

Annual Report 2023-2024

Prepared for: Executive Committee, Weber State University

Prepared by: Dr. Sarah Herrmann

Updated: May 9, 2024

Goals and Objectives:

Each year, the Research, Scholarship, and Professional Growth Committee reviews proposals in several categories. To date we have given the following funds:

- **Fall Term**
 - Travel Stipends (From RSPG funds) - \$9,999.90
 - Hemingway Faculty Vitality - \$10,399.44
 - Hemingway Adjunct Faculty - \$1,978.00
 - Presidential Innovative Teaching Grants - \$14,405.83
 - George and Beth Lowe Innovative Teaching Grants - \$7,137.67
- **Spring Term**
 - Travel Stipends (From RSPG funds) - \$10,000.00
 - Hemingway Faculty Vitality - \$7,858.14
 - Presidential Innovative Teaching Grants - \$4,422.00
 - George and Beth Lowe Innovative Teaching Grants - \$5,535.87
 - Hemingway Collaborative and Excellence Awards - \$82,146.64
 - Hemingway New Faculty - \$16,072.35
 - Community Engaged Learning - \$10,000.00
 - Hemingway Adjunct Faculty - \$2,000.00
- **Summer Term**
 - Travel Stipends (From RSPG funds) - \$10,000.00
 - Hemingway Faculty Vitality - \$12,141.00
 - Presidential Innovative Teaching Grants - \$9,744.50
 - George and Beth Lowe Innovative Teaching Grants - \$1,841.13
 - Hemingway New Faculty - \$3,573.37

During the 2023-2024 academic year, we received funding requests for \$348,960.95 and awarded funding of \$219,255.84. Departments, Colleges, community partners, and more pledged matching funds of \$590,526.68.

This has allowed us to leverage a total of \$809,782.52 to promote faculty growth and professional development this academic year.

We continue to see a high number of applications for travel funding for conferences, creative works (including music performances and art installations), and other professional development. Applicants report that travel funding at the department/college level has also been cut, although there appear to be discrepancies in available funding between colleges. Typically we receive requests for more than double the amount of available funding during travel rounds. Per RSPG guidelines, the committee prioritizes funding for applicants who have not received RSPG funds in the last two years. The committee chair met with Dean's Council on April 3, 2024 to discuss the increased competition for these grants amidst higher travel costs related to inflation.

Due to low requests for Hemingway New Faculty, Vitality, and Innovative Teaching grants during the Spring 2024 round of applications, we reopened this category for applications during the Summer 2024 round (applications due 5/3/24) and utilized the remaining funding.

Additional Notes

This year, the committee chair (Sarah Herrmann) worked with Sydnie Knowlton and Jeremy Harvey of Academic Web Services to redesign the RSPG website to make it more user friendly and consistent with other updated WSU websites. The new website was launched on October 5, 2023. The committee also updated instructions on the website and application form for travel grants to include a note about pending acceptances: "The committee will consider applications for conferences where the applicant has not yet received a conference acceptance; however, funding will be contingent on acceptance."

We continue to use the Google Forms platform for submissions and the committee agrees that it is more effective than the previous email submission format. Additionally, a Google Form was created for Project Summary submissions.

After pilot testing by the committee chair (Sarah Herrmann) in the 2022-2023 academic year, RSPG committee members were certified on Adobe Sign to solicit signatures from chairs, deans, and (where applicable) project directors and IRB reviewers after applications are submitted.

Committee members continue to email their respective colleges once or twice per semester to inform them about the available awards and upcoming deadlines. We hope that this increases awareness of available funding through RSPG and increases participation, especially for Adjunct and New Faculty grants.

Meetings and Awards:

- Five RSPG meetings were held via Zoom: Sept. 7, Oct. 19, Jan. 18, Feb. 22, and May 8

- The Gwen Williams Award was determined via ranked voting. The winners of the 2024 Gwen Williams Prize were Tye Gardner, Alyssa Mock, and Aminda O'Hare for "Women and Minorities in Engineering Research Mentorship Program."

