

A photograph of three female researchers in a laboratory setting. They are all wearing white lab coats and safety glasses. The researcher on the left is wearing black gloves and holding a small vial. The researcher in the middle is wearing blue gloves and holding a vial. The researcher on the right is wearing black gloves and pointing at something. They are all smiling and looking at each other. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Simmons
UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AT SIMMONS

REPORT ON FUNDED PROJECTS AND SELECTED FACULTY
AND STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2025

(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Center for Faculty Excellence

The Office of Research
and Fellowships

Controller's Office



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LETTER FROM

THE PROVOST



DEAR SIMMONS COLLEAGUES,

I am pleased to share with you the Annual Report on Research at Simmons for fiscal year 2025 (FY25). This report highlights the creativity and determination of our faculty, staff, and students, who continued to advance scholarship in a difficult national environment.

The start of 2025 brought significant upheaval in federal funding, with shifting priorities and sudden changes to ongoing programs. At Simmons, this meant that some projects were shortened, others were suspended, and a few were canceled altogether. Those setbacks might have stalled momentum, but our researchers responded: they adapted, reshaped their plans, and pushed forward to achieve as many of their original aims as possible.

That resilience fueled significant progress this year. Simmons faculty

submitted 26 proposals totaling \$12.5 million. We received 16 external awards totaling \$3.6 million. We expended \$2.5 million in external funding, including \$1 million from federal sponsors. These efforts advanced projects across disciplines and sustained important community partnerships.

Our infrastructure also grew stronger. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) expanded outreach with 12 presentations to faculty, deans, and students and managed 338 protocol submissions. Simmons also entered into four reliance agreements that advanced collaborative research in public health, physical therapy, psychology, and nursing. The grant accounting team also improved internal financial reporting tools for Principal Investigators, making it easier for faculty to monitor their grant budgets and plan effectively for their projects.

Simmons' commitment to student research remained a bright spot. In FY25, we awarded:

- **Passionate Leaders Project:** 6 students | \$15,272
- **Summer Undergraduate Research Program at Simmons (SURPASS):** 8 students, 8 faculty mentors | \$60,333
- **Faculty-Student Collaborative Fellowship:** 14 faculty projects, 18 student fellows | \$32,600
- **Undergraduate Student Conference Award:** 18 students | \$9,000
- **Graduate Student Research Award:** 8 students | \$3,890
- **Graduate Student Conference Award:** 23 students | \$8,430

Even in a year of disruption, Simmons research thrived. By adapting to cancellations and constrained resources, our community proved

that imagination and persistence can turn setbacks into meaningful contributions. We move into FY26 with optimism, prepared to build on this momentum and continue shaping knowledge and practice in ways that matter.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steph Cosner".

Stephanie Cosner
Provost

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



SHREYA BHATTACHARYYA
SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dr. Shreya Bhattacharyya, Associate Teaching Professor of Chemistry, was named a Clare Boothe Luce Professor in recognition of her dedication to teaching, research, and advancing opportunities for women in STEMM. In this role, she will expand efforts to support student success and retention in STEMM majors through innovative curriculum design and enrichment programs. Her leadership focuses on creating inclusive learning environments that foster confidence and persistence for women, students of color, and first-generation students pursuing STEMM careers.



SARAH CAVANAGH
CENTER FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Dr. Sarah Rose Cavanagh, Senior Associate Director for Teaching and Learning in the Center for Faculty Excellence, was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to expand a national network of educators focused on improving feedback practices in undergraduate biology courses. Her project addresses high attrition rates in STEM fields by developing evidence-based tools and resources that help faculty provide more timely, useful, and supportive feedback to students. By advancing equitable teaching practices, Dr. Cavanagh's work aims to strengthen student success and retention in STEM, particularly for women, first-generation students, and those from underrepresented backgrounds.



LAURA SAUNDERS
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Dr. Laura Saunders, Professor and Associate Dean in the School of Library and Information Science, was named the inaugural director of the newly established Simmons Center for Information Literacy (SCIL). Created in collaboration with the Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Simmons University Library, SCIL advances skills in evaluating and using information across media, civic, health, and social contexts.

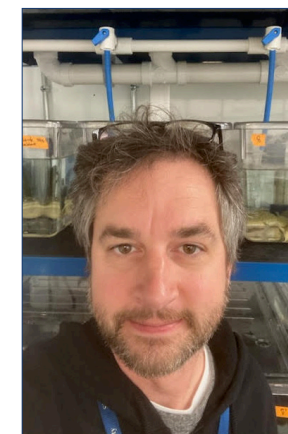
The Center will foster curriculum development, programming for students and the wider community, and community engagement initiatives that strengthen the public's ability to recognize credible information and counter mis- and disinformation, cultivating informed and engaged citizens.



JEFFREY STEEN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Jeffrey Steen, Assistant Professor of Social Work, leads Simmons' participation in the Harm Reduction Training (HaRT) Scholars program, an innovative initiative that equips Master of Social Work students with specialized training and internships in harm reduction approaches to substance use.

