

HHS Office of Research Annual Report, 2022-2023

Externally Funded Grants and Contracts

HHS brought in \$9.77 million in fiscal year 2022-2023. (See Figure 1 on page 5 for details.) The dollar amount is second highest of all other academic units on campus.

Campus wide, there are 20 departments/offices/centers that brought in over \$1 million dollars. Four of these are from within HHS.

- Nutrition (\$1.23 million)
- Social Work (\$1.06 million)
- Kinesiology (\$1.03 million)
- Human Development and Family Studies (\$4.96 million)

HHS Initiatives in 2022-2023

HHS Research Advisory Committee: The HHS Research Advisory Committee (RAC) members advise the Associate Dean for Research about a number of matters including the use of resources, research policies, and researcher needs. They also review internal grant applications and serve as the selection committee for HHS Faculty Research Grants and HHS Top-Off Funding Awards. The committee consists of seven faculty from HHS departments. The 2022-2023 members were: Lucia Méndez (CSD), Danielle Swick (SWK), Catherine Scott-Little (HDF), Lenka Shriver (NTR), Amanda Tanner (PHE), Laurie Wideman (KIN), and Sharon Morrison (PHE, HHS OOR Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research).

Summer Grant Writing Fellows Program (SGWFP): Unfortunately, there were too few applicants to justify offering the program in summer 2023.

HHS Faculty Research Grants (FRG) and Top-Off Funding Program (TOFP): Both the Faculty Research Grants and the Top-Off Funding Program began accepting applications in fall 2019. In the spring 2023 cohort, four multidisciplinary grants were funded. Three applications were received for the FRG funds, and one application was received for the TOFP funds. After review by the HHS Research Advisory Committee, all four applications were funded. Recipients of the HHS Faculty Research Grants were Emily Janke (PCS), Traci Parry (KIN), and Sudha Shreeniwas (HDF). The recipient of the Top-Off Funding Grant was Jared McGuirt (NTR). A total of \$20,000 was awarded for these projects. Funding for these was provided by the Dean's Initiative funding that was received from the UNCG Office of Research and Engagement (ORE). These mechanisms will continue to be offered in 2023-2024 if funding is available.

HHS Faculty Excellence Awards: The Faculty Excellence Awards winners were Ben Dyson (KIN) for the Senior Research Excellence Award, Maryanne Perrin (NTR) for the Junior Research Excellence Award, and Jocelyn Smith Lee (HDF) for the Community Engaged Scholar Award.

Scientific and Editorial Review of External Proposals: The Office of Research supported the external review of thirteen proposals involving seventeen different HHS faculty for a total of \$9,425. Funding for

this was partially provided by the Dean's Initiative funding that was received from the UNCG Office of Research and Engagement (ORE).

Special Projects Initiative: Through the Special Projects Initiative, we are able to provide funding for equipment, supplies, etc.; requests may be for internal bridge funding, seminar speakers, research equipment, research supplies, scientific software, or other research-related items. In 2022-2023, these Special Projects supported: 1) a campus-wide talk and networking event with a women's rights activist; 2) specialized furniture for an on-going research project; 3) scientific equipment for an on-going project; 4) scientific supplies for an on-going project; 5) funding to refresh the *In All Ways Human* mural which had been defaced; and 6) funding for the first Montagnard Dega Association (MDA) Annual Community Partners Conference held on June 10, 2023 in the School of Education Building with 100+ attendees from across Asian American and other refugee-origin communities and the UNCG community.

COVID-Impacted Grants/Contracts Funding Initiative: This one-time initiative was offered to support PIs of an externally funded contract or grant who experienced COVID-related delays that may have contributed to budgetary shortfalls for projects that were continuing into 2023-2024. Three faculty members received funding from this initiative.

