



Office of Research & Innovation Newsletter • September 2020



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A Note from the Executive Vice Provost for Research & Innovation



Dear Drexel Research Community,

As we begin our new academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of the past year, especially in light of the many challenges that it has presented.

Due to the public health and safety concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 18th, we limited on campus research activities to those deemed critical. In early April, a small number of COVID-19 related research activities began to occur, and by the end of April, approximately 5% of our normal on campus research activities had resumed. Then in late May, we published guidelines for the ramp up of the University's research, scholarly, and creative activities, and developed an application and review process. Our robust multi-tiered review process includes academic supervisors, Environmental Health Safety, Associate Deans for Research, and the Office of Research and Innovation, with an emphasis on the health and safety of the research community. With the start of [Phase 1](#) on June 8th, approximately 100 research ramp-up requests were reviewed and approved, resulting in approximately 900 approved researchers. To date, our resumption guidelines and the accompanying process have resulted in a safe ramp-up of research activities that have been impactful.

This research includes projects related to several internal awards recognizing the contributions and potential of faculty researchers. In the past year, the Office of Research & Innovation made 33 [faculty](#)

[awards](#) for research, scholarship, and creative activity; 17 [COVID-19 rapid response awards](#); and 22 [racial equity rapid response awards](#), for a total of \$685k in new faculty research awards.

This past year also saw significant commercialization activity grow from the University’s research, scholarly, and creative activities. There were 82 new inventions disclosed, 36 new US patents issued, and 17 licensing agreements made. These licensing agreements to commercialize Drexel technologies included four new start-ups related to Drexel researchers.

Despite the significant disruption to research activity due to COVID-19, causing an overall decrease in research expenditures, we saw an increase in new proposal submissions (13%) as well as sponsored research awards (6%), shown in the table below. The ramp-down of research activity clearly gave researchers more time to devote to their proposal submissions, which increased 25% in Q4 alone.

Please join me in recognizing the significant progress we have made towards enhancing and stimulating Drexel’s research enterprise during this past year. I’m looking forward to even more growth and development in the coming year.

Wishing you all health and safety,

Aleister Saunders

Executive Vice Provost for Research & Innovation

	Fiscal year 2019	Fiscal year 2020	% Change
Number of proposals	879	949	+8%
Proposals (\$)	\$572.4M	\$644.7M	+13%
Number of awards	653	684	+5%
Awards (\$)	\$126.2M	\$134.1M	+6%
Expenditures (\$)	\$122.5M	\$117.3M	-4%

News and Announcements



COEUS Replacement Project Kickoff

The Office of Research & Innovation is pleased to announce Drexel's engagement with [InfoEd Global](#) to replace our current research administration systems with an integrated, cloud-based, modern system. Our kickoff meeting was held on September 2nd during which a high-level overview of the project structure and plan was shared with the project leadership and project team members.

This exciting project will streamline and modernize research administration operations across the university and demonstrates the University's commitment to investing in research. Our collective work will allow Drexel to continue improving its pursuit and management of research, scholarly and creative activities while meeting the needs of principal investigators, administrators, university leadership, and research support functions.

The implementation will replace outdated research systems for HRPP/IRB, IACUC, Sponsored Projects (Grants & Contracts), and ULAR operations and is expected to take 18 months. Some key benefits of the completed implementation will include:

- Updated policies, procedures, and systems that support:
 - Accountability
 - Transparency

- Collaboration
 - Flexibility
 - Empowerment
 - Integration
- Adoption of research administration industry best practices
 - Divesture from current misaligned business processes
 - Significant reduction of administrative burden across enterprise
 - Supporting the overall strategic objectives of the institution

More information about this project, including scope, governance, timeline and other areas can be found on the [COEUS Replacement Project website](#). Updates will be shared often and complimented by a section in the Office of Research & Innovation monthly newsletter. If you feel something is missing from the website or have general questions, please let us know by contacting us at crp_info@drexel.edu.

