

Great Year-end News: Digital Learning Grant; Nursing and Center for Innovation Funding

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To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Dear friends,

Here is some great news to ring in the new year. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues for these year-end grants and awards--it seems the season of holiday gifts is not quite over!

FLC Awarded Department of Education Digital Learning Grant (\$974,000)

A huge congratulations to Jen Rider (Principal Investigator), Michelle Bonanno, Matt McGlamery, and Patrick Gaughan for being awarded a three-year \$974,000 Department of Education "Digital Learning Infrastructure and IT Modernization Pilot" grant to develop digital learning as a pathway to equity, access, and success for low-income, first-generation, and Indigenous students. The goals of this grant are to increase digital learning offerings, technology infrastructure, and student success supports to reduce equity gaps in key 100- and 200-level courses (e.g. Composition, Math, and History). This grant will build on our successful navigation of online learning during COVID, helping take FLC's work to the next level by funding a digital learning strategy, faculty training, and the expansion of technology access such as our "TechPack" laptop program.

With this funding, FLC will create an institutional digital learning strategy with key leaders and faculty, strategically expanding hybrid course offerings and measuring their impact on student success. Guided by the Center for Teaching & Learning, the grant project will feature a summer course design institute and faculty learning community focusing on inclusive hybrid course design and delivery. Students will be supported with new distance learning orientations and increased access to tutoring and tech support. A new Student Success Data Analyst position will help assess what hybrid learning strategies best support equitable student success. Grant funds will also be used by IT to help expand access to IT support and learning technologies for all students from anywhere at any time, including financial stipends for laptop rentals, financial supplement for off-campus internet, and remote campus lab access.

Again, congrats to Jen and team! Equity-driven digital learning is an essential FLC strategy for supporting our students, and this grant will help them to succeed, graduate, and realize their potential.

FLC Awarded Congressionally Directed Spending for Nursing Program (\$1.3M) and Center for Innovation (\$400,000)

Late last week, Congress passed an omnibus bill that included Congressionally Directed Spending awards for FLC. We will receive \$1.3M for our collaborative Nursing Program and \$400,000 for our Center for Innovation. Congratulations to Alana Romans, Steve Elias, and Melissa Mount and the Advancement team for creating compelling proposals for federal funding! And, many thanks to our Board of Trustees for their work to position FLC as a higher education innovator worthy of our Senators' support.

The Nursing Program funds will support building renovations, equipment purchases, and summer bridge programming. Our innovative summer program will help students prepare for Nursing coursework, ensuring they have both academic support and inspiration as we work to diversify the nursing profession. The transformation of our old Skyhawk Hall into Nursing sim labs aligns with our new Schlessman Family Hall (the Health Sciences Center opening this spring) and new Centura Health Sports Performance Center (the upcoming renovation of the aquatics center) to designate that part of campus as a cutting-edge "health and wellness quad." The Center for Innovation funds will create new

programming that connects us to area business partners. The funds also support our important downtown footprint, subsidizing out Main Ave building rental. The Center for Innovation advances entrepreneurial approaches to small business development, expanding our regional economy.

These federal awards further the great fundraising efforts underway for these initiatives. The Nursing award joins donor, grant, and foundation funding, bringing FLC up to a total of \$4.5M for the development of this new program. And, the Center for Innovation award joins a previous \$750,000 US Economic Development Administration “Build to Scale” grant, providing the Center with over \$1M to secure its business leadership in SW Colorado.

A great end to a year filled with grant and fundraising success!

These year-end awards cap off a year filled with astounding funding successes. In just the past month, we have learned of our selection for the Reisher Scholars Program, Beckman Scholars Program, and the HHMI Inclusive Excellence 3 Initiative—and these join a year marked by NSF, NIH, and Teagle grants, among many others. Of course, these are important awards of funding, but they also award us recognition and affirmation of the transformational “students at the center” work we do. A great way to welcome in 2023, indeed!

Best, Cheryl

Cheryl Nixon, Ph.D. | Provost and Vice President

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