Through this work, Dr. Steen advances Simmons' commitment to preparing future social workers to address the opioid crisis with compassion, evidence-based practice, and culturally responsive care, while expanding pathways for diverse students to enter the field of addiction treatment..



JOHN YOUNG
SCHOOL OF SCIENCES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dr. John Young, Associate Professor of Biology and Elizabeth Backofen Endowed Professor, leads a multi-year National Science Foundation project investigating how frogs generate limbs after embryonic development, a process that remains poorly understood in

vertebrates. He combines genetic tools with traditional developmental methods to uncover the cells and gene networks that initiate limb formation. The findings offer fresh insights into limb diversity and plasticity across species. Simmons undergraduates participate directly in the research, gaining hands-on experience in a cutting-edge laboratory and building skills for future careers in science.

PROPOSALS

18 TOTAL PROPOSALS

PROPOSALS BY SPONSOR TYPE

Federal

13

Non-Profit/Foundation

5

Proposals

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | PROGRAM | TITLE | DUE DATE | AMOUNT REQUESTED |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|------------|------------------|
| Erdelez, Sanda | Dean's Office | School of Library and Information Sciences | San Jose State (IMLS) | | Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program | iLead: Preparing Tomorrow's Library Leaders | 3/10/2025 | \$64,070 |
| Gildawie, Kelsea | Psychology | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Yale University | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs | Prenatal Exposure to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder: Sex-Dependent Effects on Adolescent Prefrontal Cortex Development | 11/1/2024 | \$11,175 |
| Herman, Jennifer | Center for Faculty Excellence | | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | NSF Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Economic Development (GRANTED) | Planning: Research Advancement and Inclusion Through Support and Engagement (RAISE) | 9/4/2024 | \$99,198 |
| Li, Yulong | | School of Management | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Directorate for STEM Education (IUSE: EDU) | Developing an AI-Powered Bridge Course to Enhance Student Readiness for Introductory Data Analytics | 12/15/2024 | \$400,000 |
| Li, Yunxin | Humanities | Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences | National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) | | NEH Summer Stipends | Scandalous Power: Gender, Family, and Social Networks at the Han Inner Court | 9/18/2024 | \$8,000 |
| Li, Yunxin | Humanities | Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities and Social Sciences | Whiting Foundation | | Whiting Foundation Grants | Material Culture and History of Premodern China | 1/3/2025 | \$5,333 |
| Putnam, Michelle | | School of Social Work | Borchard Foundation | | Academic Research Grant | Older Adult Transition from Institutional to Home and Community-Based Care: Perspectives on What Will Facilitate Community Inclusion | 9/27/2024 | \$20,000 |
| Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) | Collaborative Research: A multisite REU in Synthetic Biology | 8/21/2024 | \$278,717 |
| Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM) | STEM Success at Simmons (S3) Program | 2/23/2025 | \$2,000,000 |
| Sellers, Christina | | School of Social Work | Mass General Brigham | | MGH Community Health Impact Funds | Simmons University School-based Suicide Prevention Initiative | 8/19/2024 | \$74,997 |
| Sellers, Christina | | School of Social Work | Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) | | Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals | Simmons Mental Health Access, Response, and Training (SMHART) Program | 1/23/2025 | \$2,313,097 |
| Sellers, Christina | | School of Social Work | Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) | | Boston Children's Community Health Initiative | Expanding and Diversifying the Children's Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce | 2/7/2025 | \$592,220 |
| Sellers, Christina | | School of Social Work | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | | NIH Research Enhancement Awards (R15) | Suicide Risk Assessment Training Using Virtual Patient Simulations: A Multi-site Study | 2/25/2025 | \$569,848 |
| Steen, Jeff | | School of Social Work | Center for Drug Use and HIV/HCV Research | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | CDUHR Pilot Projects Award | Preparing to Establish an Overdose Prevention Center: Exploring the Perspectives of HIV and Substance Use Service Providers and People Who Use Drugs in Worcester, Massachusetts | 7/31/2024 | \$24,972 |
| Steen, Jeff | | School of Social Work | Council of Social Work Education | | CSWE Substance Use Disorders Education and Leadership Scholars Program | Substance Use Disorders Education and Leadership Scholars (SUDEALS) Program (Council on Social Work Education) | 10/15/2024 | \$20,000 |
| Stubbs, Amber | Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Brandeis University | National Science Foundation (NSF) | NSF Linguistics | Collaborative Research: Investigating the Formal Constraints on English Verb Phrase Ellipsis Using a Syntactically Annotated Corpus | 7/15/2024 | \$72,233 |
| Young, John | Biology | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | | NIH Research Enhancement Awards (R15) | The Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms that Govern Post-Embryonic Limb Formation in Anurans | 2/25/2025 | \$390,189 |
| Zhang, Mei | | School of Library and Information Sciences | Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) | | Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program | Case study of an e-book vendor | 9/20/2024 | \$154,567 |

