops and classes for advanced law enforcement skills development, including the use of recent technology, enhanced leadership skills, and a variety of specialized topics ranging from working with people with disabilities to the newest research and techniques on de-escalation. Taught by preeminent experts recruited from across the country, classes are geared toward practical skills that can be deployed immediately in the field as well as certifications, CEUs and college credits.

The hands-on Advanced Crime Analysis course, being taught synchronously online, provides deep technical training on efficiently navigating and extracting valuable information from core databases and beyond. Students will learn to automate workflows, scale outputs, manage and analyze relational data, perform complex queries, visualize data in Excel and Power BI, create paginated reports in MS Access, and use advanced Structured Query Language (SQL) to automate link charts with SQL and NodeXL. Upon completion of the semester-long course, students will know how to create automated analytics common in law enforcement.

Law enforcement and first responder participants enjoy a reduced partnership tuition rate on courses. For more information about ALETC, contact Joe Vince, lecturer in the University's Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice and Human Services, at vince@msmary.edu or Jack Trammell, Ph.D., department chair and professor in the Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice and Human Services, at j.k.trammell@msmary.edu.



The Advanced Law Enforcement Training Center (ALETC) Building

NDMU Awarded \$235K Federal Grant to Enhance Mental Health Support on Campus



Notre Dame of Maryland University was recently awarded a \$235,527 federal grant which will greatly increase the University's capacity to assist students in need of mental health services or substance abuse prevention and support.

The funding, to be distributed across a three-year period, was awarded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Suicide Prevention Grant. It will support Notre Dame's new Gator Hope Initiative, which will increase the Counseling Center's ability to serve undergraduate and graduate students at risk for mental illness, suicidality, and substance abuse.

"We are thrilled to receive this transformative grant, which will significantly enhance the mental health support available to our students at Notre Dame of Maryland University," said Dr. Marie Allee, director of NDMU's Counseling Center. "This funding will enable us to provide critical emergency mental health assessments, comprehensive training for our counselors in crisis intervention, and essential support for our faculty, staff, and students to help identify and refer students in need."

The Gator Hope Initiative will provide increased training for faculty and staff in identification and referral to treatment supports for students presenting with suicidal ideation or substance abuse issues. The initiative will additionally enhance NDMU's developing peer education program. Peer educators will have the ability to become certified through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and they will gain access to training which will help them develop skills to refer and respond to fellow students' needs.



Notre Dame of Maryland University Campus



ST JOHN'S
College

St. John's College to Cover Tuition for U.S. Students from Families Earning Under \$75,000

St. John's College recently announced a change to its financial aid policy to support students from families earning \$75,000 or less.

U.S. citizens and permanent residents who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), show total income of \$75,000 or less, and have typical assets are guaranteed to receive institutional and federal grants equal to or greater than the cost of freshman year tuition. Depending upon individual financial need, students may also receive grants, loans, and work study opportunities that reduce the cost of housing and food. After freshman year, unless income or assets change, the grants will remain the same. The policy will take effect for incoming students beginning in spring 2025.

"A key tenet of our College is an education for all, and we follow that mission by being a leader in affordability nationwide," says St. John's College Annapolis President Nora Demleitner. "While tuition costs often make an independent college seem out of reach for many, St. John's is committed to offering our distinctive and unique education to everyone, regardless of family resources."

St. John's is regularly ranked a "best value" because its tuition and scholarships make it one of the country's most affordable top liberal arts colleges. All applicants, domestic and international, are eligible for generous merit scholarships and need-based financial aid. A small number of full-tuition merit scholarships are available to top students applying Early Decision or Early Action. Dedicated funding is also available for Marylanders who want to stay in their state.



Johnnies show off their moves at the College's annual fall contra dance held in McDowell Hall.



The student-theater cast of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull," staged in October 2024 and directed by senior Margaret McConnell and sophomore Khanya Mnisi.

Stevenson and CCBC Partner on “Degrees to Succeed” Transfer Program



Stevenson University and the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) have partnered to offer transfer students a seamless and efficient path toward earning a bachelor’s degree through the new Degrees to Succeed program.

