

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CHATTANOOGA
Office of Research and
Sponsored Programs

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2026

JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026



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WELCOME



The ORSP Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 documents the significant achievements of faculty, staff, organizational units, and the institution. In FY26, UTC faculty and staff demonstrated their commitment to sponsored funding, submitting a record-breaking 226 proposals – the highest proposal count in UTC's history – requesting more than $87 million in external funding to support UTC's teaching, research, and service mission. UTC's proposal submission metrics show that UTC is not only growing; we are growing boldly. The number of high-value proposals requesting $500,000 or more grew by 68% from FY25 to FY26. These key metrics deeply underscore the dedication of UTC's faculty, staff, and administrators to bolstering our research ecosystem.

Awards received within FY26 also document UTC's growth trajectory. Over the past 5 years, UTC has made tremendous gains in sponsored project activity. From FY21 to FY26, award dollars increased by 29% from $13.6 million in 2021 to $17.6 million in 2026. The growth has accelerated in the past 3 years, as UTC achieved the highest competitive sponsored program funding in our history.

This impressive growth is driven by investigator-initiated research and mission-driven sponsored programs that serve the public good. The most promising metric for UTC's future is the institution's growing footprint of faculty and staff involved in the pursuit and management of sponsored awards. FY26 proposal activity reflects the efforts of 107 unique lead Principal Investigators – a 22% increase over FY25, and FY26 awards reflect the accomplishments of 74 lead Principal Investigators – a 10% increase over FY25.

These awards not only generate a revenue source, they directly support UTC's mission. Grants support research that engages students and generates transformational knowledge across academic disciplines. Grants support students through employment opportunities, sponsor-funded scholarships and fellowships, internships, and training opportunities. Grants support instructional excellence and learning beyond the classroom, building a regional workforce well-prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. The impact of UTC's sponsored programs portfolio reverberates across campus, throughout our community, and beyond.

Please join me in congratulating all the UTC faculty and staff who engaged in sponsored project activity during FY26, and in recognizing the dedicated campus colleagues who support and enable sponsored project activity. I am deeply grateful to everyone across campus and throughout the UT System who works behind the scenes to support our research ecosystem. A special and heartfelt thank-you to my ORSP colleagues whose expertise, dedication, commitment to service, and professionalism enable and support all of these accomplishments.

Go Mocs!

Meredith Perry
Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research

ABOUT THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) seeks to promote scholarship, research, creative activities, and engagement by encouraging and providing comprehensive support to faculty and staff in the pursuit of sponsored programs.



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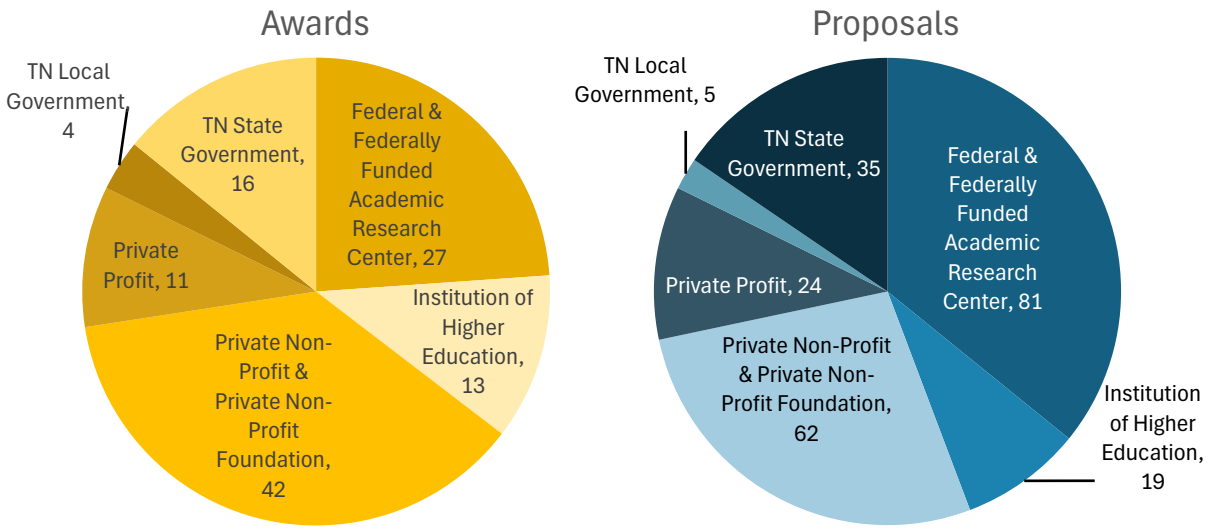
Samantha Dean
Grants Specialist
Samantha-Dean01@utc.edu



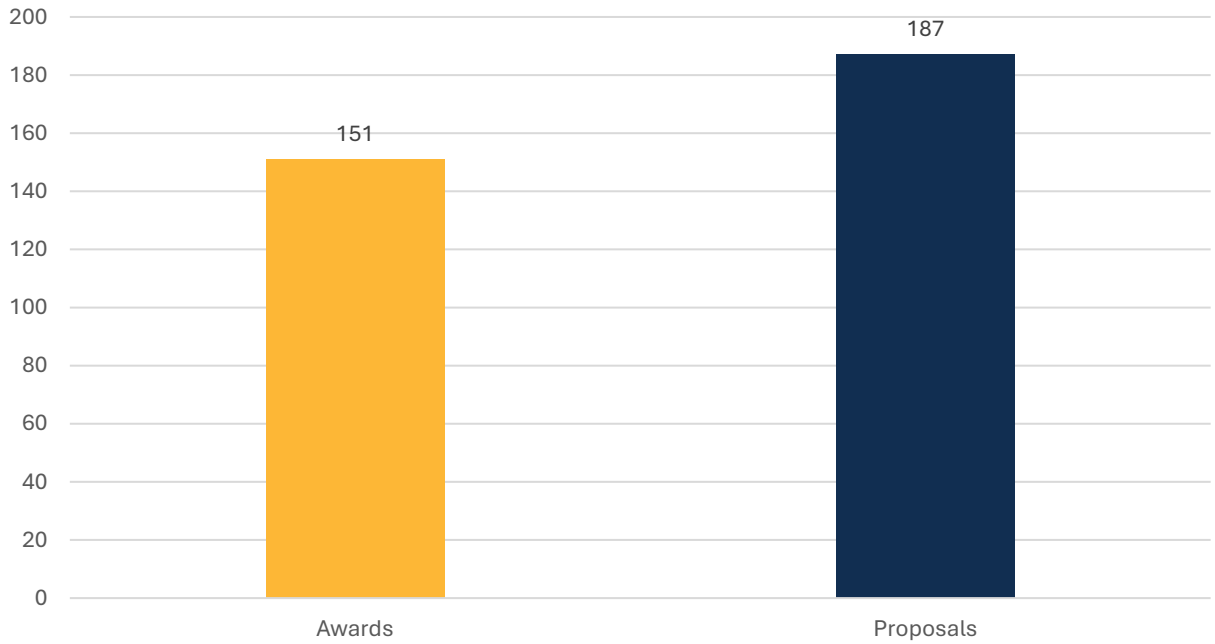
Jennifer Corbin
Grants Specialist
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FY26 UTC SNAPSHOTS

SPONSOR TYPE



UTC PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN SPONSORED PROJECT ACTIVITY