EXTERNAL AWARDS

16 EXTERNAL AWARDS

\$3,595,286 TOTAL AWARDED

PROPOSALS BY SPONSOR TYPE AND TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT

| Federal | Foundation |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>5 awards</i> | <i>11 awards</i> |
| \$892,973 | \$2,702,313 |

Awards

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | TITLE | START DATE | END DATE | AMOUNT AWARDED |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|------------|------------|----------------|
| Beatty, Jackie | Nutrition | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation | | 2024 Margene Wagstaff Award for Innovation in Dietetics | 6/1/2025 | 9/30/2025 | \$3,000 |
| Bettivia, Rhiannon | | School of Library and Information Sciences | Rutgers University | Institute for Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS) | Story Telling Across Time: Building a Community Around Provenance (B-CAP) | 8/1/2024 | 7/31/2026 | \$19,971 |
| Bhattacharyya, Shreya | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Henry Luce Foundation | | Clare Boothe Luce Professorship + scholarships | 1/1/2025 | 12/31/2029 | \$645,000 |
| Cavanagh, Sarah | Center for Faculty Excellence | | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | Transforming Learning and Equity in UBE by Cultivating an Ecosystem of Feedback (TUnE-Bio) | 9/1/2024 | 8/31/2028 | \$496,043 |
| Cody, Nakeisha | Provost's Office | | Posner Foundation | | RISE Program Fund | 7/22/2024 | 6/30/2029 | \$1,000,000 |
| Doran, Meghan | Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity | | Jumpstart | Americorps | Cooperative Agreement Number: CFDA-94.006-JS-SITE #206 Grant #2060250 | 9/1/2024 | 6/30/2025 | \$102,105 |
| Doran, Meghan | Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity | | Campus Compact | | Newman Civic Fellow Mini-Grant | 1/1/2025 | 6/30/2025 | \$1,500 |
| Elias, Joe | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | American Chemical Society | | Functionalized Heterobimetallic Sulfides for Electrocatalytic CO2 Reduction | 6/1/2025 | 8/31/2027 | \$55,000 |
| Erdelez, Sanda | Dean's Office | School of Library and Information Sciences | Institute for Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS) | | ILISE: Promoting Diversity Through a Shared and Inclusive Curriculum | 8/1/2024 | 7/31/2027 | \$249,510 |
| Eredelez, Sanda | Dean's Office | School of Library and Information Sciences | Mellon Foundation | | Support for The Center for Information Literacy | 11/1/2024 | 12/31/2025 | \$250,000 |
| Geisler, Paul | Dean's Office | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Henry Luce Foundation | | Women in STEM Community Planning Grant | 1/1/2025 | 12/31/2025 | \$80,813 |
| Kipp, Matoaka | REEF Support Center | | Gerstner Philanthropies | | Gerstner Helping Hands Program | 4/1/2025 | 12/31/2025 | \$50,000 |
| Kramer, Courtney | London Center | | Bonner Foundation | | Support for The London Center for Community Engagement and Social Justice | 11/1/2024 | 6/30/2026 | \$19,000 |
| Schlosser, Heather | | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Mass General Brigham | | Bangladesh: Enhancing Global Health through Professional Development Opportunities | 7/1/2024 | 9/30/2025 | \$50,000 |
| Staffier, Amy | Student Financial Services | | Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education | | Mass Gilbert Grant 16 | 7/1/2024 | 6/30/2025 | \$548,000 |
| Steen, Jeff | | School of Social Work | New York University | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | Preparing to Establish an Overdose Prevention Center: Exploring the Perspectives of HIV and Substance Use Service Providers and People Who Use Drugs in Worcester, Massachusetts | 9/1/2024 | 8/31/2025 | \$25,344 |

