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As this fall semester winds to a close, the Office of Government and Foundation Relations is pleased to share an overview of recent grant activities at Le Moyne, including newly awarded and active grants, proposals in progress, and applications pending. From mental health initiatives and workforce development programs to arts and humanities projects to faculty innovations, the scope of these grant projects speaks to the commitment of Le Moyne's faculty and staff toward advancing the College's mission.

As you read about our current grant happenings, we invite you to find inspiration in the ingenuity, dedication and hard work of the Le Moyne community.

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SPOTLIGHT: ArtsCONNECT GRANT



Poet Langston Hughes once wrote, “Let life be like music.” This fall in Syracuse, music was like life, as the Sphinx Virtuosi, an 18-member orchestra, performed at Nottingham High School. Comprised of Black and Latinx musicians, the Sphinx Virtuosi is a self-conducted chamber orchestra and is part of the Sphinx Organization – the leading social justice nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives through the power and diversity in the arts.

An \$8,000 grant from the ArtsCONNECT program of the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation enabled Le Moyne College to bring the Sphinx Virtuosi to Nottingham and to organize a community education engagement session with local students in the Syracuse City School District. Travis Newton, chair of visual and performing arts at Le Moyne, Greg Giovanini '11, administrative manager in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and Ed Ruchalski, director of the music program, spearheaded the effort to help bring these performers to the community.

Initially hearing about the funding opportunity through the Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music, of which he is a board member, Newton was interested in applying for the grant in order to bring the Sphinx Virtuosi to Syracuse. After sharing the opportunity with Giovanini and Ruchalski, they decided to apply for funds that would cover the artists' performance fees.

“The vast majority of the classical music industry, especially in the orchestra world, is very white. One of the things that the Sphinx Organization has been doing for 26 years is to work toward diversifying the classical music industry so that it's more reflective of society and more relevant to society,” says Newton. “And so, especially for musicians of color to be able to see performers on stage who look like them, being able to imagine doing that themselves or imagine a world where that could be

possible, is very powerful and that's something that we, as a social justice-oriented college, are certainly interested in doing and demonstrating.”

Giovanini feels similarly. “What was attractive about bringing the Sphinx to Le Moyne is that it connects with the school's mission,” he notes. “The ensemble is part of the Sphinx Organization, which is a leader in classical music at trying to diversify the arts. So not only does it help Black and Latinx performers find pathways to perform, but it also has educational and recruiting programs and ways to give back to the community to help increase representation.”

The Sphinx Virtuosi performed a program called “Generations,” which featured music based on the poetry of Langston Hughes and Julia Alvarez. All of the composers on the program were either Black or Latinx. One piece on the program that stood out was written for two double bass soloists, which Newton notes is a very unusual thing to see, as double bassists are usually “in the back of the orchestra, providing the musical foundation.”

While some aspects of the grant process were tricky, such as waiting to receive notification of the award and coordinating schedules with the Sphinx Virtuosi and Nottingham High School, Newton and Giovanini both believe the rewards far outweighed the challenges. “We made the decision—and it was the right decision—to have this concert off-campus at Nottingham High School, which has 1,200 seats,” says Newton. “We could have easily sold out the Performing Arts Center here on campus, but we wanted to make the concert accessible to more people and to go into their neighborhood for this concert to demonstrate that we are engaging with the community. That's one of the challenging, but also rewarding, aspects of the project. Ultimately, we think it was worth it.”

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– Travis Newton
Chair of visual and performing arts at Le Moyne

NEW AWARDS AND ACTIVE GRANTS

Le Moyne has received a \$300,000, two-year grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation to create “Dolphins Changing Minds,” a public health approach to the current mental health crisis that is negatively impacting the Le Moyne community. The goal of this project is to increase students' abilities to respond effectively to the numerous mental health challenges they face. Anne Kearney, LCSW-R, dean of student wellbeing in the Division of Student Development, will oversee this initiative.

Le Moyne has received \$50,000 from the M&T Charitable Foundation to develop and deliver services under Lock 3 of its comprehensive workforce development initiative known as ERIE21. Lock 3 seeks to prepare Le Moyne students for a range of jobs within the technology and innovation fields. Amanda Miles '10, MA is the director of ERIE21.