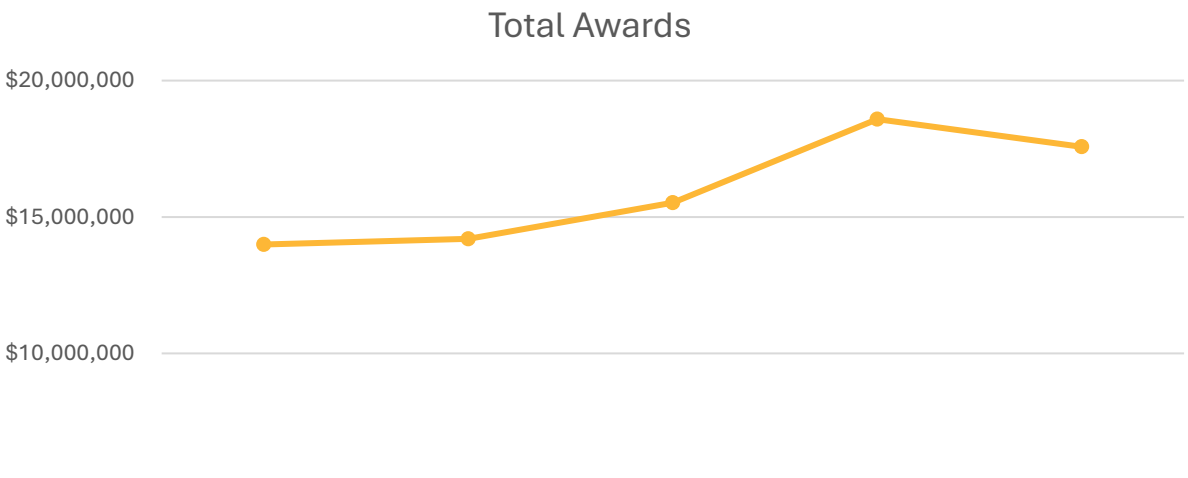


SNAPSHOTS: BY THE NUMBERS

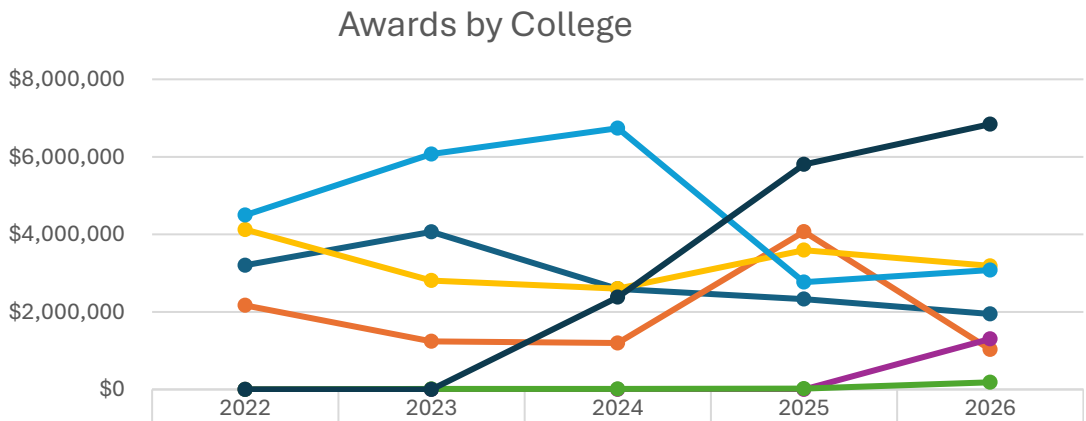


INSTITUTION OVERVIEW

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS: AWARDS



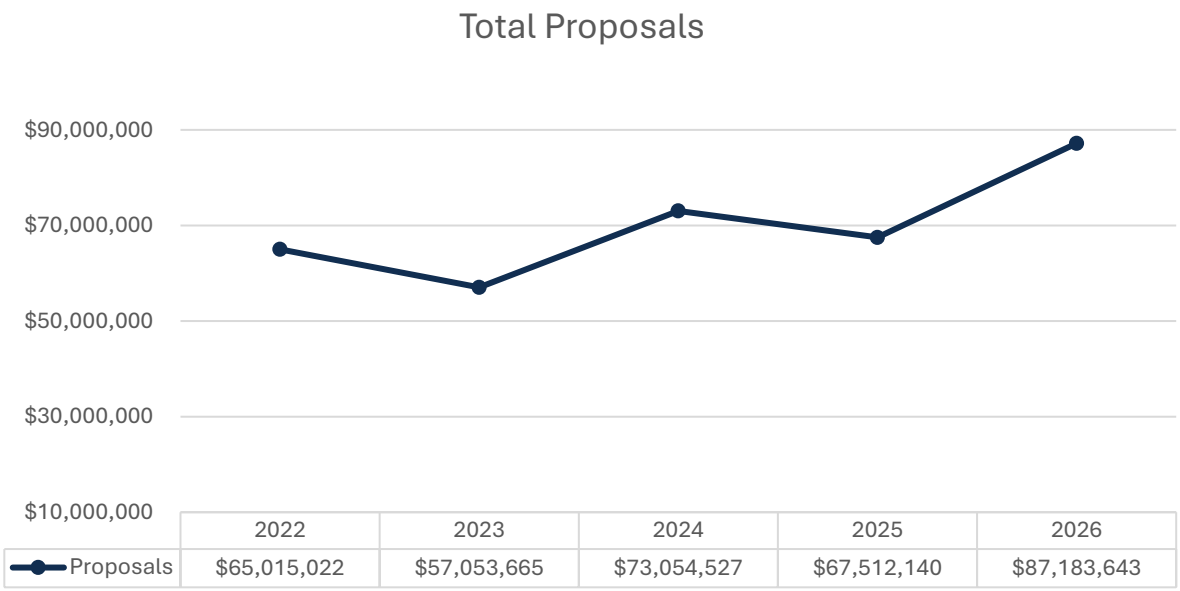
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Awards	$13,992,268	$14,197,940	$15,523,024	$18,585,872	$17,573,181



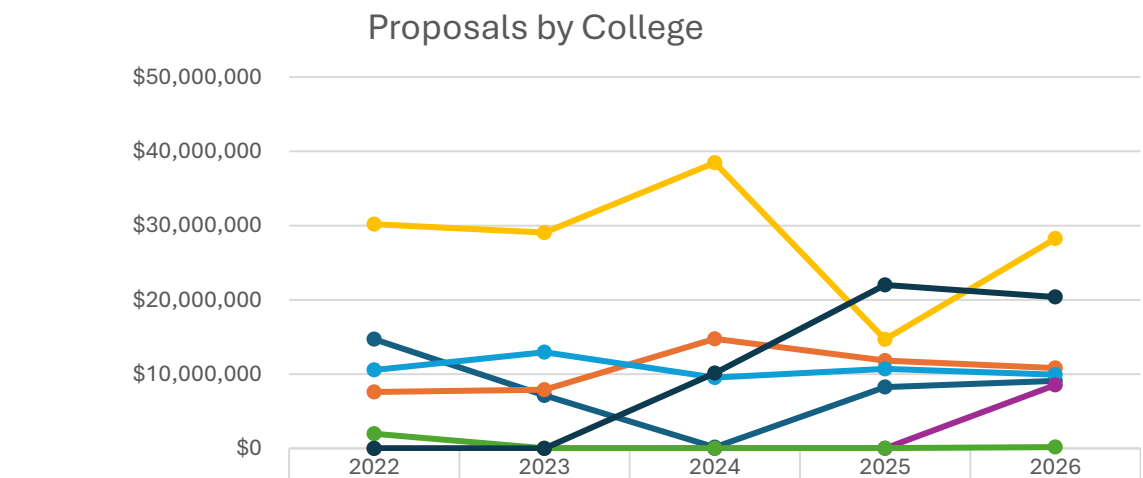
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Administration	$3,202,057	$4,064,955	$2,593,487	$2,330,142	$1,946,651
CAS	$2,168,363	$1,240,778	$1,197,460	$4,069,593	$1,029,862
CECS	$4,124,335	$2,809,043	$2,600,044	$3,592,456	$3,186,189
CHEPS	$4,497,513	$6,070,664	$6,738,530	$2,767,387	$3,079,958
College of Nursing	-	-	-	-	$1,302,944
Gary W. Rollins COB	-	$12,500	$13,000	$20,999	$183,730
Research Division	-	-	$2,380,503	$5,805,295	$6,843,847

*Research Divison data was included in the "Administration" Unit until 2024
*College of Nursing data was included in the "CHEPS" Unit until 2026

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS: PROPOSALS



	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Proposals	$65,015,022	$57,053,665	$73,054,527	$67,512,140	$87,183,643

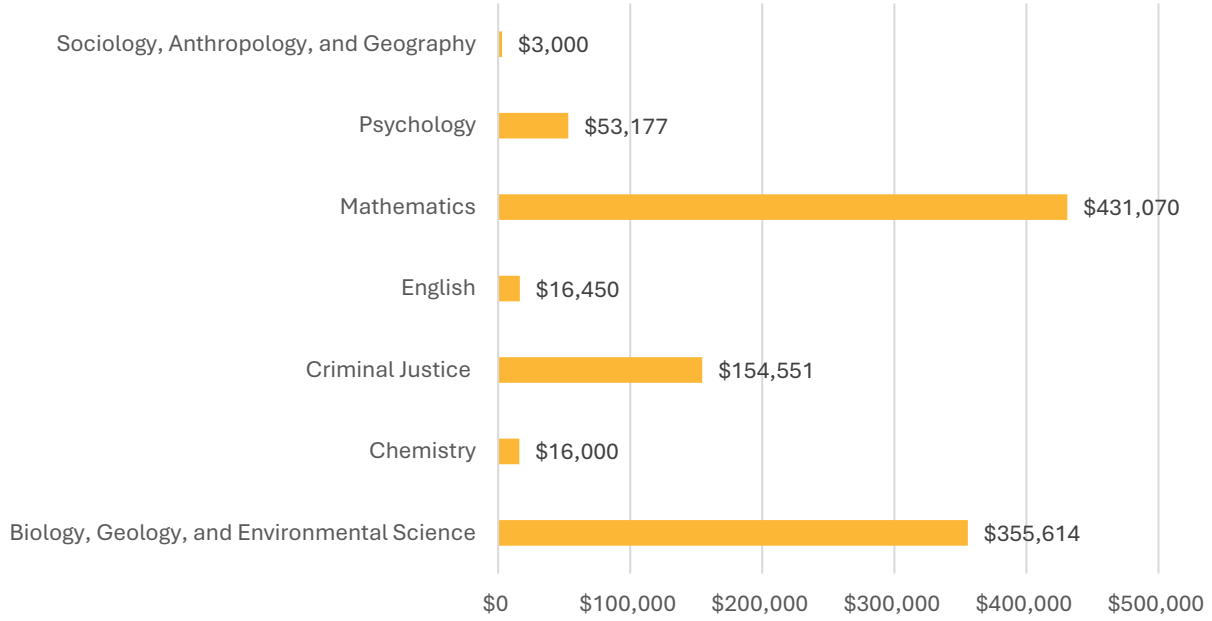


	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Administration	$14,697,384	$7,126,126	$154,926	$8,253,539	$9,097,176
CAS	$7,593,984	$7,899,853	$14,750,484	$11,826,915	$10,819,738
CECS	$30,184,663	$29,060,988	$38,464,696	$14,679,977	$28,249,118
CHEPS	$10,565,519	$12,954,198	$9,536,680	$10,701,834	$9,923,654
College of Nursing	-	-	-	-	$8,533,383
Gary W. Rollins COB	$1,973,472	$12,500	$13,000	$41,000	$176,117
Research Division	-	-	$10,134,741	$22,008,875	$20,384,457

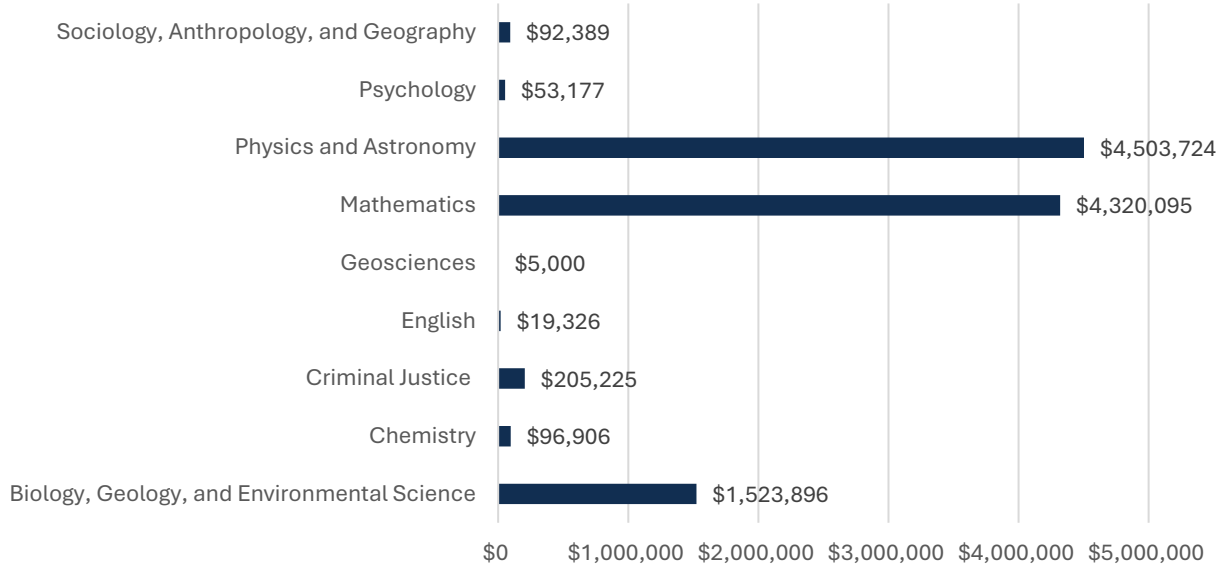
*Research Divison data was included in the "Administration" Unit until 2024
*College of Nursing data was included in the "CHEPS" Unit until 2026