EXPENDITURES

41 GRANTS MANAGED

13 FEDERALLY FUNDED

Direct
costs

\$869,629

Indirect
costs

\$122,713

28 PRIVATELY FUNDED

Expenditures: Federal Funding

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | TITLE | GRANT NUMBER | START DATE | END DATE | Since start date | | FY25 as of 06/30/25 | | INDIRECT COST RATE |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--------------|------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | AMOUNT AWARDED | CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES | FY 25 DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES | FY 25 INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES | |
| Cavanagh, Sarah | Center for Faculty Excellence | | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | Transforming Learning and Equity in UBE by Cultivating an Ecosystem of Feedback (TUnE-Bio) | 400094 | 9/1/2024 | 8/31/2028 | \$496,043 | \$72,705 | \$48,795 | \$23,910 | 49% |
| Doran, Meghan | Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity | | Jumpstart | Americorps | Cooperative Agreement Number: CFDA-94.006-JS-SITE #206 Grant #2060240 | 400031 | 9/1/2023 | 8/31/2024 | \$98,201 | \$98,201 | \$15,734 | \$662 | 4.2% |
| Doran, Meghan | Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity | | Jumpstart | Americorps | Cooperative Agreement Number: CFDA-94.006-JS-SITE #206 Grant #2060250 | 400062 | 9/1/2024 | 6/30/2025 | \$102,105 | \$99,417 | \$95,401 | \$4,016 | 4.2% |
| Eredelez, Sanda | Dean's Office | School of Library and Information Sciences | San Jose State University | Institute of Library and Museum Sciences (IMLS) | iLead: Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders | 400060 | 8/1/2023 | 12/31/2024 | \$36,631 | \$35,630 | \$9,291 | \$4,173 | 51.5% |
| Gildawie, Kelsea | Psychology | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Yale University | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | Proteomics of Altered Signaling in Addiction | 400112 | 6/1/2024 | 5/31/2025 | \$11,175 | \$10,745 | \$7,211 | \$3,533 | 49% |
| Gushwa, Melinda | | School of Social Work | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | | Institute for Trauma Treatment in Schools | 400037 | 9/30/2021 | 9/29/2026 | \$2,929,616 | \$1,873,582 | \$484,068 | \$14,790 | 8% |
| Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | Collaborative Research: REU Site: Multisite REU in Synthetic Biology | 400018 | 3/1/2019 | 8/31/2024 | \$299,377 | \$299,376 | \$662 | - | 58.7% |
| Roecklein-Canfield, Jennifer | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | National Science Foundation (NSF) | Distributed Learning for Undergraduate Programs in Data Science at Diverse Universities | 400045 | 10/1/2022 | 9/30/2025 | \$50,151 | \$32,890 | \$5,408 | \$5,236 | 51.5% |
| Saha, Arpita | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) | | MUREP WCU-0019, DREAM-WSTEM (Dynamic Research Education Academy for Mentoring Women in STEM) | 400059 | 8/1/2023 | 7/31/2025 | \$749,126 | \$393,143 | \$158,881 | \$48,319 | 51.5% |
| Steen, Jeff | | School of Social Work | New York University | National Institutes of Health (NIH) | Preparing to Establish an Overdose Prevention Center: Exploring the Perspectives of HIV and Substance Use Service Providers and People Who Use Drugs in Worcester, Massachusetts | 404404 | 9/1/2024 | 8/31/2025 | \$25,344 | \$11,287 | \$11,287 | - | 0.0% |
| Thomas, Kristie | | School of Social Work | Arizona State University | Americorps | AmeriCorps State and National Public Health AmeriCorps | 400058 | 8/31/2022 | 7/31/2025 | \$88,047 | \$46,940 | \$24,229 | \$1,274 | 5.3% |

Expenditures: Federal Funding

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | TITLE | GRANT NUMBER | START DATE | END DATE | Since start date | | FY25 as of 06/30/25 | | INDIRECT COST RATE |
|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | AMOUNT AWARDED | CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES | FY 25 DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES | FY 25 INDIRECT COST EXPENDITURES | |
| Veilleux, Nanette | Computer, Data & Mathematical Sciences | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | Collaborative Research: Exploring Variation in English Intonational Acoustic Phonetics from Grammatical Perspectives | 400043 | 8/15/2021 | 1/31/2026 | \$143,545 | \$136,807 | \$5,181 | \$9,617 | 51.5% |
| Young, John | Biology | School of Sciences and Health Professions | National Science Foundation (NSF) | | RUI: Unraveling the Developmental Genetics that Underlie Anuran Limb Initiation | 400036 | 4/1/2021 | 3/31/2026 | \$315,757 | \$270,786 | \$3,482 | \$7,183 | 51.5% |
| | | | | | | | | | | | \$869,629 | \$122,713 | |