Travel Support for Research-Related Training or Consultation Initiative: We provided support to three individual faculty through the Travel Support for Research-Related Training or Consultation Initiative. Two of these individuals attended workshops or conferences to increase their knowledge-base and hone skills needed for their respective research areas. Through this same initiative, we funded a proposal submitted Dr. Sandra Shultz on behalf of the Center for Women's Health and Wellness to host Dr. Sonyia Richardson during the Fall 2022 semester; Dr. Richardson presented a lecture on "Addressing Suicide Among Diverse Adolescent Girls with Community-Engaged Intervention Development." There was also a scholarly workshop and a networking lunch. Funding for this was partially provided by the Dean's Initiative funding that was received from the UNCG Office of Research and Engagement (ORE).

Research Networking and/or Team Building Initiative: Forging collaborations was the intent of the funding to support the Research Networking and/or Team Building Initiative. Three individuals were supported by this, and they applied as a research team for the funding. This collaborative and multi-institutional research team's proposed work is "to examine how recently transitioned student-athletes access services to support their mental and physical health after college and identify the barriers and facilitators to navigating healthcare". This funding will help the team continue to work collaboratively and to collect pilot data which will enable the team to pursue external funding opportunities.

Scholars' Travel Fund and HHS Scholars' Travel Fund: In conjunction with the Office of Research and Engagement, this provides faculty members with supplemental travel funds to support presentation of their research, scholarship, or creative activity, to serve as chairpersons, to participate as panelists, or to contribute in other appropriate manners at scholarly meetings. Fourteen HHS faculty members received funding from this initiative in 2022-2023.

HHS International Travel Fund: Given that international travel is quite costly, the HHS International Travel Fund was used to supplement the research-related travel of faculty. This funding allowed the individual to travel and represent UNCG on an international level. Through this initiative, we funded one faculty for international research-related travel.

Research Space Allocation: HHS maintains, allocates and supports a number of research facilities for faculty. Space in all of UNCG's buildings is very limited, so priority for the allocation and use of research space is always given to externally funded projects. Needs for space are identified at the time of proposal submission and brought to the attention of the Associate Dean for Research; all investigators are asked to send a formal request when proposals are submitted. When a project is funded, the Associate Dean for Research will work with the investigator to identify space options. Ten faculty are currently using this research space. The use of the space is re-evaluated each year, and the faculty are asked to re-establish their application for use of the space annually. It is worth noting that the HHS research space is aging and will need updates to furnishings and to facilities (paint, carpeting, etc.) in the near future.

Projects in 2022-2023

The HHS Office of Research will continue work on the equity audit of their programs, initiatives, and services to determine if there are ways we are being inequitable/maintaining status quo. The work on this equity audit began during 2020-2021 and will continue in future years. Here are some action plans set forth for progression of the equity audit. This is a fluid process; here is current thinking on the remaining phases, but we recognize this will evolve over time.

Phase 3, Identify priorities, set goals, generate strategies: Once results have been synthesized, shared, and discussed we will generate targets and efforts to achieve them. These steps may involve the HHS OOR Equity Audit working group, a reformulation of this working group, the HHS Racial Equity Task Force, the HHS DEI committee, HHS Executive and Chairs Councils, newly established entities, or some combination thereof. This phase will need to be reassessed as the other phases are completed as new priorities, goals, and strategies may emerge.

Phase 4, Implement strategies: It is difficult to comment on these until we know more. It may also be the case that we invite commentary on the plans prior to implementation. It may also be that strategies get phased in over time rather than all at once.

Phase 5, Evaluation: We maintain many internal records which will facilitate ongoing evaluation to some degree. We will need to decide how many years of data post implementation are needed to draw reasonable conclusions about the efficacy of new strategies. In addition, we may want to collect additional quantitative and qualitative data at some point.