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

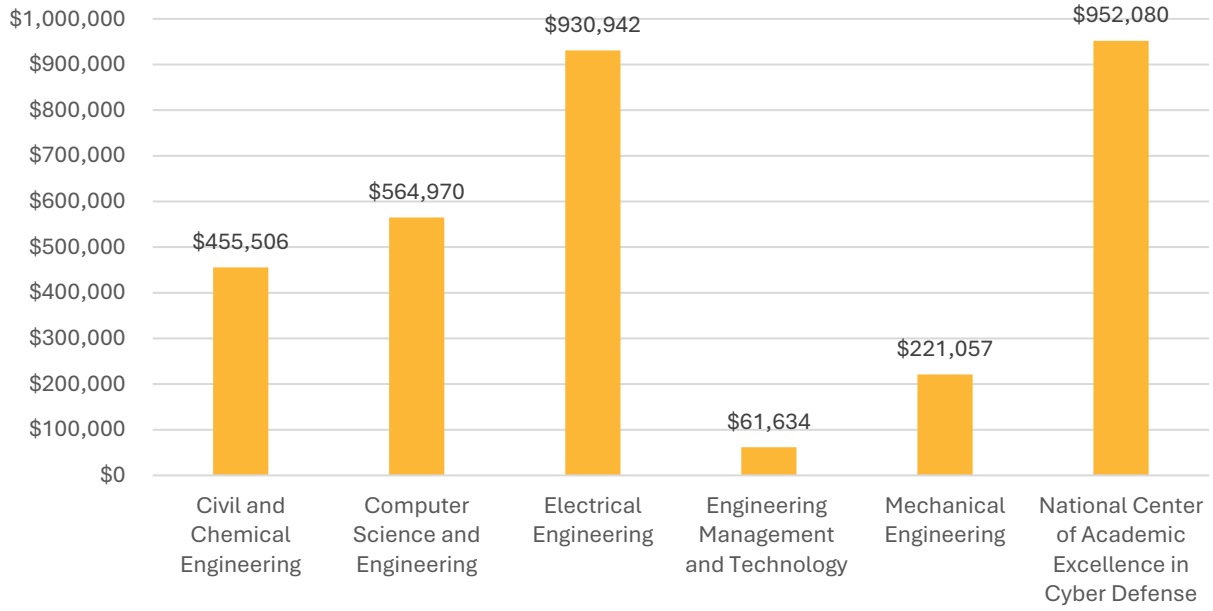


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

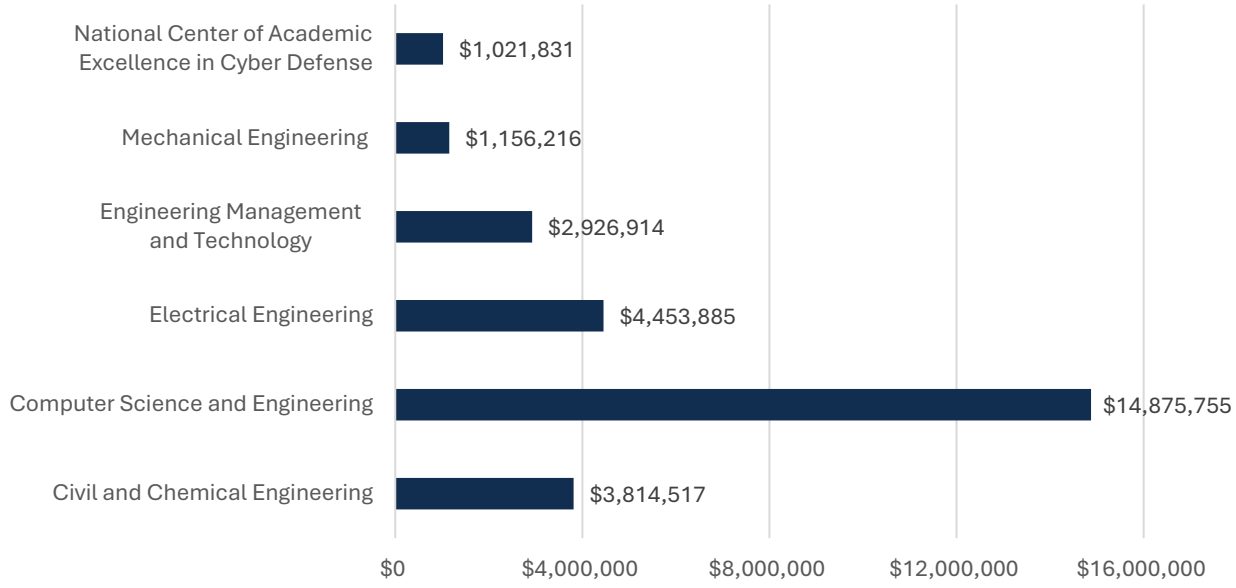


COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

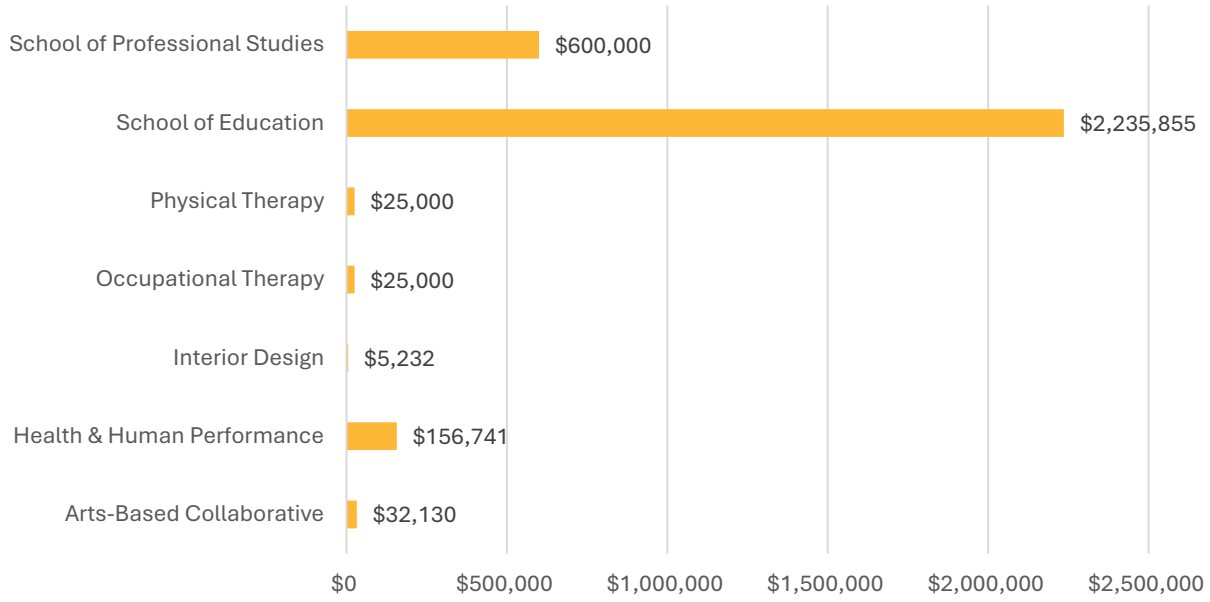


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

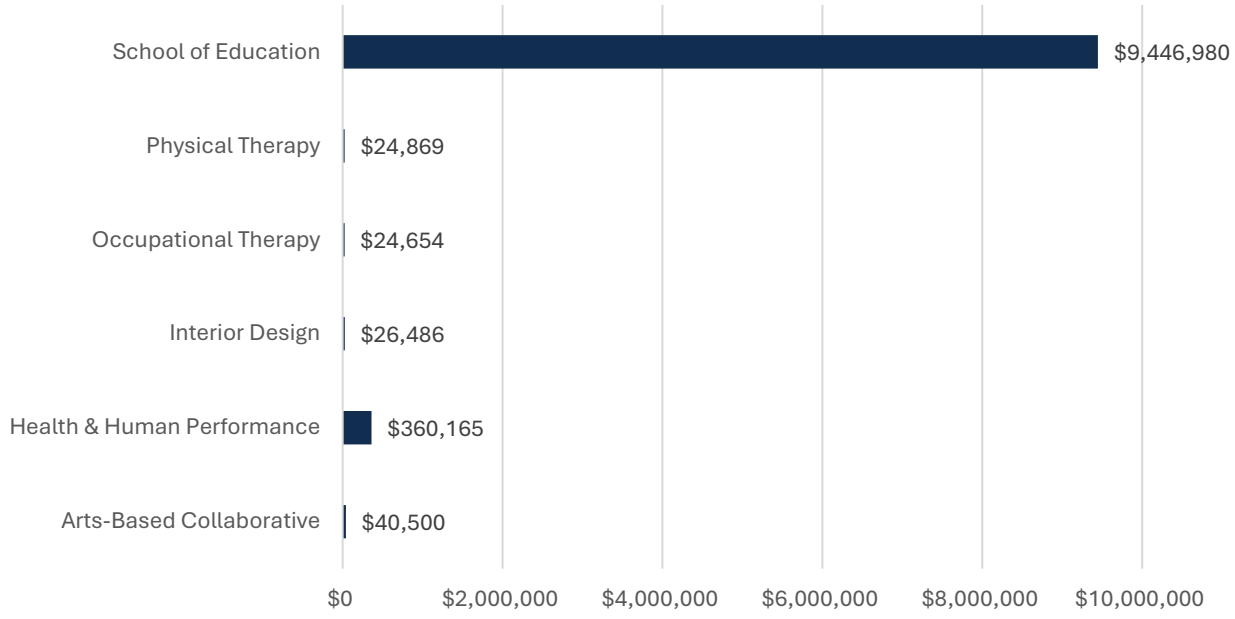


COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

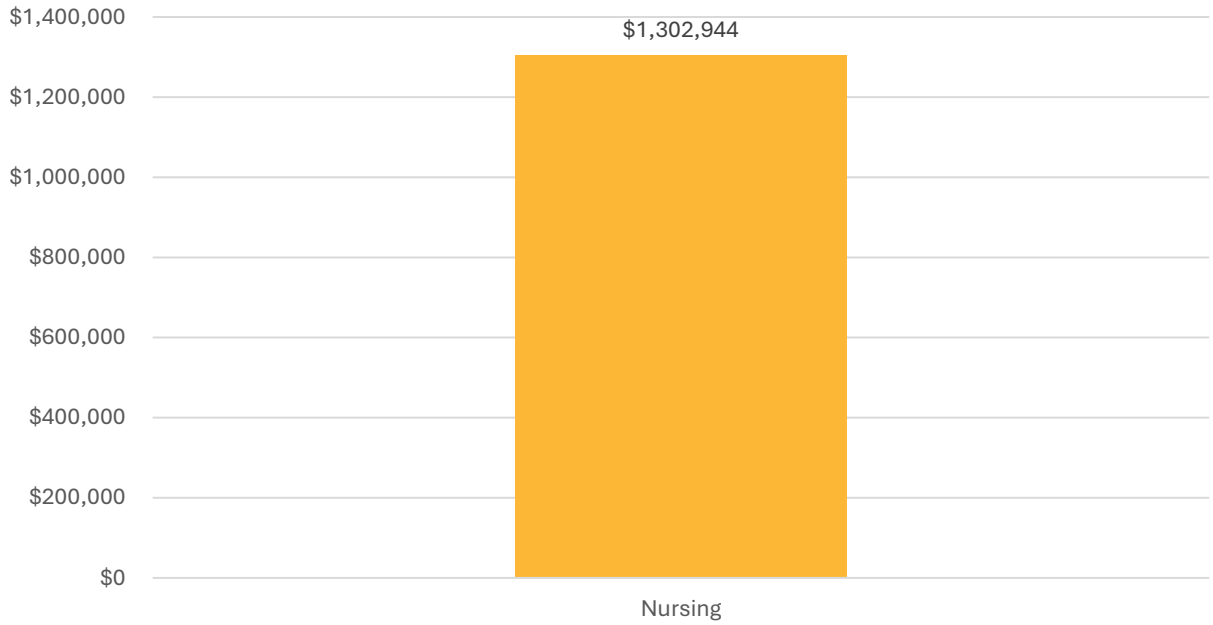


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

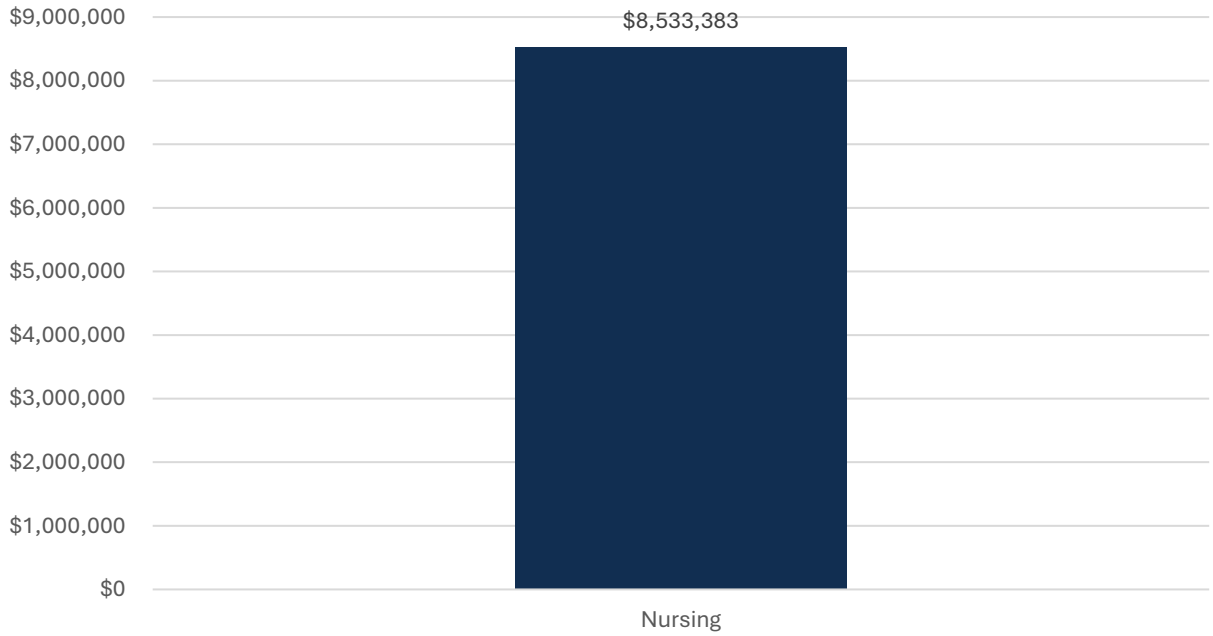


COLLEGE OF NURSING

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

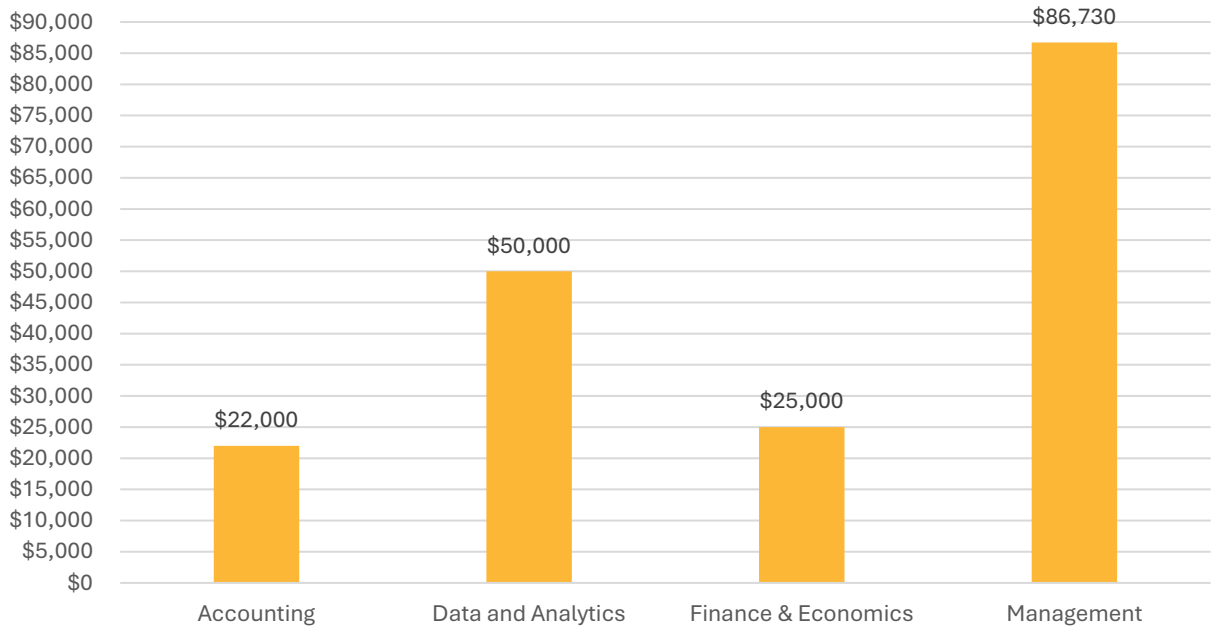


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

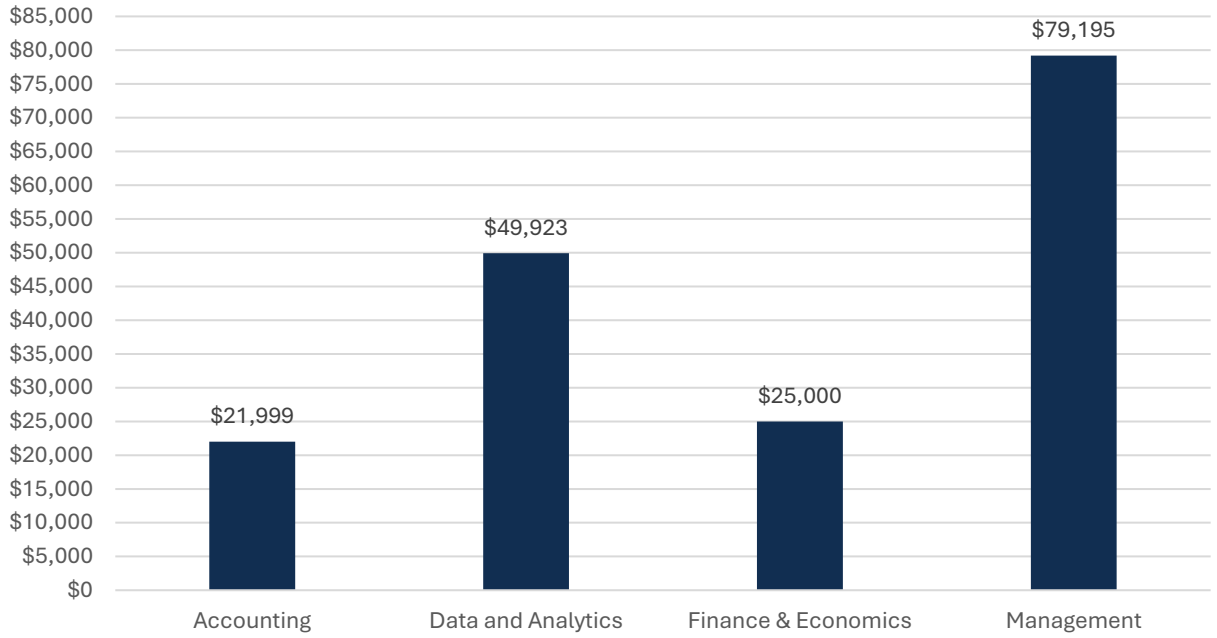


GARY W. ROLLINS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

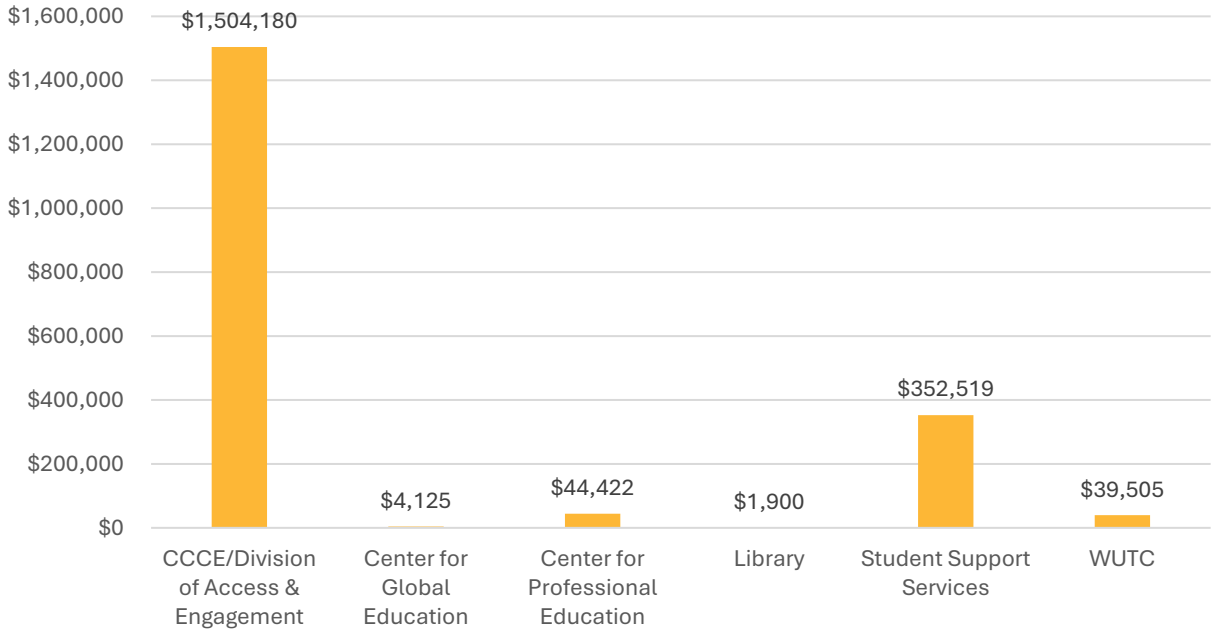


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

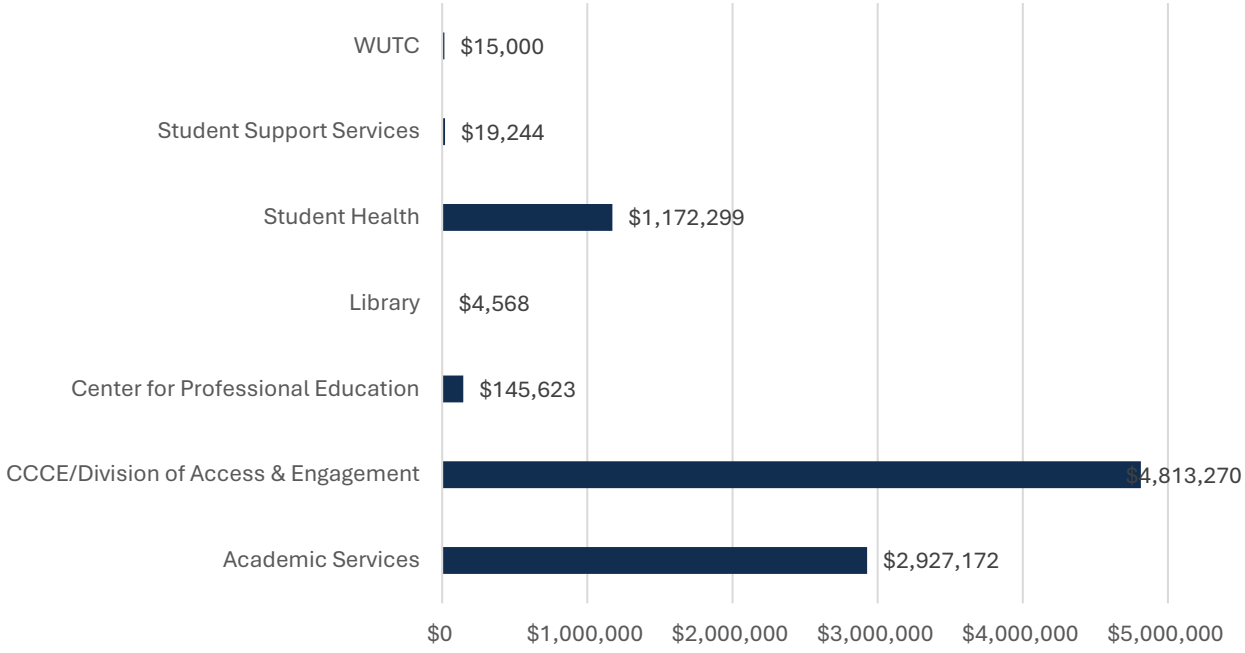


ADMINISTRATION

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT

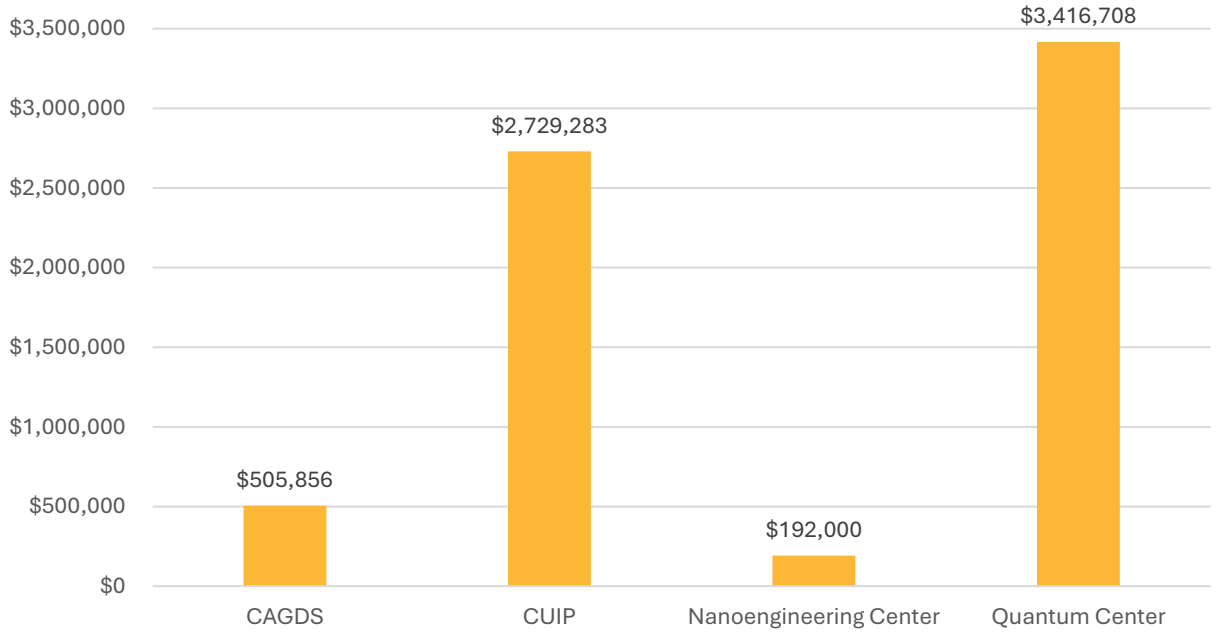


PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT

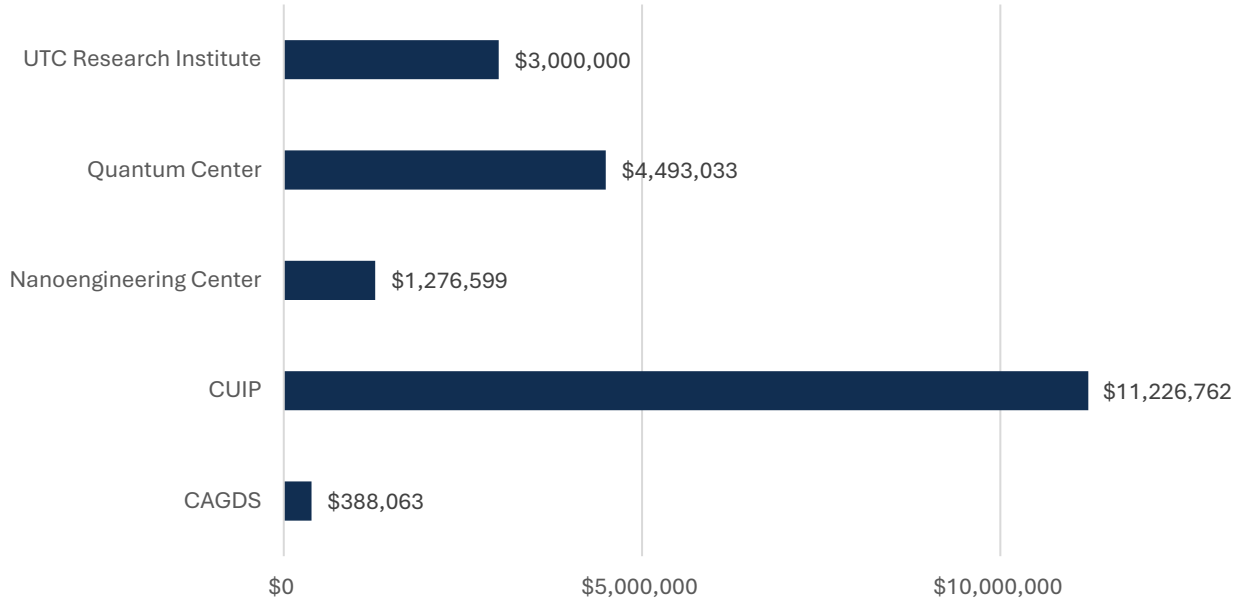


RESEARCH DIVISION

AWARDS BY DEPARTMENT



PROPOSALS BY DEPARTMENT



INVENTION DISCLOSURES