Travel Fall 2023			
PI	Total Trip	Requested	Awarded
C. Ryan Dunn	\$1,771.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Leigh Shaw	\$1,908.80	\$750.00	\$555.55
Matthew Romaniello	\$1,596.80	\$750.00	\$555.55
Brad Reynolds	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Robin Haislett	\$2,078.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Sarah Grunnah	\$3,208.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Jadelyn Abbott	\$4,623.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Vincent Bates	\$3,435.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Kristina Moleni	\$4,500.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Natalie Williams	\$1,476.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Elaine Schnabel	\$2,525.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Jean Norman	\$2,196.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Esther Jeehae Ahn	\$1,178.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Tim Black	\$1,551.28	\$750.00	\$555.55
Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra	\$2,395.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Daniel Pyle	\$952.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Clay Rasmussen	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$555.55
Joscha Klueppel	\$1,013.00	\$750.00	\$555.55

Fall 2023 Awards					
PI	Type	Awarded	Request	Matching	Total
Caitlin Tems	Vitality	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$1,675.00	\$2,425.00
Sheryl Rushton	Vitality	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$3,448.00	\$4,198.00
Sachini Kodi	Vitality	\$2,940.00	\$2,940.00	\$300.00	\$3,240.00
Sarah Grunnah	Vitality	\$789.14	\$789.14	\$5,489.55	\$6,278.69

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Aminda O'Hare	Vitality	\$2,818.00	\$2,818.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,318.00
Jason Manley	Vitality	\$2,352.30	\$2,941.00	\$2,225.00	\$5,166.00
Cynthia Jones	Lowe	\$4,937.67	\$4,937.67	\$200.00	\$5,137.67
David Hartwig	Presidential/Lowe	\$4,729.35	\$4,729.35	\$5,000.00	\$9,729.35
Ash Soltani Stone	Lowe	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$300.00	\$2,500.00
Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra	Presidential	\$4,838.24	\$5,000.00	\$3,650.00	\$8,650.00
Elizabeth Balgord	Presidential	\$4,838.24	\$5,000.00	\$3,625.00	\$8,625.00
Marc Nelson	Adjunct	\$1,978.00	\$1,978.00	\$700.00	\$2,678.00

Travel Spring 2024

PI	Total Trip	Requested	Awarded
Dori Huang	\$2,950.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Josh Winegar	\$2,931.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Electra Gamón Fielding	\$2,088.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Eddie Hill	\$6,000.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Jessica Greenberg	\$2,870.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Tim Herzog	\$1,425.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Marilyn Taft	\$1,740.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Dustin Birch	\$2,350.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Aaron Atkins	\$2,330.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Diego Batista	\$1,950.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Ryan Cain	\$2,528.00	\$440.00	\$440.00
Robin Haislett	\$1,075.00	\$750.00	\$656.00
Esther Jeehae Ahn	\$2,065.50	\$750.00	\$656.00
Megan M. Van Deventer	\$915.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Ryan Frazier	\$816.00	\$750.00	\$656.00

Spring 2024 Awards

PI	Type	Request	Award	Matching	Total
Ezgi Yesilyurt	Travel	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$928.56	\$1,678.56

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Stephanie Wolfe	Vitality	\$2,317.00	\$2,317.00	\$2,895.84	\$5,212.84
Viktor Uzur	Vitality	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$6,400.00	\$8,750.00
Aaron Atkins	Vitality	\$1,691.14	\$1,691.14	\$2,406.00	\$4,097.14
Penee Stewart	Travel	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$50.00	\$800.00
Esther Jeehae Ahn	New Faculty	\$4,995.00	\$4,995.00	\$200.00	\$5,195.00
Elaine Schnabel	New Faculty	\$2,706.35	\$2,706.35	\$414.00	\$3,120.35
Marylin Taft	New Faculty	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Cynthia Jones	New Faculty	\$2,871.00	\$2,871.00	\$1,840.00	\$4,711.00
Stephanie Kimmey	New Faculty	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$4,895.00	\$7,595.00
Ariel Blair	New Faculty	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,320.85	\$3,320.85
Stephanie Wolfe	Excellence	\$6,530.00	\$6,530.00	\$2,220.00	\$8,750.00
Jim Hutchins	Collaborative	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,500.00	\$22,750.00
Jason Francis	Collaborative	\$4,065.50	\$4,065.50	\$5,200.00	\$9,265.50
Elizabeth Balgord	Collaborative	\$8,880.00	\$8,880.00	\$318,192.89	\$327,072.89
Bridget Hilbig	Excellence	\$2,980.00	\$2,980.00	\$29,630.94	\$32,610.94
Colleen Packer	Excellence	\$3,403.00	\$3,403.00	\$3,205.00	\$6,608.00
Karen Moloney	Excellence	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,179.95	\$5,179.95
Thom Priest	Excellence	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00	\$200.00	\$2,850.00
Aubrey Jones	Excellence	\$3,325.00	\$3,325.00	\$2,220.00	\$5,545.00
Shi-Hwa Wang	Collaborative	\$3,670.00	\$3,670.00	\$5,600.00	\$9,270.00
Alysia Cohen	Excellence	\$4,842.89	\$4,842.89	\$1,000.00	\$5,842.89
Youn Soo Goldstein	Collaborative	\$2,115.75	\$2,115.75	\$0.00	\$2,115.75
Richard Price	Excellence	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,350.00	\$4,850.00
Nils Murrugarra-Llerena	Excellence	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,696.79	\$2,946.79
Andrew Barratt Lewis	Excellence	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,165.45	\$6,165.45
Tye Gardner	Collaborative	\$8,424.50	\$8,424.50	\$5,669.85	\$14,094.35
Jordyn Redmond	Collaborative	\$4,880.00	\$4,880.00	\$315,592.89	\$320,472.89
Alice Mulder	Collaborative	\$4,880.00	\$2,880.00	\$2,940.00	\$7,820.00
Sarah Grunnah	Excellence	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$11,435.00	\$13,935.00
Stephanie Wolfe	Lowe	\$2,969.00	\$2,969.00	\$14,028.15	\$16,997.15
Sarah Herrmann	Presidential	\$772.00	\$772.00	\$1,041.21	\$1,813.21
Melinda Russell-Stamp	Lowe	\$839.87	\$839.87	\$210.00	\$1,049.87
Electra Gamón Fielding	Lowe	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00	\$850.00	\$4,500.00
Erin Thomas	Presidential	\$1,727.00	\$1,727.00	\$500.00	\$2,227.00
Nicolas Mugavero	Adjunct	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$885.00	\$2,885.00