We have initiated steps and have steps planned to continue this work; they are as follows:

- Communication (website). We have added a section to our website devoted exclusively to our EDI efforts; this section is entitled, '[Advancing Equity](#)'. It includes access to the background/history that led to the audit and all written reports. We plan to feature a visual depiction of progress made to date and future plans to implement the identified strategies. We will also work to visually display data annually about how we allocate financial support. Updates will periodically be disseminated via email on the listserv.
- Implementing additional strategies over time. We will continue to implement additional identified strategies over time as resources (both time and money) allow.
- Evaluation plans. We will continue to collate internal data about faculty applications/awards and other sources of support, and we intend to share data annually on the website. Every three years, we will replicate the quantitative analyses and collect additional qualitative data to see if our

efforts are beginning to move the needle and to identify needed course corrections. At that time, we will lay out the longer-term evaluation plan.

As identified by the equity audit, the HHS OOR mission statement was updated in 2022-2023 and is posted on the [OOR website](#) as follows:

The mission of the School of Health and Human Sciences Office of Research is to provide exceptional unit-based support services that equitably: (1) facilitate success with external grant/contract submission and management; (2) disseminate information about research-related policies, systems, and opportunities within the school, university and beyond; and (3) generate and manage resources designed to support faculty excellence in diverse approaches to research and scholarship. (Adopted 9/21/2022)

Dr. Sharon Morrison (PHE) was appointed as the inaugural HHS OOR Faculty Fellow for Community Engaged Research for a 2-year term beginning fall 2022. This position was created in direct response to results of the HHS OOR Equity Audit. In this role, Dr. Morrison works to identify the key community engaged research (CER)-related needs among HHS faculty and strategically work to address those needs (e.g., suggesting system/procedural changes in our current work, planning training activities for HHS faculty and their community partners, etc.) A [Community-Engaged Research \(CER\) page](#) has been added to the HHS OOR website to house CER-related resources and information.

Dr. Morrison will seek faculty input to guide CER enhancement initiatives. Dr. Morrison brings many assets to this role. She has conducted community engaged research in our region, alongside colleagues and students from UNC Greensboro and other regional universities, for over 15 years. In this work, she has sought to address social integration, cultural adaptation, and health challenges, and promote empowerment among refugee and immigrant groups. Specific projects have focused on topics such as hypertension among Montagnard adults, HIV/AIDS prevention among Latino and African immigrant women, maternal health issues among Bhutanese women, and the impact of COVID on minority, refugee, and immigrant populations. Dr. Morrison and her collaborators were instrumental in creating the Montagnard/Asian Community Disparities Research Network leading them to receive the Community Impact and Outcomes Award given by the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement in 2019. She has been a tireless advocate for community engaged research in HHS/UNCG.