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) plays a vital role in turning university research and ideas into innovations that serve the public good through its focus on technology transfer and commercialization.

Congratulations to all UTC faculty and staff who engaged in technology transfer activities during FY26!

Patents



Dr. Soubantika Palchoudhury (formerly with the Department of Civil and Chemical Engineering) who received a patent for a New Seed Pre-Soak Technology With a Drop of Hematite Nanoparticle Fertilizer for Increased Plant Growth.

Awards





Drs. Joshua Tyler and Don Reising (Electrical Engineering) continued research and development related to Advanced Waveform Resampling via a UTRF Entrepreneurial Fellowship award.



Austin Harris (CUIP) received the 2026 UTRF Technology Maturation award for developing the Network-V2X app.

Invention Disclosures

Disclosure Title	Inventors*
Lane Level - RTSCM Correction System Via Road Side Sensors	Austin Harris
iCityGuardian - Human-Interactive Multi-Camera Tracking for Smart Cities	Huu Nguyen, Mina Sartipi
Personalized Federated Learning Strategies for Multi-Agent Trajectory Forecasting	Huu Nguyen, Austin Harris, Mina Sartipi, Tam Bang, Emiliano De La Garza Villarreal, Deponker Sarker Depto
FLEET - Real-Time Edge-Deployable Personalized Federated Learning for Trajectory Prediction at Urban Intersections	Huu Nguyen, Austin Harris, Mina Sartipi, Tam Bang, Emiliano De La Garza Villarreal, Deponker Sarker Depto
Physically Consistent Super-Resolution through Empirical Bayesian Kernel Estimation	Zihao Wang
Early Detection of Driver Medical Distress Using Multimodal Edge Al	Vijayalakshmi Kumarasamy
Internal Rotating Intelligent Spring (IRIS) Gripper for Industrial Robots	Erkan Kaplanoglu, Chase Guttu
University Simulation	Izetta Slade

*Lead Inventor listed first

OPEN PUBLISHING SUPPORT FUND RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to UTC's Open Publishing Support Fund FY26 Recipients!

Funded by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the **Open Publishing Support Fund** assists with expenses related to article processing charges for eligible peer-reviewed, open access journals.



Dr. Caitlin Crews-Stowe (Health and Human Performance) is the lead author on the article entitled, "Sleep Characteristics in Individuals with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome," which has been published in *Medical Sciences*.



Dr. Zachary Simoni (Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography) is the lead author on the article entitled, "The Social Construction of Aduhelm in the Context of Pharmaceutical Ambiguity: Exploring Narratives from Informal Caregivers, Medical Professionals, and Redditors on r/Alzheimers," which was published in *Frontiers in Sociology-Medical Sociology*.