Expenditures: Private Funding

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | PROJECT TITLE | GRANT NUMBER | START DATE | END DATE | AMOUNT AWARDED |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Agarwal, Naresh | | School of Library and Information Sciences | iSchools | | iSchools Research Project | 404106 | 4/3/2023 | 3/31/2026 | \$4,500 |
| Beatty, Jackie | Nutrition | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation | | 2024 Margene Wagstaff Award for Innovation in Dietetics | 404405 | 6/1/2025 | 9/30/2025 | \$3,000 |
| Bhattacharyya, Shreya | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Henry Luce Foundation | | Clare Boothe Luce Professorship + scholarships | 823016 | 1/1/2025 | 12/31/2029 | \$645,000 |
| Brown, Lisa | Nutrition | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation | | Nutrition Diversity Mentors: Eat Right | 404051 | 6/1/2016 | 6/30/2025 | \$10,000 |
| Brown, Lisa | Nutrition | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Heinz Family Foundation | | Educational Development for Integrative Functional Nutrition | 823004 | 12/14/2022 | 6/30/2025 | \$30,000 |
| Brown, Lisa | Nutrition | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Heinz Family Foundation | | Heinz Diversity Mentor | 823005 | 1/1/2023 | 6/30/2025 | \$20,000 |
| Christian, LaDonna | | School of Nursing | Helene Fuld Health Trust | | Dotson Bridge and Mentoring Program | 823006 | 12/31/2026 | 3/31/2026 | \$680,041 |
| Cody, Nakeisha | Provost's Office | | Anonymous | | Simmons' Leadership Innovation Hub | 823002 | 12/15/2022 | 12/31/2025 | \$425,000 |
| Cody, Nakeisha | Provost's Office | | Posner Foundation | | RISE Program Fund | 823013 | 7/22/2024 | 6/30/2029 | \$1,000,000 |
| Doran, Meghan | Student Engagement, Success, and Diversity | | Mass Humanities | | Reading Frederick Douglass Together | 404110 | 6/26/2024 | 3/6/2025 | \$700 |
| Elias, Joe | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | American Chemical Society | | Functionalized Heterobimetallic Sulfides for Electrocatalytic CO2 Reduction | 400111 | 6/1/2025 | 8/31/2027 | \$55,000 |
| Eredelez, Sanda | Dean's Office | School of Library and Information Sciences | Mellon Foundation | | Support for The Center for Information Literacy | 823014 | 11/1/2024 | 12/31/2025 | \$250,000 |
| Geisler, Paul | Dean's Office | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Heinz Family Foundation | | Heinz Leadership Stipend - Nutrition | 823012 | 6/1/2024 | 6/30/2025 | \$25,000 |
| Geisler, Paul | Dean's Office | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Henry Luce Foundation | | Women in STEM | 823015 | 1/1/2025 | 12/31/2025 | \$80,813 |
| Graves, Daren | | School of Social Work | Boston College | John Templeton Foundation | Building Communities of Practice to Foster Civic Character in Crew | 404099 | 9/1/2022 | 8/31/2024 | \$58,826 |
| Gurney, Richard | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) | | Inclusive Excellence 3 Learning Community (IE3LC) | 404100 | 4/1/2021 | 10/31/2028 | \$189,000 |
| Gurney, Richard | Chemistry and Physics | School of Sciences and Health Professions | University of Alaska Anchorage | | HHMI Ie3 grant | 404107 | 6/1/2023 | 10/31/2025 | \$49,495 |
| Gushwa, Melinda | | School of Social Work | Boston Children's Hospital | | Simmons Workforce Wellbeing Empowerment Project (SWWEP) | 404081 | 5/1/2022 | 4/30/2025 | \$298,393 |
| Hamilton-Mason, Johnnie | | School of Social Work | King Boston | | King Boston Visiting Scholar | 404096 | 1/1/2022 | 12/31/2025 | \$102,612 |
| Herman, Jennifer | Center for Faculty Excellence | | Davis Educational Foundation | | Responding to Students' Needs Through ReImagined Pedagogy and Course Design. | 823003 | 11/21/2022 | 12/31/2025 | \$299,750 |
| Kipp, Matoaka | REEF Support Center | | Gerstner Philanthropies | | Gerstner Helping Hands Program | 823018 | 4/1/2025 | 12/31/2025 | \$50,000 |

Expenditures: Private Funding

| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) | DEPARTMENT | SCHOOL | SPONSOR | PRIME SPONSOR (IF SUBAWARD) | PROJECT TITLE | GRANT NUMBER | START DATE | END DATE | AMOUNT AWARDED |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Kramer, Courtney | London Center | | Bonner Foundation | | Support for The London Center for Community Engagement and Social Justice | 823019 | 11/1/2024 | 6/30/2026 | \$19,000 |
| Rissmiller, Pat | | School of Nursing | Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center | | A Wellness Model: Promoting Behavioral Health at Fenway High School | 823010 | 1/1/2024 | 12/31/2026 | \$416,666 |
| Schlosser, Heather | | School of Sciences and Health Professions | Mass General Brigham | | Bangladesh: Enhancing Global Health through Professional Development Opportunities | 404403 | 7/1/2024 | 9/30/2025 | \$50,000 |
| Sellers, Christina | | School of Social Work | American Foundation for Suicide Prevention | | Integrated Suicide and Substance Use Intervention for Adolescents in Substance Use Treatment | 404043 | 1/1/2022 | 12/31/2025 | \$89,992 |
| Shlosser, Heather | | School of Nursing | Jewish Communal Fund | | Neurosoftware Licensing and Hololense Contribution | 823009 | 7/24/2023 | 6/30/2025 | \$160,250 |
| Staffier, Amy | Student Financial Services | | Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education | | Mass Gilbert Grant 16 | 402050 | 7/1/2024 | 6/30/2025 | \$548,000 |
| Steen, Jeff | | School of Social Work | RIZE Massachusetts Foundation | | HaRT Scholars Program | 404811 | 6/1/2024 | 5/31/2025 | \$238,128 |

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FELLOWSHIPS (ORF)