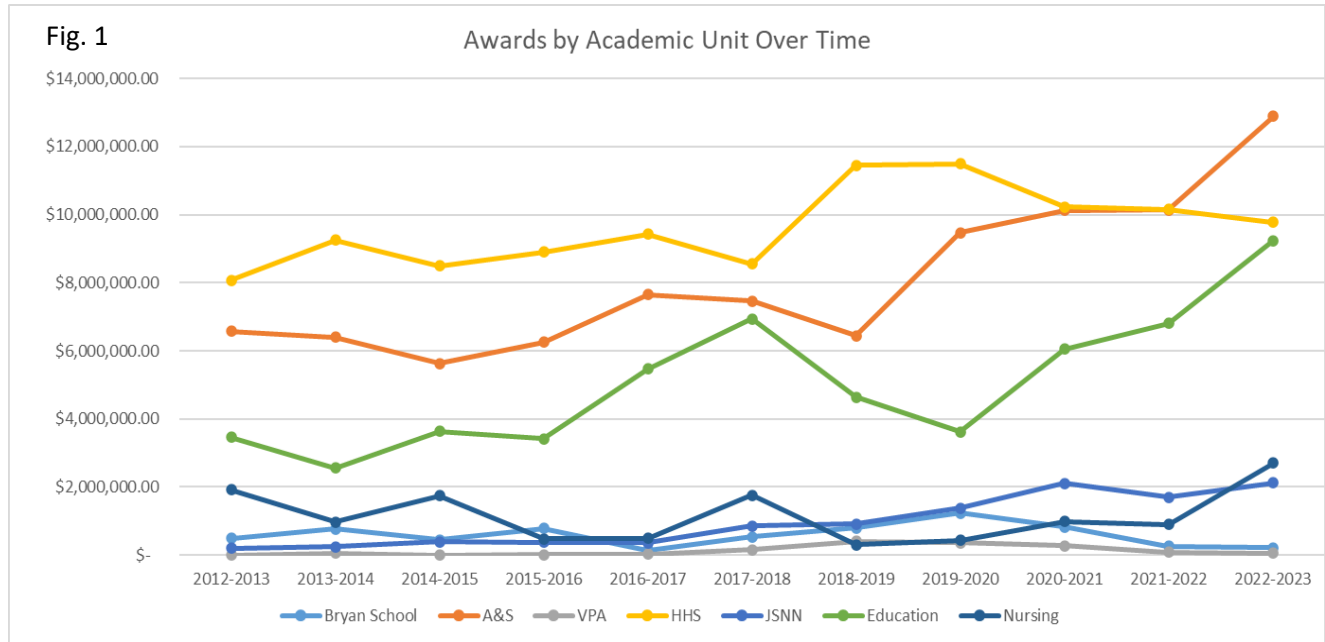
In conjunction with this CER Faculty Fellow position, Dr. Morrison and her graduate student, Dorcas Johnson, have created the *CER Dispatch* which is an ever-changing compilation of CER-related workshops/trainings/seminars/funding opportunities; the *CER Dispatch* is emailed to the HHS faculty and staff listservs on a monthly or semi-monthly basis. These emails are posted to the [CER section on the OOR website](#) for reference, as needed.

Additionally, Dr. Tamar Goldenberg (PHE) was named the HHS OOR 2023 Summer Faculty Fellow for Qualitative Research. The key deliverables for Dr. Goldenberg's summer work were: (1) generating one or more sample NIH Data Sharing and Management Plan(s) appropriate for qualitative research; (2) providing information on appropriate repositories and ethical considerations for sharing qualitative research; and (3) generating resources related to pre-registering qualitative research. All materials are now posted on our website on the [Qualitative & Mixed Methods Research Section](#) under the 'Resources' tab, and materials from 1 and 2 were added to the Data Management Plans section of the PI & Scholar Toolkit on the ORE website so the entire campus community can benefit.