Dr. David Giles (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) is an author on the article entitled, "Influence of polyunsaturated fatty acids on Aeromonas hydrophila: sole carbon utilization, incorporation into membrane phospholipids, potentiation of cyclic lipopeptide activity, and other phenotypic impacts," which has been published in *BMC Microbiology*.



Dr. Jennifer Hogg (Health and Human Performance) is the lead author on the article entitled, "Using learner-generated videos to foster multimedia communication skills in graduate health profession education," which was published in the *Electronic Journal of e-Learning*.



Dr. Max Jordon (Physical Therapy) is the lead author on the article entitled "Biomechanical Assessment of Grasping Postures in Individuals with Rheumatoid Arthritis when holding Adaptive Silverware," which was published in *Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences*.



Dr. Wolday Abrha (Engineering Management and Technology) is an author on the article entitled "Reliable Belt-Style Depositor Design in Food Processing Plant," which was published in *Applied Sciences*.

2026 NSF CAREER COHORT

Best of luck to UTC's FY26 NSF CAREER proposal submission cohort!

The NSF CAREER program supports the research aspirations of early career faculty in pursuing intellectually rigorous and impactful scholarship in NSF-eligible areas of inquiry. The following faculty spent the better part of summer 2026 preparing for submission:



Dr. Jennifer Lynberg (School of Education) requested $1,005,963 for a project entitled, "Professionally Responsive Instructional Support Model (PRISM)."



Dr. Wolday Abrha (Engineering Management and Technology) requested $461,440 for a project entitled, "Enhancing Engineering Education Through Multidisciplinary Research Engagements."



Dr. Yukun Yuan (Engineering and Computer Science) requested $596,796 for a project entitled, "Toward Human-Aligned Service-Oriented Cyber-Physical Systems through Closed-Loop Sensing and Control Co-Design."



Dr. Zihao Wang (Computer Science and Engineering) requested $632,590 for a project entitled, "Generative Integrity Learning for High-Value Translational Inverse Problems."



Dr. Rahul Bhosale (Chemical Engineering) requested $599,988 for a project entitled, "Toward Low-Temperature Isothermal Solar Chemical Looping Reforming of Methane Coupled with H2O/CO2 Conversion through Compositionally Complex Cerium Oxides."



Dr. Venkateswara Rao Kode (Chemical Engineering) requested $632,219 for a project entitled, "Humidity-Regulated Atmospheric Resource Recovery Using Functionally Paired Sorbents."



Dr. Xiunan Wang (Mathematics) requested $476,603 for a project entitled, "Mathematical Theory and Inference for Memory- and Perception-Driven Movement in Marine Megafauna."

APPENDIX A: Awards and Proposals by Lead PI

Lead Investigator	Total Award Amount	Total Proposal Amount	Lead Investigator	Total Award Amount	Total Proposal Amount
Aborn, David		$122,929	***Hamilton, Kara***	$15,000	$15,000
Ahmed, Raga	$599,000		***Hargrove, Jami***		$28,500
Akgun, Gazi	$50,000	$100,000	***Harris, Austin***	$160,000	$1,442,301
Allen, Tatiana		$249,996	***Hill, Linda***	$17,968	
Bailey, Andrew	$4,350	$4,350	***Hogg, Jennifer***		$14,000
Baker, Sybil	$2,000	$4,876	***Hossain, Azad***	$227,172	$1,077,668
Bandara, Damitha	$25,000	$24,924	***Hossen, Md***		$500,000
Barisik, Murat	$380,410	$1,976,599	***Hunt, Nyssa***	$44,243	$44,243
Bathi, Jejal Reddy		$348,799	***Ingraham, Lauren***		$2,927,172
Bhosale, Rahul	$199,734	$575,036	***Kaplanoglu, Erkan***	$20,691	$120,450
Boykin, Twyler	$309,505		***Karrar, Abdel***	$40,943	$1,954,436
Bridges, Keith	$566,988	$3,256,263	***Kendall, Catherine***	$5,232	$26,486
Burgess, James		$18,535	***Kilburn, Farron***	$25,000	$25,000
Bursch, Julia		$3,000,000	***Kim, Jisook***		$5,971
Cetinkaya, Fatma Ayca	$7,300	$567,402	***Kim, Seong Dae***		$219,444
Chehade, Sarah		$118,745	***Kode, Venkateswara***	$199,516	$2,445,896
Choi, Brian		$243,254	***Kong, Lingju***		$271,880
Crews-Stowe, Caitlin	$25,000	$94,511	***Laseter, Melissa***	$352,519	$19,244
Cunningham, Christopher	$49,994	$49,994	***Lazenby, Susan***	$39,505	$15,000
Davenport, Stephan	$20,000	$19,999	***Le, Thien***		$734,355
Denney, Andrew	$109,321		***Lee, Belinda***	$339,217	
Dierenfeldt, Rick		$159,995	***Lee, Youngeun***	$25,000	$22,851
Dittmar, Angela	$32,130	$40,500	***Levine, David***	$25,000	$24,869
Dungey, Keenan		$2,400	***Li, Tian***		$2,273,806
Epperson, Brooke	$388,441	$6,197,622	***Liang, Yu***		$1,679,035
Erdemir, Gokhan		$1,628,489	***Lobo, Bento***	$25,000	$25,000
Eschman, Bret	$1,321	$1,321	***Lynberg, Jennifer***	$86,000	$6,096,942
Fadul, Mohamed		$23,680	***Ma, Ziwei***		$340,707
Fayard, Louis	$2,000	$2,000	***Mahtabi, Mohammad***	$7,780	$7,780
Ferdoush, Jannatul		$199,882	***McAllister, Deborah***	$66,516	$1,266,699
Fomunung, Ignatius		$3,450,000	***McElrone, Marissa***	$25,000	$126,881
Freeze, John	$44,422	$145,623	***McKnight, Megan***		$1,143,799
Frishcosy, Christopher	$26,731		***Melhorn, Erin***	$25,000	$24,654
Hamblen, Joshua		$837,364	***Mix, Charlie***	$461,613	$343,820
Mukherjee, Rick	$16,708	$974,288	***Suzuki, Takeo***	$4,125	
Nguyen, Huu Hoang		$1,220,000	***Tantawi, Khalid***		$232,999

Lead Investigator	Total Award Amount	Total Proposal Amount	Lead Investigator	Total Award Amount	Total Proposal Amount
O'Brien, Elizabeth	$600,000		***Tasnim, Zakia***		$182,209
Olson, Elizabeth		$5,000	***Van Buren, Harry***	$86,730	$79,195
Oslund, Meagan		$22,550	***Van Slyke, Andrew***	$3,000	$16,972
Park, Han Jung		$70,000	***Vann, Karen***	$288,470	$1,557,007
Peter, Jason	$25,000	$2,049,017	***Varol, Serkan***		$689,931
Peyer, Karissa	$25,000	$24,513	***Walker, Richard***	$6,800	$1,800
Pienkos, Jared	$16,000		***Walker, Ruth***	$850	$850
Policastro, Christina	$45,230	$45,230	***Wang, Jin***	$173,777	$957,454
Quinlan, Catherine	$14,450	$14,450	***Wang, Xiunan***	$249,993	$467,262
Ranhotige, Aruna		$1,050,230	***Wang, Yingfeng***	$464,970	$964,969
Ranjan, Reetesh	$24,867	$448,436	***Wang, Zihao***		$1,267,666
Reising, Donald	$331,942	$2,535,050	***Weerasena, Lakmali***		$737,781
Ren, Shaogang		$1,618,018	***Wick, Kristina***	$64,444	$89,194
Richards, Sean	$25,000	$24,996	***Wingate, Kimberly***	$2,083,339	$2,083,339
Roache, Amber	$632,091		***Wu, Dalei***	$100,000	$370,351
Runyon, Carolyn	$1,900	$4,568	***Wu, Weidong***		$233,052
Sakib, Shahnewaz Karim		$2,980,131	***Xie, Mengjun***	$952,080	$1,021,831
Sanchez Diaz, Luis		$1,142,558	***Xue, Guisen***	$25,000	$24,999
Sartipi, Mina	$5,919,283	$11,840,781	***Yang, Sungwoo***	$29,525	$29,525
Shaw, Joey	$96,642	$96,621	***Yelamarthi, Kumar***		$500,000
Shelton, Jill	$1,012	$1,012	***Yuan, Yukun***		$495,355
Smith, Christine	$150,000	$150,000	***Zwart, Ryan***	$37,391	$58,059
Smith, Morgan		$75,417			
			Grand Total	**$17,573,181**	**$87,183,643**

APPENDIX B: Awards by Month

JULY 2025

- Dr. Joey Shaw (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science), in collaboration with Austin Peay State University (APSU), has requested and received $35,000 from the National Park Service for the project entitled, "2026 Natchez Trace Biology Survey."
- Angela Dittmar and Sarah Thompson (Arts-Based Collaborative), in collaboration with Chattanooga 2.0, have requested and received $12,500 from the City of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "2025 UTC Arts-Based Collective Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Residencies."
- Melissa Laseter, Maurice Green, and Michael Lewis (Student Support Services) have received $352,519 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, "UTC Student Support Services Program 2025-2030."
- Dr. Amber Roache (School of Nursing) has received $632,091 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project entitled, "Clinical-Academic Partnerships: Breaking Down Barriers to Care 2023-27."
- Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien, Dr. Kevin Doyle, Dr. Alexandra Frank (School of Professional Studies), Dr. Amy Doolittle, Dr. Bethany Womack (Social Work), and Dr. Amanda Hardin (School Psychology) have received $600,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project entitled, "Behavioral Healthcare through Interprofessional Training (B-HIP)."
- Dr. Linda Hill (School of Nursing) has received $17,567 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project entitled, "2020-27 HRSA Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships."
- Dr. Richard Walker (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) has received $5,000 from Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) for the project entitled, "The Cicadian Rhythm: Integrated Research and Education to Reveal the Cascading Effects of a Rare but Massive Terrestrial Resource Pulse in Stream Ecosystem."
- Dr. Rick Mukherjee and Dr. Sarah Chehade (Quantum Center) have received $16,708 from a federal entity for a research project.
- Austin Harris and Dr. Mina Sartipi (CUIP) have received $150,000 from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for the project entitled, "Enhancing Pedestrian Safety: AI-Integrated Traffic Signal Control and Dynamic Lighting."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi, Austin Harris, and Dr. Huu Hoang Nguyen (CUIP) have received $350,000 from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for the project entitled, "AI-Powered Collision Risk Assessment and Post-Crash Detection for Urban Mobility."
- Christopher Frishcosy (Civil and Chemical Engineering) has received $26,731 from the Tennessee Valley Authority for the project entitled, "Meta-Analysis of Current and Emerging Beneficial Uses of Coal Combustion Products and Coal Combustion Residuals."