PASSIONATE LEADERS PROJECT

FY25 Award
Recipients

6

Amount Awarded

\$15,272

Promoting Financial Empowerment and Youth Development in Collaboration with Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción

Student: Mariana Rodríguez Rivera '25

Program: Accounting

The Balancing Act: Evaluating How Paid Family Leave Policies in Massachusetts (MA) Companies Alleviate the Gendered Burden of Unpaid Care Work in Relation to Women's Labor Force Participation

Student: Kusumita Savaram '26

Program: International Relations and Economics

The Effect of Motor Imagery and Physical Training on Hamstring Flexibility

Student: Nadia Turovskiy '27

Program: Exercise Science 3+3 DPT Track, Neuroscience

Investigating Pollinator Dynamics in Developed Farmland Through eDNA Sampling and Visual Surveys

Student: Shannon Bittner '25

Program: Environmental Science

Investigating the Role of Protein Palmitoylation in an Animal Model of Parkinson's Disease

Student: Sarah Samad '25

Program: Neuroscience and Behavior

Colon Cancer Awareness Saves Lives: Spreading Knowledge, Resources, and Free At-Home Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT) to Low-Income Communities

Student: Claire Tuquero '26

Program: Nursing

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM AT SIMMONS (SURPASS)

FY25 Award
Recipients

8

Amount Awarded

\$60,333

Female or Woman, Male or Man: The Impact of Gendered Language

Student: Lily Bryant '27
Major: Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies
Mentor: Megan McCarty

Identifying Gaps in Pharmacological Nursing Education on Interactions Between Hormone Replacement Therapy and the Metabolism of SSRIs

Student: Kadya Donovan '26
Major: Nursing
Mentor: Katherine Ladetto

Effects of Alpha-Linolenic Acid on Scratch Wound Healing of Skeletal Muscle Cells

Student: Malak Issa '26 Project: Effects of Alpha-linolenic acid on Scratch Wound Healing of Skeletal Muscle Cells
Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
Mentor: Ling Xin

Evaluating AI Translations of Medical Data from English to Spanish

Student: Asha Kulp '26
Major: Computer Science, Spanish
Mentor: Nanette Veilleux

Investigation of TACCs Role in Localized Translation at Post-Synapse of the Neuromuscular Junction in Fruit Flies

Student: Mia Mahoney '27
Major: Biochemistry
Mentor: Seth Johnson

Impact of Neonatal Microglia Depletion on Morphological Changes in the Brain Following Early Life Adversity

Student: Abby Rish '27
Major: Neuroscience and Behavior
Mentor: Kelsea Gildawie

Writing on the Wall: The Linguistic and Social Dimensions of Boston Graffiti

Student: Madd Witaconis '26
Major: 3+1 Political Science & Public Policy
Mentor: Abel Amado

Project: Early Developmental Effects of Ultraviolet Radiation on Xenopus Laevis

Student: Terry Wu '27
Major: Biology
Mentor: John Young

FACULTY-STUDENT COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP (FSC)

Faculty Projects

14

Student Fellows

18

Amount Awarded

\$32,600

Reviews Editorial Assistant, New Political Science

Faculty: Gregory Williams, Politics and Policy
Student Fellow: April Beatty, MA in Public Policy

Evaluating the Effect of RNAi Silencing on the KRAS Translocation in Pancreatic Cancer Cells

Faculty: Jennifer Roecklein-Canfield, Chemistry
Student Fellow: Sophie Salas '25, Biochemistry

Patients' Experiences with Medical Implants

Faculty: Val Leiter, Public Health
Student Fellow: Benni Bernadeau '25, Public Health

Understanding the Role of ATG8A in the Modeling of Tourette's Syndrome in Drosophila Melanogaster

Faculty: Seth Johnson, Biology
Student Fellow: Justine Paragas '26, Public Health.

Derivatives of 8-Hydroxyquinoline in Anti-Cancer Research

Faculty: Arpita Saha, Chemistry
Student Fellows: MJ Vasquez '27, Chemistry, and Gina Gawargi '27, Chemistry

The Cabo Verdean Community: Language, Education, and Gender, by Dawna Marie Thomas, Abel Djassi Amado, Ambrizeth Helen Lima, Marlyse Bapista, and Lourenço Garcia

Faculty: Dawna Thomas, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Student Fellow: Kimberly Cough '25, Public Health

Empowering Aging Women: A Qualitative Exploration into Resistance Training and Dietary Protein Perspectives

Faculty: Tim Hanway, Biology
Student Fellow: Emily Crown '26, Health and Exercise Science

Sisters in the Campus Struggle: Black Activism and the Rise of Black Studies at Women's Colleges

Faculty: Tatiana Cruz, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Student Fellow: Lamy Richardson '25, Africana Studies, Sociology

Understanding Barriers and Attitudes in Accessing Sexual/ Reproductive Health Education and Care

Faculty: Kristen Brewer, Public Health
Student Fellow: Jo Fletcher '27, Public Health, Women's and Gender Studies