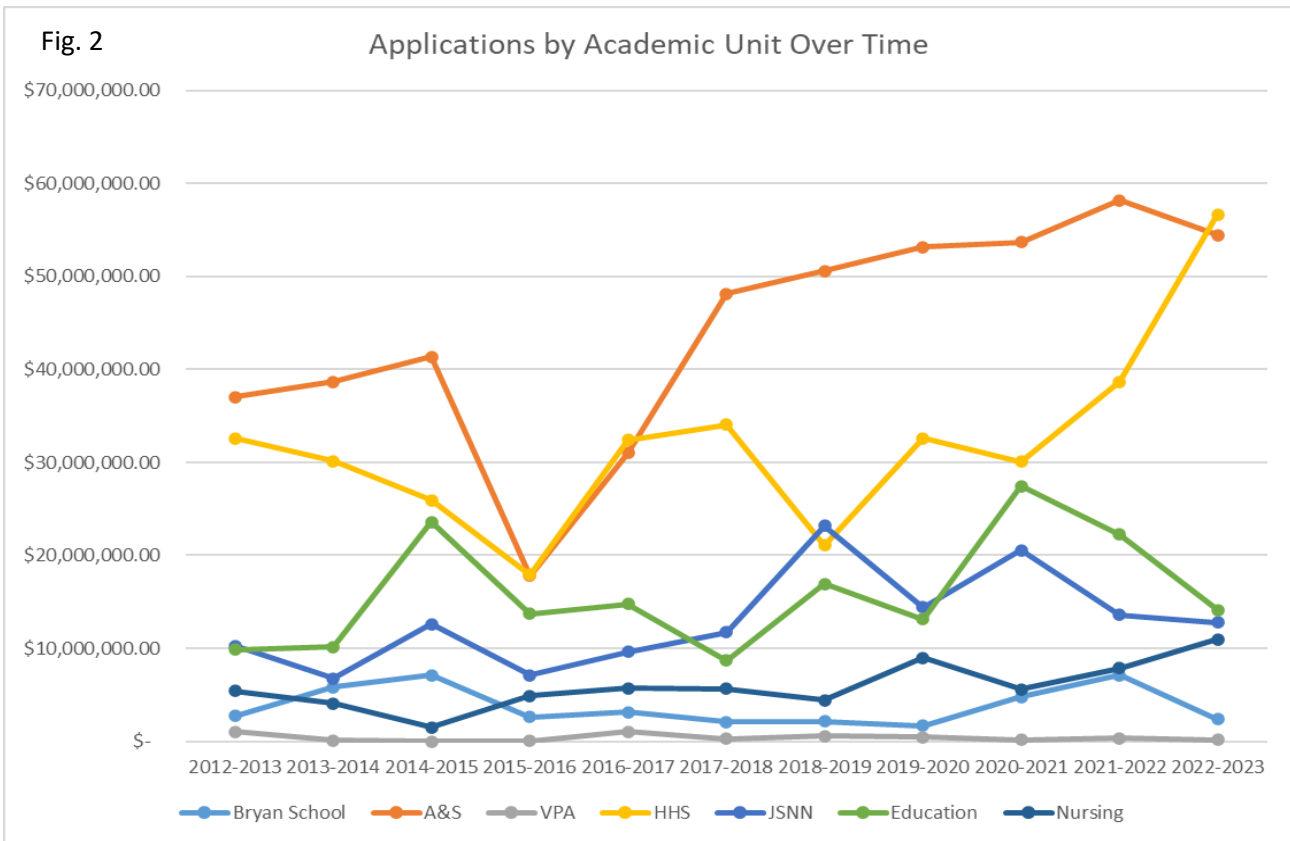
HHS External Funding Trends Over Time 2023

Comparison with Other Academic Units

Awards: HHS brought in \$9.77 million in fiscal year 2022-2023. The dollar amount is second highest of all other academic units on campus. This reflects a 3.82% decrease over the prior year. The below graph (Figure 1) illustrates patterns of external funding over time, by academic unit. Some units are experiencing growth in the dollar amount of awards, and it is anticipated that they will continue to rise given the ADVANCE grant targets STEM; additionally, A&S and Education have implemented some of HHS' programs/initiatives to support their research faculty.



Applications: The number of applications HHS submitted grew (73 vs. 58), and the dollar value of these requests (see Figure 2) increased this year compared to last year (\$56.70 million vs. \$38.68 million) yielding a 46.57% increase. Nursing is the only other academic unit which enjoyed an increase in the dollar value of applications submitted, a \$3.11 million increase. To return to the position as the top academic unit regarding external funding, HHS will need to ensure submissions remain strong in the coming year(s). From looking at these data, it seems two record years of submissions are required to see a big increase in awards which bears well for the coming year. The HHS Office of Research will continue to encourage the pursuit of diversity and administrative supplements on existing NIH awards as one possibility, but other ideas will be necessary to maintain a high level of applications. Creative suggestions to develop faculty-grant writing talent and increase faculty submissions are being sought.



Departmental data: The graphs on the following page illustrate the same data by departments within HHS.

Awards: Awards are up compared to last year in CSD, NTR, and HDF (Figure 3).

Applications: NTR, GEN, HDF, KIN, and PHE demonstrated an increase in the dollar amount of applications (Figure 4). Each department chair received a graph displaying their own departments' trends in submissions and awards over time; the chairs are encouraged to meet with the Associate Dean for Research in the fall to discuss these data and to strategize ways to increase faculty submissions and awards in the future.