- Dr. Rahul Bhosale (Civil and Chemical Engineering) has received $199,734 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "ERI: High-Temperature Thermochemical Energy Storage Using Doped Calcium Manganites."
- Dr. Xiunan Wang (Mathematics) has received $249,993 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "LEAPS-MPS: Refining Inverse Methods and Advancing Hybrid Forecasting Approaches for Influenza Transmission Dynamics."

AUGUST 2025

- Dr. Mengjun Xie (National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense) has received $80,106 from the US Department of Defense for the project entitled, "2025 DOD SEC NSA Cybersecurity Scholarships and Outreach."
- Twyler Boykin (CCCE/Division of Access & Engagement) has received $309,505 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, "University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Upward Bound Math & Science."
- Takeo Suzuki (Center for Global Education) has received $4,125 from the Institute of International Education for the project entitled, "2025 IIE American Passport Project at UTC."
- Charlie Mix and Nyssa Hunt (IGTLab) have received $208,706 from a private, non-profit foundation for a research project.
- Dr. Donald Reising and Dr. Joshua Tyler (Electrical Engineering), in collaboration with Purdue University (PU), have received $125,000 from the US Army for the project entitled, "2020 SCALE Consortium - Radiation-Hard Microelectronics Workforce Development Consortium."
- Angela Dittmar (Arts-Based Collaborative) has received $9,630 from the Tennessee Arts Commission for the project entitled, "Arts Integration in Midtown: A Catalyst for Community Learning."
- Dr. Kimberly Wingate, Dr. Allen Pratt, and Dr. Stephanie Brennan (School of Education) have received $969,265 from the Tennessee Department of Education for the project entitled, "UTC Teacher Apprenticeship Program."
- Dr. Donald Reising and Dr. Joshua Tyler (Electrical Engineering) have requested and received $30,000 from the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) for the project entitled, "2025 UTRF Post-Doc Fellowship."
- Dr. Mengjun Xie (National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense) has received $765,245 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Collaborative Research: Renewal: Strengthening the National Cybersecurity Workforce."
- Dr. Raga Ahmed, Dr. Sharief Babikir (Electrical Engineering), Dr. Mbakisya Onyango, and Dr. Stephanie Philipp (School of Education) have received $500,000 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Noyce RESS-Research Experiences in Microelectronics and Artificial Intelligence: A Path for Recruiting, Retaining and Empowering STEM Teachers in Urban and Rural Schools in Hamilton County, TN and Beyond."

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Dr. Ryan Zwart and Dr. Andrew Bailey (Health & Human Performance) have received $4,000 from the Chattanooga Area Southern Offroad Bike Association (SORBA) for the project entitled, "2025 Economic and Socio-cultural Impact Study for SORBA Chattanooga."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi and Austin Harris (CUIP), in collaboration with the City of Chattanooga, have received $322,222 from the US Department of Transportation for the project entitled, "A Nationally Scalable C-V2X Pilot Deployment: Advancing Interoperable Connectivity for Improving Safety and Operations in the City of Chattanooga."
- Dr. Murat Barisik and Dr. Reetesh Ranjan (Mechanical Engineering) have received $188,410 from the US Department of Energy for the project entitled, "First principles multiphase modeling of mesoscale gas transport in porous reactive systems."
- Dr. Erkan Kaplanoglu (Engineering Management and Technology) has received $7,536 from EVBots, Inc. for the project entitled, "2025 EVBots Testing Contract Proposal."
- Dr. Kara Hamilton and Dr. Joel Harden (Health & Human Performance) have received $15,000 from Fast Break Athletics for the project entitled, "2025-26 Fast Break Clients utilization of HHP Sports Lab (Phase 2)."
- Dr. Linda Hill (School of Nursing) has received $401 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project entitled, "2020-27 HRSA Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships."
- Dr. Brooke Epperson, Tessa Mullinax-Baker, Rosebelle Peters, Maggie Duckworth, Dr. Jenny Holcombe, and Michelle Rosano (School of Nursing) have received $388,441 from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the project entitled, "AHEAD-RN."
- Dr. Dutch Fayard (Accounting) has requested and received $2,000 from the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) for the project entitled, "2025 IMA Memorial Education Fund grant."
- Dr. Ruth Walker and Taylor Claxton (Psychology) have received $850 from Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology for the project entitled, "2024-25 Summer Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grant from Psi Chi."
- Dr. Andrew Bailey (Health & Human Performance) has requested and received $4,350 from Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center for the project entitled, "Reflection Riding & Arboretum Economic Contribution Analysis."
- Dr. Jennifer Lynberg (School of Education) has received $86,000 from the Tennessee Department of Education for the project entitled, "2026 TN Governor's School for Prospective Teachers."
- Dr. Harry Van Buren (Management), in collaboration with the University of Oslo, has received $86,730 from the Research Council of Norway for the project entitled, "What is the Purpose of Responsible Business? Bringing Society to Stakeholder Theory (STAKES)."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi (CUIP), Dr. Tian Li (Physics and Astronomy), Dr. Rick Mukherjee (Quantum Center), and Dr. Donald Reising (Electrical Engineering) have received $1,326,261 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Advanced Cybersecurity for Power Distribution Infrastructure."
- Dr. Raga Ahmed, Dr. Sharief Babikir, Dr. Abdel Karrar, Dr. Abdul Ofoli, Dr. Nurhidajat Sisworahardjo (Electrical Engineering), Dr. Mbakisya Onyango, Dr. Jejal Reddy Bathi, Dr.

Weidong Wu (Civil and Chemical Engineering), Dr. Stephanie Philipp (School of Education), Dr. Wolday Abrha, Dr. Gokhan Erdemir, Dr. Erkan Kaplanoglu (Engineering Management and Technology), and Mengjun Xie (Computer Science and Engineering) have received $99,000 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Noyce RESS-Research Experiences in Microelectronics and Artificial Intelligence: A Path for Recruiting, Retaining and Empowering STEM Teachers in Urban and Rural Schools in Hamilton County, TN and Beyond."

- Dr. Deborah McAllister and Dr. Jennifer Lynberg (School of Education), in collaboration with Vanderbilt University (Vandy), have received $31,166 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the project entitled, "STEM Topics for Pre-service Teachers."

OCTOBER 2025

- Charlie Mix (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science), in collaboration with the Chattanooga Area Southern Offroad Bike Association (SORBA), has received $7,500 from the Lyndhurst Foundation for the project entitled, "SORBA Chattanooga Mountain Biking Trail Guide Cartography."
- Susan Lazenby (WUTC) has received $9,205 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the project entitled, "WUTC Radio Community Service Grant."
- Charlie Mix and Nyssa Hunt (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science), in collaboration with the Lula Lake Land Trust, have received $8,827 from the Land Trust Alliance for the project entitled, "Lula Lake Land Trust Conservation Priority Modeling."
- Dr. Christopher Cunningham (Psychology) has requested and received $49,994 from Peak Performance, Inc. for the project entitled, "Continuing support for the Smart Factory Institute (Year 5)."
- Charlie Mix and Nyssa Hunt (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science) have received $70,000 from Skytec, LLC for the project entitled, "TN Blueways Mapping and Spatial Analysis."
- Dr. Christina Policastro and Dr. Karen McGuffee (Criminal Justice) have requested and received $45,230 from the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence for the project entitled, "2026 Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy."
- Dr. Kristina Wick and Meagan Oslund (School of Nursing) have received $64,444 from the Tennessee Department of Health for the project entitled, "Connecting Community Partners: Breaking Down Barriers to Heart Health."
- Dr. Richard Walker (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) has received $1,800 from Trout Unlimited for the project entitled, "Evaluating the Use and Benefits of Periodical Cicada Resource Pulses for Freshwater Fishes."

NOVEMBER 2025

- Dr. Belinda Lee (CCCE/Division of Access & Engagement) has received $339,217 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, “University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Upward Bound Program.”
- Karen Vann (CCCE/Division of Access & Engagement) has received $288,470 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, “UTC Talent Search.”

- Dr. Keith Bridges (CCCE/Division of Access & Engagement) has received $325,656 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, “Southern Appalachian Educational Opportunity Center (SAEOC).”
- Dr. Keith Bridges (CCCE/Division of Access & Engagement) has received $241,332 from the US Department of Education for the project entitled, “Northwest Georgia Educational Opportunity Center (NWGEOC).”
- Sybil Baker (English) has received $2,000 from South Arts for the project entitled, “Stove Works Meacham Fellow Visiting Writer Residency.”
- Carolyn Runyon and Molly Copeland (Library) have received $1,900 from the Tennessee State Library and Archives for the project entitled, “United Hosiery Mills Records Digitization Project.”
- Dr. Caitlin Crews-Stowe (Health & Human Performance) and Dr. David Levine (Physical Therapy) have received $25,000 from Weldon F. Osborne Foundation Inc. for the project entitled, “From Bench to Bedside to Community: Enhancing Microbiologic Identification Capacity.”

DECEMBER 2025

- Charlie Mix, Nyssa Hunt, and Laura Lee (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science (CAGDS)), in collaboration with Austin Peay State University, have received $37,931 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the project entitled, "Research and Development of Southeastern Grasslands Institute Southeast Native Seed Network Hub & GIS Web Tools."
- Dr. Ryan Zwart, Dr. Andrew Bailey, and Dr. Eric Hungenberg (Health & Human Performance) have received $20,011 from the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Inc. for the project entitled, "2025-26 Chattanooga Tourism Company - UTC Health and Human Performance Visitation Research."
- Dr. Ryan Zwart and Dr. Eric Hungenberg (Health & Human Performance) have received $13,380 from the Haywood Waterways Association for the project entitled, "2025 Pigeon River Watershed Impact Study."
- Andrew Van Slyke, Dr. Morgan Smith, and Hunter Whitehead (Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography) have received $3,000 from the Institute of Nautical Archeology for the project entitled, "Columbus' Caravels: Subsurface Testing of the Fisherman's Beach Ballast Pile in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica."
- Dr. Mengjun Xie (National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense), in collaboration with Purdue University Northwest, has received $106,729 from the Department of Defense for the project entitled, “2025 CAE Community National Center.”
- Charlie Mix and Nyssa Hunt (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science (CAGDS)), in collaboration with the South-Central Tennessee Development District, have received $45,379 from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the project entitled, "Developing a GIS Conservation Priority Model of the Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership."