Effect of Lactate on mTOR Pathway in C2C12 Cells After Scratch-Induced Damage

Faculty: Ling Xin, Biology
Student Fellow: Piper Kinney '26, Neuroscience and Behavior

Developing Humanitarian Software to Expand the REEF Center

Faculty: Nanette Veilleux, Computer, Data, and Mathematical Sciences
Student Fellows: Maleehah Africawala '25, Computer Science, Emily Douglas '25, Computer Science, Fayza Beshir '25, Computer Science, and Megan McNamara '25, Computer Science

Reducing Annual Carbon Dioxide Emissions – Does Renewable Energy Adoption Rates Matter? An Analysis of the Top Emitting Countries

Faculty: Zinnia Mukherjee, School of Management
Student Fellow: Kaycie McColley '25, Economics

Synthesis, Characterization, and Application of Binary Transition Metal Sulfide Nanostructures as Electrodes for Supercapacitive Electrochemical Energy Storage

Faculty: Joe Elia, Chemistry
Student Fellow: Lonnie Lee '25, Biochemistry

Varying the Ratios of VBT, DMDQ, and TMQ Monomers to Create Water-Soluble, UV-Immobilized, and Bactericidal Terpolymer Coatings

Faculty: Rich Gurney, Chemistry
Student Fellow: Aiman Mandli '25, Chemistry

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

| FY25 Award Recipients | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | \$600 |

The Contralateral Repeated Bout Effect (CL-RBE) of Elbow Flexors in Females
Student: Emilia Elko '25
Program: Exercise Science
Faculty Mentor: Ling Xin

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AWARD

| FY25 Award Recipients | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 18 | \$9,000 |

American Chemical Society Summer Conference
Student: Reagan Cleversey '26
Department: Biochemistry
Presentation: Encapsulation of Gold Nanoparticles by Lanthanide Metal Complexes

Millennial Social Work Conference
Student: Aisha Straker '25
Department: Social Work
Presentation: Roots Unraveled

American Chemical Society Spring 2025 Conference
Student: Annabelle Hannah '25
Department: Chemistry and Physics
Presentation: Exploring the Effect of Surface Functional Groups to Improve the Catalytic Activity of Thiospinel Nanoparticles for CO2 Reduction Reactions

American Chemical Society Spring 2025 Conference
Student: Sophie Ineson '25
Department: Chemistry and Physics
Presentation: Examining the Effectiveness of Various Transition Metal Spinel Catalysts for Denitrification

National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference
Student: Fayza Beshir '25
Department: Computer Science

National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference
Student: Imani Henderson '28
Department: Computer Science

National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference
Student: Julliet Mutizwa '28
Department: Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies

National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference
Student: Maame Andoh '25
Department: Computer Science

National Society of Black Engineers Annual Conference
Student: Chyna Brown '26
Department: Chemistry and Physics

2025 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting
Student: Sophie Salas '25
Department: Chemistry and Physics
Presentation: Evaluating the Effect of RNAi Silencing on the KRAS Translocation in Pancreatic Cancer Cells

2025 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting
Student: Julie Ni '25
Department: Biology
Presentation: Evaluating the Effect of RNAi Silencing on the KRAS Translocation in Pancreatic Cancer Cells

Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies
Student: Alejandra Castellanos Manon '25
Department: Literature, Spanish
Presentation: El Espejo Espectral: Mexico City's mythic landscape, from oral traditions to digital frontiers

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AWARD

American Chemical Society Spring Conference

Student: Chloe To '26
Department: Chemistry
Presentation: Exploring the Cobalt-Nickel Thiospinels as Potential Catalysts for CO2 Conversion to Methane

New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Annual Meeting

Student: Isabella Santos '25
Department: Political Science, Arts Administration
Presentation: Assessing the Effectiveness of U.S. - Imposed Sanctions on the Maduro Regime and How Marco Rubio Should Respond

American Chemical Society Spring Conference

Student: Joy Wilson '25
Department: Chemistry
Presentation: Developing an Ultracentrifuge Method for Separation by Size of Copper Nickel Nanoparticles to study Effect of Particle Size on CO2 Reduction Catalysis

Society for Developmental Biology Regional Meeting

Student: Hamnah Shazli '25
Department: Neuroscience and Behavior
Presentation: Investigating the Role of Cereblon in Wnt-signaling and Xenopus Neural Patterning

Society for Developmental Biology Regional Meeting

Student: Alisa Luchitskaya '25
Department: Biology
Presentation: Investigating the Role of Cereblon in Wnt-signaling and Xenopus Neural Patterning

Society for Developmental Biology Regional Meeting

Student: Olivia Lucanesh '25
Department: Chemistry
Presentation: Post-Embryonic Limb Development in *Xenopus laevis* : Involvement of Genetic and Cellular Mechanisms