Le Moyne has received a \$299,511 grant from the NYS Higher Education Capital Matching Program (HECap). Funds will be used for Reilly Hall renovations and upgrades. Fouad Dietz, MBA, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, campus architect, Facilities Management and Planning, will be overseeing the project.

The College has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for Dolphins Spreading HOPE! (Healthy Optimism Positive Experience). To help address local mental health issues, Le Moyne plans to deploy approximately 30 student wellness ambassadors. These students will complete a resiliency-based course that includes suicide prevention and then be assigned to high schools in their home communities throughout Central New York. Anne Kearney, LCSW-R, dean of student well-being in the Division of Student Development, will lead the program.

APPLICATIONS PENDING

There are over \$4.8 million in proposals pending. Some of the applications are listed below:

Lilly Endowment — \$1,250,000

The College submitted a request to the Lilly Endowment through the Thriving Congregations Initiatives for \$1,250,000. Le Moyne proposes to develop “Renewal through Reconciliation,” a program designed to engage a diverse group of Syracuse and Central New York congregations to undertake the challenging work building toward reconciliation with the Haudenosaunee. Patrick Rogers, S.J., vice president for mission integration, will be leading the program.

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation — \$1,000,000

The College submitted three applications to the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (totaling \$1,000,000) seeking funding that supports nursing scholarships, the Healthcare Advancement Resource Center (HARC), which supports foreign-trained medical professionals, and the Center for Aging Resources and Enrichment (CARE), which supports aging seniors.

NSF – Navigating the New Arctic: Arctic Tsunamigenic Landslide Partnership — \$53,446

Le Moyne submitted a proposal for a research project partnering with University of Alaska Fairbanks. Martha Grabowski, Ph.D., McDevitt Distinguished Chair in Information Systems, will serve as Co-PIs on the project.

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

ALDEN SITE VISIT



In October, trustees from the George I. Alden Trust met with various constituents across campus for a site visit. Alden's lifetime giving to the College is \$838,000, with the most recent grant funding the renovation of Le Moyne's Department of Communication and Film Studies. This \$180,000 grant was the largest Le Moyne has received from the Alden Trust. In addition to visiting the newly updated Department of Communication and Film Studies, trustees also visited the Madden trading room and the accounting lab in the Madden College of Business and Economics, as well as the Learning Commons and Quantitative Reasoning Center in the Noreen Reale Falcone Library. Funds from Alden helped to transform these spaces over the years.

majoring in English literature at the College. The course would teach English majors about the current landscape of the publishing industry and would provide students with internship experience. Norrell Edwards, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of English, will oversee this project.

New York State Education Department's Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) — \$3,581,250

The College applied for a \$3,581,250, five-year renewal grant through the New York State Education Department's Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). The proposal would support Le Moyne College in continuing its previous success in providing access and opportunity to 75 qualified NYS students who show great potential for academic success. This year, the proposal included an international travel/study abroad component for Le Moyne College HEOP students. KL Lane, director of HEOP and AHANA programs, will lead the program.

Metropolitan New York Library Council's Coordinated Collective Development Aid — \$7,464

Le Moyne has applied for \$7,464 in funding from the Coordinated Collective Development Aid (CCDA). These funds would support Le Moyne's Noreen Reale Falcone Library collection maintenance and development. Lisa Chaudhuri, MLIS, MBA '20, director of the Noreen Reale Falcone Library, will oversee this project.

CABRINI SCHOLARS SPOTLIGHT

BACKGROUND: Funded by generous grants from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, the Cabrini Scholarships in Nursing program aims to expand the number of students from diverse backgrounds enrolled in Le Moyne College’s nursing program. To achieve this goal, Le Moyne recruits students from low-income and diverse backgrounds in order to foster a closer demographic balance between the composition of the area’s nursing workforce and that of the patients it serves. In addition to providing scholarships, the program also provides Cabrini Nursing Scholars with a range of academic support services including specialized tutoring, book stipends and a one-credit class intended to help students with the transition into college-level courses. The program is currently in its third year.