JANUARY 2026

- Dr. Gazi Akgun (Engineering Management and Technology), Dr. Chandra Ward (Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography), and Dr. Seyedmehdi Khaleghian (CUIP) have received $50,000 from the Alliance for Automotive Innovation for the project entitled, "Consumer Acceptance of Automated Vehicles & Analysis and Comparison of State Laws."
- Dr. Mohammad Mahtabi (Mechanical Engineering) has received $7,780 from AMAERO Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Inc. for the project entitled, "316L Sintered Buttons."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi, Austin Harris, Dr. Seyedmehdi Khaleghian (CUIP), and Dr. Vahid Rasouli Disfani (Computer Science and Engineering) have received $502,798 from the City of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "An End-to-End Decision Support System for Integrated Transportation System and Smart Grid Management."
- Susan Lazenby (WUTC) has received $22,300 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for the project entitled, "WUTC Radio Community Service Grant."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi, Austin Harris, Dr. Seyedmehdi Khaleghian, and Dr. Huu Hoang Nguyen (CUIP) have received $18,002 from the US Department of Transportation for the project entitled, "End-to-End Data Architecture and Analytics Pipeline for Safe and Adaptive Autonomous Vehicles."
- Dr. Erkan Kaplanoglu (Engineering Management and Technology) has received $13,155 from Sensory Bridges LLC for the project entitled, "Design and Development of the Brooks Band Wearable System."
- Dr. Abdel Karrar (CECS) has received $40,943 from the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners for the project entitled, "2026 TBAEE Annual Grant - Engineering."
- Catherine Kendall and Jessica Etheredge (Interior Design) have received $5,232 from the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners for the project entitled, "2026 TBAEE - Interior Design."
- Austin Harris, Dr. Mina Sartipi, Dr. Mohamed Fadul, and Yasir Hassan (CUIP) have received $10,000 from the University of Tennessee Research Foundation for the project entitled, "Network-V2X Enabled Cloud-Based Digital Twin."
- Dr. Stephan Davenport and Dr. Spencer Usrey (Accounting), in collaboration with the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, Inc., have received $20,000 from the US Internal Revenue Service for the project entitled, "2025-26 IRS/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Matching Grant Program."
- Dr. Deborah McAllister, Dr. Jason Gordon, Dr. Jennifer Lynberg (School of Education), and Dr. Aniekan Ebiefung (Mathematics) have received $25,000 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Track 2: Graduate Yearlong Experience and Residency for Acquiring STEM Teaching Competencies (GradYEAR)."

FEBRUARY 2026

- Dr. Andrew Denney and Dr. Rick Dierenfeldt (Criminal Justice), in collaboration with the Hamilton County Government, have received $109,321 from the U.S. Department of Justice for the project entitled, "Recidivism Reduction Initiative."

- Dr. Dalei Wu, Dr. Yu Liang, Dr. Yingfeng Wang, Dr. Zihao Wang (Computer Science and Engineering), Katherine Elverd (Music), and Dr. Zibin Guo (Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography), in collaboration with the AI/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity, have received $100,000 from the National Institutes of Health for the project entitled, “Advancing Neurological Rehabilitation through AI-Driven Music Therapy.”
- Dr. Donald Reising (Electrical Engineering), in collaboration with Tennessee Technological University, has received $10,146 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, “TREN: Building Tennessee Research and Education Network.”
- Nyssa Hunt and Charlie Mix (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science (CAGDS)) have received $44,243 from the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership for the project entitled, “National Aquatic Connectivity Mapping (phase 3).”
- Dr. Reetesh Ranjan (Mechanical Engineering), in collaboration with the University of Alabama, Huntsville, has received $24,867 from TITOMIC for the project entitled, “Computational and Experimental Development of a High-Speed Cold Spray Gun Prototype.”

MARCH 2026

- Dr. Azad Hossain (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) has received $227,172 from the City of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "Evaluating the effects of Land Use and Land Cover Change on Friar Branch Creek Using Geospatial, Watershed, and Hydrodynamic Models with Emphasize on Channel Widening and Sediment Transport."
- Dr. Bret Eschman is serving as faculty advisor to student researcher Claire Beach (Psychology) who has received $1,321 from Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology for the project entitled, "Developing Resilience: How Temperament Supports Attention after Early Adversity."
- Charlie Mix and Laura Lee (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science (CAGDS)) have received $18,270 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the project entitled, "TDOT Collaboratory Proposal: A Shared Online Environment for Geospatial Data Collection and Analysis."
- Dr. Christine Smith (Nursing) has received $150,000 from the Erlanger Health System for the project entitled, "Affiliated Agreement for the CRNA Program 2026-2031."
- Dr. Donald Reising (Electrical Engineering) and Dr. Tian Li (Physics and Astronomy), in collaboration with Tennessee Technological University, have received $19,796 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Beginnings: Creating & Sustaining a Diverse Community of EQUIS Across the Southeastern US."
- Dr. Fatma Ayca Cetinkaya (Mathematics), in collaboration with Brigham Young University, has requested and received $7,300 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Recovering Images from Blurred Data: A Linear Algebra and Machine Learning Approach to a Simple Inverse Problem."
- Dr. Jared Pienkos (Chemistry) has received $16,000 from Organic Syntheses, Inc. for the project entitled, "Synthesis of N-oxide containing bipyridine ligands for the development of transition metal imaging agents."

- Dr. Jill Shelton is serving as faculty advisor to student researcher Luke Hicks (Psychology) who has received $1,012 from Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology for the project entitled, "Who Makes You Feel 'You': Stories of Authenticity Among Adults with Autism."
- Dr. Joey Shaw (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) has received $15,000 from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the project entitled, "Vascular Flora of Scotts Gulf Wilderness State Park."
- Dr. Sungwoo Yang (Civil and Chemical Engineering) has received $29,525 from Volkswagen Group of America for the project entitled, "Characterization of Westwood Aerogel for Electric Vehicle Battery Insulation."
- Susan Lazenby (WUTC), in collaboration with ArtsBuild, has received $4,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts for the project entitled, "ArtsBuild Artists Work in Partnership - Chattanooga History Documentaries."
- Susan Lazenby, Ray Bassett (WUTC), and Dr. Margaret Douglas (Business Administration), in collaboration with ArtsBuild, have received $4,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts for the project entitled, "2026 ArtsBuild United We Create: America 250- Radio Plays."

APRIL 2026

- Dr. Bento Lobo (Finance & Economics) has requested and received $25,000 from the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "2026 EPB Contract for CRER Scholars."
- Catherine Quinlan and Dr. Lucy Schultz (Environmental Studies) have received $14,450 from the Alliance of Women Philanthropists - Giving Circle for the project entitled, "Urban Farm at Alton Park with Wild Violet Permaculture."
- Dr. Deborah McAllister and Dr. Jennifer Lynberg (School of Education), in collaboration with Vanderbilt University, have received $10,350 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the project entitled, "STEM Topics for Pre-service Teachers."
- Dr. Joey Shaw (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science), in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, has requested and received $10,750 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the project entitled, "National Wetland Condition Assessment 2026, West Tennessee Region."
- Dr. Yingfeng Wang (Computer Science and Engineering) and Dr. Jannatul Ferdoush (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science), in collaboration with a cross-disciplinary team of faculty mentors, have received $464,970 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "REU Site: Interdisciplinary Computational Biology (iCompBio)."

MAY 2026

- Dr. Venkateswara Kode (Civil and Chemical Engineering) has received $199,516 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "ERI: Renewable Water Harvesting Using Tunable Solid Bio-Desiccants for Low-Energy Regeneration."
- Charlie Mix, Nyssa Hunt, and Laura Lee (Center for Applied Geospatial Data Science) have received $65,000 from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for the project entitled, "Spatial Analysis of TN Urban Community Forests."

- Dr. Donald Reising (Electrical Engineering), in collaboration with Purdue University, has requested and received $147,000 from the US Department of the Army for the project entitled, "Radiation-Hard Microelectronics Workforce Development Consortium."
- Dr. Joey Shaw, Dr. Stylianos Chatzimanolis, and Jessica Sanders (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science) have received $35,892 from the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "2026 EPB Bio Survey."
- Dr. Kimberly Wingate and Dr. Stephanie Brennan (School of Education) have received $1,114,074 from the Tennessee Department of Education for the project entitled, "Grow Your Own Apprenticeship (FY2026-FY2027)."
- Dr. Murat Barisik (Nanoengineering Center) has received $192,000 from the US Department of the Army for the project entitled, "Advanced Materials and Manufacturing for DOD Multi-Domain Operations at the Point of Need."

JUNE 2026

- Dr. Damitha Bandara (Data and Analytics), Dr. Jennifer Goodrich (Engineering Management and Technology), and Nyssa Hunt (CAGDS) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Assessing Equity and Optimizing Emergency Response Services Using GIS: A Spatial and Socioeconomic Analysis of Hamilton County, Tennessee."
- Angela Dittmar (Arts-Based Collaborative) and Daniel Mailman (Computer Science and Engineering), in collaboration with the UC Foundation, have requested and received $10,000 from Chattanooga 2.0 for the project entitled, "Synthesizing Sounds & Stories in Digital Time and Space."
- John Freeze (Center for Professional Education) has received $44,422 from the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs for the project entitled, "SELA South Eastern Leadership Academy 2026-2027."
- Farron Kilburn, Dr. Priscilla Simms-Roberson, Bethany Weaver, Dr. Amber Roache (Nursing), Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien, and Anna Miller (Counseling) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Stylists as Community Care Connectors: A Regional Pilot to Bridge Clients to Mental Health, Healthcare, and Safety Resources."
- Dr. Heather Lee (Health & Human Performance) has received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "The Differential Effect of TN Together on County-level Opioid Overdose Mortality in Tennessee by Physician density and Uninsured rate."
- Dr. David Levine (Physical Therapy), Dr. Caitlin Crews-Stowe (Health & Human Performance), and Charlie Mix (CAGDS) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Closing the Care Gap: Addressing Social Determinants to Improve Well-Child Visit Adherence."
- Dr. Marissa McElrone (Health & Human Performance) has received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Food and nutrition security surveillance pilot across the Chattanooga Area Food Bank network."

- Dr. Erin Melhorn (Occupational Therapy) and Dr. Derek Liuzzo (Physical Therapy) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "BALANCE Hamilton - Building Analytics and Local Networks for Community Empowerment."
- Dr. Jason Peter, Dr. Farron Kilburn, Dr. Amber Roache, Bethany Weaver (Nursing), Harlee Milligan, and April Wilson (Social Work) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Screenings, Health and Interprofessional Engagement through Library Delivery (SHIELD)."
- Dr. Karissa Peyer (Health & Human Performance) has received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Project IMPACT: Investigating Mobility Patterns for Access, Connections, and Treatment."
- Dr. Sean Richards, Dr. Dawn Ford (Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science), Nyssa Hunt, and Laura Lee (CAGDS) have requested and received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Environmental Health Monitoring in Hamilton County, TN."
- Dr. Mina Sartipi (Quantum Center) has requested and received $3,400,000 from the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga for the project entitled, "UTC QISE Research and Innovation Hub."
- Dr. Jin Wang (Mathematics) has received $173,777 from the National Science Foundation for the project entitled, "Collaborative Research: Multiscale modeling of viral infections: Dynamics and applications."
- Dr. Guisen Xue and Dr. Monireh Rahmati (Data and Analytics) have received $25,000 from the Journey Health Foundation for the project entitled, "Data-Driven Investigation of Social Determinants of Public Health: Evidence from Key Diseases."