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

| FY25 Award Recipients | | Amount Awarded |
|--|--|---|
| 8 | | \$3,890 |
| Exploring the Use of Population Descriptors in Genetic Counseling Supervision | Student: Lillian Sosa Degree: PhD in Health Professions Education | A Great Place to Meet”: Oral Histories of Sexual and Gender Minority Members of a Twelve-Step Program Clubhouse Student: Alyn Gamble Degree: PhD in Library and Information Sciences |
| Examining how Theories of Suicide are Being Utilized to Explain the Association Between Suicide and Intimate Partner Violence: a Systematic Narrative Review | Student: Kameron Mendes Degree: PhD in Social Work | Closing the Blood Pressure Racial Gap: A Public Health Approach to Reducing Hypertension in the Black Population on Cape Cod, Massachusetts Student: Kathleen Flynn Degree: MA in Public Health |
| Art Books as a Visual Repository: Creating Art Through Libraries | Student: Aidan Bryant Degree: MLIS, Archive Management | African Student Grants Sought: An Examination of Kenyan International Students at West Virginian HBCUs Student: Abigail Smith Degree: MLIS and MA in History |
| How Choral Musicians Create: The Music Information Behaviours of A Domain and Skill-Specific Community of Practice | Student: Juniper Duncan Degree: MLIS | Health and Housing for Somerville Seniors Student: Sam Geheran Degree: MA in Public Health |

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AWARD

Students

23

Total Funding

\$8,430

International Association for Suicide Prevention: Pan-American Conference

Student: Kameron Mendes
Degree: PhD in Social Work
Presentation: Body Regard Moderates Suicide Ideation and Attempt: Implications for Ideation-to-Action Frameworks

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Amanda Michel
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: Perceptions of Individuals with Disabilities Regarding Therapeutic Alliance with Physical Therapists: A Qualitative Analysis

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Izabella Warren
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: The Impact of Trikafta on Airway Clearance Technique Utilization in Individuals with Cystic Fibrosis

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Nina Testa
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: The Impact of Trikafta on Airway Clearance Technique Utilization in Individuals with Cystic Fibrosis

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Mackenna Jordahl
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: Effect of Computer-Usage Duration, Anthropometrics, Rest Time, and Biological Sex on MSK Discomfort in Students

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Noelle Pelrine
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: Effect of Computer-Usage Duration, Anthropometrics, Rest Time, and Biological Sex on MSK Discomfort in Students

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Miki Shibuya
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: Perceptions of Individuals with Disabilities Regarding Therapeutic Alliance with Physical Therapists: A Qualitative Analysis

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting

Student: Lauren Kenney
Degree: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Presentation: Perceptions of Individuals with Disabilities Regarding Therapeutic Alliance with Physical Therapists: A Qualitative Analysis

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AWARD

Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill

Student: Sage Stockton
Degree: Master of Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner
Presentation: A Nursing Professional’s Perspective on Addressing Health Inequity

Catherine Marshall and Representations of Widows in Cold War America

Student: Hannah Bini
Major: MLIS

New England Archivists Spring 2025 Meeting

Student: Emily Colson
Degree: MLIS
Presentation: Say “Digital Millennium Copyright Act” Ten Times Fast: Deciphering the Act and the History of its Use in Archives

Massachusetts School Library Association Conference 2025

Student: Heidi Orozco
Degree: MLIS

New England Archivists Spring 2025 Meeting

Student: Evan McGonagill
Major: MLIS
Presentation: Boston Punks at Harvard: Engaging Community Memory Alongside the Arthur Freedman Collection

Turner Syndrome Society of the United States National Conference

Student: Holly Solina
Major: Doctorate of Social Work
Presentation: TSSUS National Turner Syndrome Conference Presentation

Medical Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference 2025

Student: Angela Ackerman
Major: MLIS

2025 ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference & Exhibition

Student: Jesse Cole
Degree: MLIS

Together for Hope 2025: Shaping the Future of Addiction Care

Student: Cal Brantley
Degree: Master of Social Work

Appalachian Studies Conference

Student: Abigail Smith
Degree: MLIS
Presentation: African Student Grants Sought’: An Examination of Kenyan International Students at West Virginian HBCUs

New England Archivists Spring 2025 Meeting

Student: Savannah Miller
Degree: MLIS
Presentation: Online Resources: The End All Be All?

International Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2025

Student: Joanne Washington
Degree: Doctorate of Social Work
Presentation: Countering Unethical Behavior in Social Work Leadership by Integrating Professional Humility

International Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2025

Student: Monique Mack
Degree: Doctorate of Social Work
Presentation: Leadership for Equity, Access, and Dismantling Disparities (LEAD)

2025 ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference & Exhibition

Student: Zoe Pollak
Degree: MLIS
Presentation: African Student Grants Sought’: An Examination of Kenyan International Students at West Virginian HBCUs

RESEARCH AT SIMMONS

REPORT ON FUNDED PROJECTS AND SELECTED
FACULTY AND STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2025
(July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)