

SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FALL 2022

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

As this fall semester quickly comes to a close, we are pleased to share an overview of recent grant activity at Le Moyne, including submissions, new and active grants, and future opportunities. It is clear from the depth and breadth of these grant projects that Le Moyne faculty and staff continue to do work that attracts the interest of a variety of private and public grantors. From providing student scholarships to funding opportunity programs and supporting renovation projects, grants make important contributions at the College.

We invite you to read about newly funded projects, to learn about projects in progress, and to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the Le Moyne community.

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SPOTLIGHT:

THE STEM COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT (SCORE) PROGRAM

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, fewer than half of undergraduate students who declare a STEM major complete a degree. Yet the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that STEM jobs are expected to grow 11 percent from 2020 to 2030, far faster than other occupations. At Le Moyne College, the STEM Community Outreach Research Engagement (SCORE) program is working to address this disparity.

The SCORE program is funded by a \$650,000, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program. Aparna Das, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, Cybersecurity and Software Development, is serving as the principal investigator (PI) and is responsible for the oversight of the project. "The overall goal for our project is to increase interest and retention in STEM by providing students with mentoring, STEM project opportunities, and cohort-building activities," she said.

Serving with Dr. Das as co-PIs are Emily Ledgerwood, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, Yue Han, Ph.D., associate professor of information systems, Whitney Wood, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, and Emily Lawless, M.S., director of Le Moyne's Quantitative Reasoning Center (QRC). To develop and submit the S-STEM application, members from the SCORE team met over the course of 10 months to "develop the idea, collect supporting documentation, review the research literature, and write the project proposal," said Dr. Wood. In collaboration with Le Moyne's Office of Government and Foundation Relations, the SCORE team submitted its application and was notified in 2019 that SCORE would receive funding.

"The National Science Foundation stipulated that grant funding must serve academically talented, financially needy students pursuing non-health related STEM careers. Beyond that, grant objectives were set by the SCORE faculty," said Dr. Ledgerwood. One of SCORE's main objectives is recruiting and enrolling a total of 20 SCORE scholars over the course of two years. Dr. Ledgerwood noted that "it was important to recruit and enroll students who are underrepresented within their intended field of study, and to prioritize first-generation students."

Other objectives for the project include enhancing academic and student support services in order to ensure higher retention and graduation rates for students in STEM majors, increasing the placement rate of SCORE scholars in graduate programs or professional positions within STEM fields, and disseminating knowledge that examines the link between student service learning and retention in STEM majors.



SCORE Cohort #1 (Left to right): Yue Han, Ph.D., Samuel White, Nicholas Woronowski, Max Lee, Lyniya Edwards, Erik Alder and Emily Ledgerwood, Ph.D. Not pictured is Sarah Moore.

While the first two cohorts of students were drawn to the program for the financial aid it offers, SCORE students soon discovered additional value in the program. From skill-based seminars and a SCORE Science Course and Career Speaker Series to service learning initiatives and mentoring, the SCORE program has introduced students to many research opportunities and group collaboration activities. As Dr. Han noted, "The SCORE program creates a template for future programs that focus on supporting STEM students."

In surveys and interviews, SCORE scholars said that the SCORE program is having a significant impact on their academic success, their persistence in STEM, their sense of belonging in their STEM discipline, and their friendships at Le Moyne. Many SCORE scholars have been awarded scholarships, research grants, and internships, and several have indicated that, if not for the financial aid that the program provides, they would not have been able to attend Le Moyne.

"The overall goal for our project is to increase interest and retention in STEM by providing students with mentoring, STEM project opportunities, and cohort-building activities."

"We are passionate about finding ways to retain STEM majors at Le Moyne," said Dr. Wood. "Through SCORE, we have the opportunity to design and implement academic student supports and co-curricular activities and to learn about ways to help students stay engaged."

In particular, she noted that the SCORE program enables students to develop independent research projects that can benefit the local community, an opportunity that aligns with the Jesuit values of the College.

