

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 of Stephanie Cosner, Provost.

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	DU DATE	AMOUNT REQUESTED
Erdelez, Sandra	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

5 awards

\$892,973

Foundation

11 awards

\$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

EXTERNAL FUNDING

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%

EXTERNAL FUNDING

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	

EXTERNAL FUNDING

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 Relimagined 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

EXTERNAL FUNDING

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: Kadyn 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 Baptista, 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: Lamya 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

1

Amount Awarded

\$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

18

Amount Awarded

\$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
8

Amount Awarded
\$3,890

Exploring the Use of Population Descriptors in Genetic Counseling Supervision

Student: Lillian Sosa
Degree: PhD in Health Professions Education

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

Art Books as a Visual Repository: Creating Art Through Libraries

Student: Aidan Bryant
Degree: MLIS, Archive Management

How Choral Musicians Create: The Music Information Behaviours of A Domain and Skill-Specific Community of Practice

Student: Juniper Duncan
Degree: MLIS

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

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

African Student Grants Sought: An Examination of Kenyan International Students at West Virginian HBCUs

Student: Abigail Smith
Degree: MLIS and MA in History

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

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: Jesse Cole
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)