Featured below are students in this year’s 2023-24 cohort:

Makayla Berga '27, of South Jamaica Queens, N.Y., knew she wanted to be a nurse after her aunt passed away from cancer in 2016. Motivated by a desire to leave a positive, long-lasting impact on those who are “either



on the hospital bed or in the waiting room praying for their loved one to pull through,” Makayla has fully embraced her first year of nursing education. She is especially enjoying her human anatomy and physiology lab and participates as a New York State EMT in Le Moyne’s student-run EMS agency. She writes, “Receiving the Cabrini Scholarship was, and still is, very meaningful to me because it meant that someone out there believed in me and believed that I could do great things with the right support. At a time where I felt like I was the only person giving myself a chance, I was given one by one of my top choices in

schools, and when I had seen my acceptance letter for the scholarship, I was the happiest I’d ever been.” Makayla also notes that her college adviser in high school helped her to “be in such an amazing school that’s full of support for its students.”

Muhammed Aljerari '27, of Jamesville,



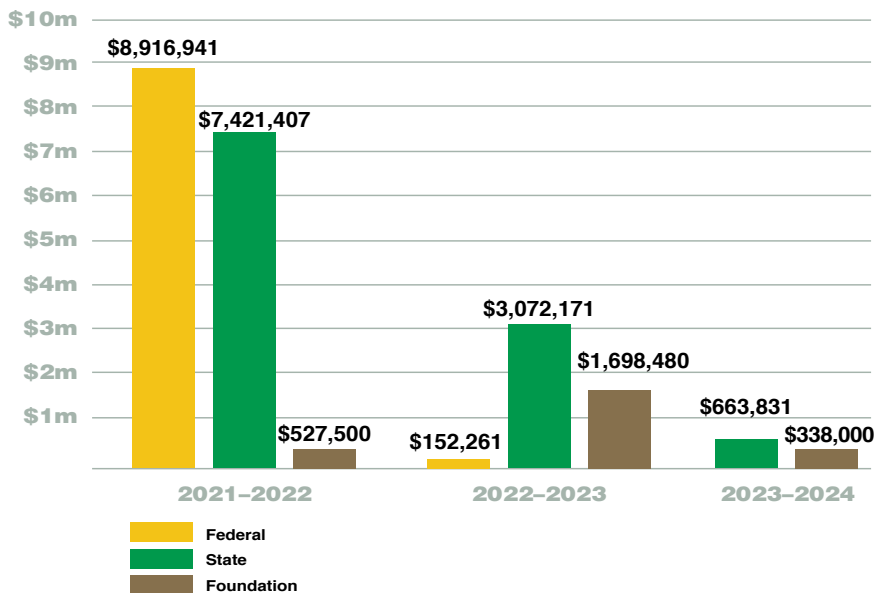
N.Y., has learned two important lessons about nursing so far: always keep moving forward and never give up. A passion for helping others and a desire to leave the world a better place drive Muhammed to strive for excellence. In his first fall semester at Le Moyne, he has found enjoyment in his world civilizations class. Outside of school, Muhammed works part time and likes to run in his free time. He writes, “The Cabrini Scholarship allows me to focus more on my education and the things that matter most to me.”

Connie Ho '27, of Syracuse, N.Y., is guided by her passion for holistic care and its impact. She notes that her mother is a great inspiration for her when it comes to compassion and selflessly caring for others.



As a nursing student, Connie has recognized the importance of consistency and quality learning, which have helped her through her favorite class, anatomy and physiology. At Le Moyne, she is a member of nursing club, Asia club, gardening club and art club and works on the weekends as a pharmacy technician. “The Cabrini Scholarship has given me the opportunity to pursue nursing school,” writes Connie. “Despite the challenges upon attending college, Cabrini reminds me of the possible resources available and of those who believe in and are invested in my study; that is what motivates me.”

Government and Foundation Relations Raised a Total of \$22,790,390 Between February 2021 and October 2023



FUTURE FUNDING

NSF S-STEM – Track 2 –

Le Moyne will be applying for a renewal grant from the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program. If funded, the grant would support the new cohorts of students using many of the lessons learned from the College’s experience with the Track 1 program. Whitney Wood, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, will serve as the program’s primary investigator (PI); Emily Ledgerwood, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Aparna Das, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Math, Statistics, and Computer Science, and Emily Lawless, M.S., director of the Quantitative Reasoning Center, will be co-PIs of the program.