"Research suggests that many high performing, financially disadvantaged students look for careers that have some kind of direct and practical application to the world around them, such as health care," said Dr. Wood. "However, there are many ways that nonhealth-related STEM fields can benefit and support the local community. We hope that the SCORE program increases student awareness of the ways science can help the communities around them and, as a result, help them to stay in a STEM-related field."

NEW AWARDS AND ACTIVE GRANTS



Le Moyne was awarded \$150,000 from the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program to strengthen and improve undergraduate instruction and learning opportunities in Middle East and Islamic Studies. Douja Mamelouk, Ph.D., associate professor of world languages, literature, and cultures, will be the program director, and Delia Popescu, Ph.D. (political science), will serve as co-director. Elliott Bazzano, Ph.D. (religious studies), Robert Zens, Ph.D. (history), and Yunus Sozen, Ph.D. (political science), will also contribute to the project.



The Hearst Foundations awarded \$100,000 in scholarship funds to support economically disadvantaged students from New York City. The funds will be administered by Kate Cogswell '85, senior director of philanthropic plans, and Maximo Flint-Morgan, director of financial aid.



The College was awarded \$525,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation in support of the Healthcare Advancement Resource Center (HARC). The purpose of the HARC is to enable individuals with medical credentials in other countries to access jobs in the local health care sector. The Foundation has provided nearly \$1.2 million to support HARC since its launch in 2020. Stella Rwanda, Ph.D., is the director of HARC.



Le Moyne received \$60,000 from the Stanley W. Metcalf Foundation (\$40,000) and the DE French Foundation (\$20,000) to provide scholarships for students with financial need from Cayuga County and to support current needs at Le Moyne. Kate Cogswell '85, senior director of philanthropic plans, will be overseeing the project.



The Henry Luce Foundation awarded a four-year grant of \$187,300 through its Clare Boothe Luce (CBL) Program. The Le Moyne program is creating 19 CBL undergraduate research awards for female research scholars enrolled in physics, chemistry, mathematics and computer science by providing them with research, networking and professional-development opportunities. This is year four of the grant. Dixie Blackley, Ph.D., associate provost, College of Arts and Sciences and professor, Department of Economics is the program director.



Educating for our Rising Innovation Economy (ERIE21) has been selected as a recipient of a \$249,030 award in support of Lock 4, which provides access to educational and training opportunities for individuals in Central New York who are underrepresented in the tech and innovation workforce. The funding is part of the NYS Workforce Development Initiative, and it will enable ERIE21 to enroll 18 unemployed/underemployed adults in nine Le Moyne College Undergraduate Certificate programs in Cybersecurity Fundamentals and Computer Programming. Amanda Miles '10 is the director of ERIE21.



The J.M. McDonald Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to create a Le Moyne SMART Resource Room in Romero Hall, in which Le Moyne's opportunity programs are located (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, Liberty Partnerships Program, Science and Technology Entry Program, and Upward Bound). The room will be updated with technology designed to support students' academic and professional development. Darshini Roopnarine, Ph.D., assistant dean in the Division of Student Development, will oversee these efforts.



Le Moyne College was awarded a \$150,000 renewal grant from the NSA's GenCyber program to fund the LMC GenCyber Students Trained in Awareness, Readiness and Security (STARS) Student Camp. The camp will develop cybersecurity awareness and teach sound cybersecurity fundamentals to a total of 60 campers over two sessions including one session exclusively for girls. This grant will build upon its inaugural camp held in summer 2022. Ben Atwood, senior academic services coordinator for the ERIE21 initiative, and Jim Enwright, professor of practice, Department of Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Software Development will lead the project..



The Manresa Program, the College's hallmark vocational discernment initiative, was the recipient of a three-year, \$50,000 NetVUE "Vocation across the Academy" grant from the Council on Independent Colleges. The grant will support a dramatic increase in the number of students who access vocational discernment opportunities by supporting faculty, administrators, and staff in developing tools to contribute to this discernment. This is the final year of the grant period. Steven Affeldt, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Philosophy and RJ Rapzoa, associate director of Career Advising and Development, are co-directors of Manresa.