Degrees to Succeed provides students with the benefits of both institutions. Students start their coursework at CCBC and earn their Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree before transferring their credits to Stevenson where they can begin to pursue their bachelor’s degree as a third-year student. Additional benefits for CCBC students participating in the Degrees to Succeed program include:

- Co-advising with Stevenson University advisors to ensure CCBC courses align with Stevenson’s programs
- Stevenson accepts transfer credits from Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degree programs, as well as select Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree programs
- Potential financial incentives available for eligible students through Stevenson’s Transfer Advantage program
- Stevenson ID card allowing CCBC students entry to select events and activities

“We are excited to be the first independent university in Maryland to participate in the Degrees to Succeed program at CCBC,” said Elliot Hirshman, Ph.D., President of Stevenson University. “At Stevenson, we are dedicated to fostering student success and connecting students to their careers. By streamlining the transfer process, our partnership will help more students achieve their educational goals, succeed in their academic careers, and build a foundation for future success.”



Stevenson University President Elliot Hirshman and CCBC Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Joaquin Martinez shake hands after formally signing the Degrees to Succeed agreement between Stevenson and CCBC.

WAU Students Receive Recognition at National MUN Conference

A delegation of WAU Honors College students participated in the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) and earned an Honorable Mention for their work drafting and debating resolutions. WAU has been attending the NMUN conference since 2022 and this year marks the first time it has received one of the awards bestowed by conference organizers.

WAU students represented the country of Senegal during the conference and participated in committees including the General Assembly committees, the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). Students collaborated with representatives from more than 100 other countries to draft and debate resolutions on topics that included the impact of malnutrition on infants and children, addressing marine plastic pollution, addressing migration due to climate and the environment, addressing lethal autonomous weapons systems, and many more.

Shea Standish, a Senior Political Studies and Honors Interdisciplinary Studies major at WAU, served as the Head Delegate for the WAU team. "I am always thrilled to be at Model United Nations conferences," she said. "There is something invigorating about meeting with peers from universities all over the country to look at ways to solve real, global issues."

WAU Professor and Associate Director of the Honors College, Dr. Jonathan Scriven, liked the collaborative approach that delegates were taking at the conference. "Any time you can watch student delegates pushing each other to come up with better ideas, you feel good as a professor," he said. "That's the kind of thing we talk about in class all the time, so to see it in action is very fulfilling."

During the closing ceremony, the WAU delegation was announced as one of the Honorable Mention delegations, joining other schools in that category such as Clemson University, Lafayette College, Texas Christian University, Florida International University, and Baylor University. Delegations were selected for awards by committee Chairs and conference organizers based on performance during the committee sessions.



WAU Honors College students



Shea Standish and Kyle DeCastro during the lobbying phase of the ECOSOC committee

National Science Foundation Grants Awarded to Washington Professor will Fund Toxicology Research and Educator Resources



Washington College Professor of Biology Mindy Reynolds has been awarded two National Science Foundation (NSF) grants totaling \$139,861 to support her model program to provide undergraduate students opportunities to conduct original research and to mentor educators.

The NSF grants will fund projects that explore the effects of arsenic and phthalates, as well as develop resources for other educators to incorporate original research into their classrooms. Reynolds, a toxicology expert, encourages her students to conduct original research on topics such as vaping, caffeine, and what is in their haircare products. By studying these substances, students gain valuable hands-on experience and contribute to scientific understanding of their potential health risks.

One of the grants, totaling \$64,886, is a subaward from a larger grant going to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and will support the development of course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) kits. These kits will provide professors and educators nationwide with the resources to incorporate original research into their own courses. Reynolds hopes that by making CUREs more accessible, more students will have the opportunity to engage in authentic scientific inquiry. A second grant, totaling \$74,975, will fund a mentoring project to support science instructors at two-year colleges. Reynolds will work with a group of experienced educators to share evidence-based instructional practices (EBIPs) that can improve student learning and engagement.

Provost Kiho Kim noted that the grants speak to Reynolds' leadership in STEM education. "With these grants, Mindy will showcase how excellence in teaching and scholarship can be interwoven to provide transformational experiences for our students," said Kim. "Indeed, she is an exemplar of the teacher-scholar model to which all of us aspire."



Professor Mindy Reynolds in the lab with students

MICUA Members



Affiliate Members



TUITION EXCHANGE PROGRAM UPDATE FROM GOUCHER COLLEGE



Goucher College has expanded its Tuition Exchange program to include graduate programs!

Under this enhancement, all Tuition Exchange member schools' employees and their spouses are now eligible to enroll in graduate courses. This update offers new opportunities for professional and personal development.

For details, contact your institution's Tuition Exchange program coordinator.