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Alexis Bucknam	CEL	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,220.00	\$7,500.00
Eddie Hill	CEL	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Alice Mulder	CEL	\$4,880.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,940.00	\$7,820.00

Travel Summer 2024

PI	Total Trip	Requested	Awarded
Huiying Hill	\$2,300.00	\$750.00	\$714.76
Stephanie Speicher	\$1,943.00	\$708.00	\$708.00
Michael Wutz	\$2,450.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
Justin Burr	\$1,945.70	\$750.00	\$714.77
Jamie Wankier	\$1,640.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
Tamara Goldbogen	\$3,841.68	\$750.00	\$714.77
Elizabeth Robison	\$1,250.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
Abdulnaser Kaadan	\$1,250.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
Miranda Kispert	\$2,925.66	\$750.00	\$714.77
Arpit Christi	\$746.00	\$746.00	\$714.77
Stephen Wolochowicz	\$1,906.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
James McAllister	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$714.77
Shelley Thomas	\$7,068.63	\$750.00	\$714.77
Afshin Ghoreishi	\$2,135.00	\$750.00	\$714.77

Summer 2024 Awards

PI	Type	Awarded	Request	Matching	Total
Rebekah Cumpsty	Vitality	\$2,644.00	\$2,621.00	\$1,700.00	\$4,344.00
Sarah Herrmann	Vitality	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$7,829.69	\$8,329.69
Seokwoo Song	Vitality	\$2,170.00	\$2,170.00	\$1,085.00	\$3,255.00
Stephanie Wolfe	Vitality	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,690.00	\$5,690.00
Azenett Garza	Vitality	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,600.00
Ryan Cain	Vitality	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$232.28	\$1,482.28
James Almeida	New Faculty	\$2,420.00	\$2,420.00	\$650.00	\$3,070.00
Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra	New Faculty	\$5,000.00	\$1,153.37	\$3,000.00	\$8,000.00

K Stevenson	Presidential	\$1,644.00	\$1,644.00	\$7,970.00	\$9,614.00
Cynthia Jones	Presidential	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00	\$938.00	\$5,838.00
Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra	Lowe	\$5,000.00	\$1,841.13	\$3,000.00	\$8,000.00
Nicolás Pérez-Consuegra	Presidential	\$5,000.00	\$2,005.50	\$3,000.00	\$8,000.00
Kaori Takimura	Presidential	\$1,195.00	\$1,195.00	\$673.00	\$1,868.00

Objectives for Next Year:

Special charges for the committee next year should include the addition of faculty rank as a factor for travel grants, as voted on by the committee on February 22, 2024. This is important given that junior faculty have the lowest salaries and are also expected to attend conferences and/or other professional development opportunities in order to attain tenure and promotion, although it appears that expectations regarding regular conference attendance vary between departments and colleges.

The committee has discussed several ways to handle this, including maintaining two different pools of money (pre-tenure vs. post), awarding extra points for pre-tenure faculty, or prioritizing pre-tenure faculty on the tenure track and distributing the remainder among qualified applications (tenured and non-tenure track instructors). Additional discussion must occur on how to prioritize non-tenure track instructors, who are also eligible to apply for this funding.

Unfortunately, there were issues this year with RSPG committee members not always working with applicants to review regular grant applications in the week before final submissions were made. As such, the outgoing chair recommends that future committee chairs track that committee members are reviewing applications (e.g., using a spreadsheet) or to require that committee members cc them on emails with applicants regarding the acceptability of their submissions.