The NYS Education Department awarded a five-year grant of \$2,250,000 to Le Moyne's Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP). LPP works to increase the graduation rate of youth who may be at risk of leaving high school. \$450,000 was awarded annually to serve 360 high school students from the Syracuse City School District. Ed Blasland is the director of Le Moyne's Liberty Partnerships Program.

NEW AWARDS AND ACTIVE GRANTS (continued)



Educating for our Rising Innovation Economy (ERIE21) has received a \$7.2M grant from Empire State Development via the Regional Economic Development Council's Upstate Revitalization Initiative. It is administered by the New York State Department of Labor. Focusing on early intervention (middle school) and providing ongoing support to students in high school and college, ERIE21 is strengthening the region's capacity to develop pathways that generate local talent to meet the growing demand for computational, software, and engineering professionals.

PROPOSALS IN PROGRESS

National Endowment for the Humanities: Spotlight on the Humanities in Higher Education — \$60,000

The proposed project would support the creation of a class called "Publishing Today" that would reinvigorate interest in majoring in English literature at the College. The course would teach English majors about the current landscape of the publishing industry today and would provide students with needed internship experience. Norrell Edwards, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of English will oversee this project.

Booth Ferris Foundation — \$300,000

This proposed project would increase students' awareness about their well-being and provide educational experiences that will improve their overall health and mental health. The initiative will also support secondary prevention by helping to reduce the stigma associated with seeking help and educate students about all of the resources that are available on and off campus. Anne Kearney, LCSW-R, dean of student well-being in the Division of Student Development, will oversee this initiative.

FUTURE FUNDING

NSA's GenCyber program — \$150,000

The College will be requesting a \$150,000 grant from the NSA's GenCyber program to continue funding the LMC GenCyber summer camp for high school students. The aim of this request will be to increase interest in cybersecurity careers throughout the course of the camp sessions. If funded, this would be Le Moyne's third grant. Ben Atwood, senior academic services coordinator for the ERIE21 initiative, and Jim Enwright, professor of practice, Department of Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Software Development, will lead the project.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services — \$306,000

Le Moyne will request a \$306,000 Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Campus Suicide Prevention grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The goal of this request will be to improve mental health and wellness on campus through a peer-to-peer support program. Anne Kearney, LCSW-R, dean of student well-being, will be leading the project.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation — \$75,000

The Center for Aging Resources and Enrichment (CARE) is requesting \$75,000 to grow its engagement with aging seniors through expanded conversations about the physical, emotional, financial and spiritual well-being of the elder community. Kathryn Tovar '05 is the CARE director.

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation — \$400,000

This renewal grant request is to support a new cohort of Cabrini Nursing Scholars. Funding would both diversify and expand the nursing workforce in Central New York to reflect more closely the ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds of the patients for whom they care. The project is led by Meega Wells, Ph.D., RN, ANP-BC and dean and professor of the Purcell School of Professional Studies.

Porticus Foundation — \$100,000

A grant of \$100,000 has been requested from the Porticus Foundation to fund faculty at Jesuit universities to create materials for classroom use that meet the needs described in The Inspirational Paradigm for Jesuit Business Education. Under the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU), the Inspirational Paradigm was developed to address the urgent need to prepare future business leaders to respond to environmental and social justice issues. Tracy Couto, Ed.D., director of the Savage-McGill Center for Reflective Leadership in the Madden School of Business, will lead the project.

KeyBank Foundation — \$150,000 over three years

This proposed project will expand ERIE21 STEM programming for high school students (Lock 2) and incoming first-year students (Lock 3) from low-income backgrounds in the city of Syracuse. Amanda Miles '10 is the director of ERIE21.

National Science Foundation: Innovation Engine Proposal — \$198,763

SUNY Upstate Medical University is partnering with Le Moyne College on a research program with the goals to examine graduate ethics education and research needs in emerging research settings; develop and implement programs to address those needs in multiple institutions; and evaluate and disseminate the results. Martha Grabowski, Ph.D., McDevitt Distinguished Chair in Information Systems, Information Systems Program Director, Professor of Information Systems in the Madden School of Business, will serve as Co-PI on the project.