[New Modified Schedules for Queen Lane and Center City Bus Service](#)

Drexel University bus service along the Dragon Route (Center City Loop) and Queen Lane Route (East Falls Loop) will be running on new modified schedules beginning on Monday, Sept. 21. You can view the schedules via PDF on Monday on the Campus Bus Service website.

<https://drexel.edu/facilities/transportation/busServiceSchedules/>

[Social Network Analysis Workshop Series](#)

Sponsored by the Office of Research & Innovation, the Social Science Research Committee (SSRC) offered three workshops on social network analysis via Zoom on Aug 4, Aug 11, and Aug 18. This workshop series is part of SSRC's computational social science initiative, which aims at facilitating knowledge exchange between colleagues in social sciences, physical sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, etc. About 100 colleagues from 12 schools/colleges of Drexel University registered for this series. Dr. Eric Brewe, Associate Professor of Physics and Science Education, was the instructor of this series. Eric introduced R (Aug 4), ego networks (Aug 11), and whole networks (Aug 18). Through Eric's clear presentation, workshop participants were able to use R to graph different types of social networks and calculate key properties of both ego and whole networks. The Q&A session after each lecture was engaging and fruitful. Training materials including Zoom recordings are available at

<https://ericbrewe.com/courses/rforsna/>

[2nd Writing Retreat on Cohesion and Coherence](#)

In collaboration with the Office of Research & Innovation, the Office of Faculty Affairs, and the University's Writing Program (UWP), the Social Science Research Committee (SSRC) offered a second writing retreat via Zoom, on June 18, 2020. About 30 colleagues from 11 schools/colleges registered for the event, which followed the first writing retreat on clarity in late February. In this 2.5-hour retreat, Dr. Scott Warnock, Professor of English and Director of UWP, first used individual and group exercises to help participants connect sentences to one another (cohesion) while developing larger units of meaning such as paragraphs (coherence). During the remainder of the retreat, participants used the focused time to work on their own projects. Participants were generally satisfied with their learning in a follow-up

survey, and some of them also expressed interest in joining a writing community (in which colleagues could comment on each other's writing), which UWP and SSRC are exploring.

Important COEUS Update: Cost-Sharing Approvals

An adjustment to cost-sharing approval routings in COEUS will move the responsibility from the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) to departments. OSP currently approves all cost-sharing information in COEUS records. This review and approval should be conducted by the department(s) responsible for the financial commitment.

Effective 10/05/2020, all cost-sharing approvals within COEUS will be moved from OSP to the Department Head role. This step is currently executed late in the OSP review process and will be moved to pre-OSP review. This change will now require department heads to approve all proposals with cost-sharing components prior to OSP review.

What this means for departments:

1. Cost-sharing approvals in COEUS records will become the responsibility of departments effective 10/05/2020
2. Cost-sharing must be approved by Department Heads prior to receipt by OSP. If cost-sharing approval is not completed, your proposal will not route to OSP for review.
3. Please be sure the individual in your organization responsible for the Department Head role in COEUS is aware of and prepared for the change by 10/05/2020.

If you have any questions or experience issues after the transition of this review and approval step, please reach out to the ORI Research Systems & Analytics Team at coeus-help@drexel.edu.

Important Coeus Login Changes and New System Naming Contest Reminder



Good news! The Office of Research & Innovation is updating the password system used to log into COEUS, the university's electronic research administration system.

Currently, some users are required to use a password different from their main Drexel account password (the password you use to login to your computer and Drexel One). The update will eliminate the need for a separate password and allow users to access COEUS with their main Drexel account password.

What this means for you:

- If you currently log into COEUS with a password different from your main Drexel account password, you will begin logging in with your main Drexel account password effective Friday 09/18/2020.
- If you currently log into COEUS with your main Drexel password, there is no change and you will continue to do so.

For more information on Drexel passwords, please visit drexel.edu/it/help/a-z/accounts/management/.

With change comes opportunity and although “COEUS” brings a sense of calm across campus, all good things must come to an end. Just kidding – let’s give COEUS a proper sendoff with a new system name that encompasses Drexel research! Submit as many names as you like along with a brief description of why it represents the new system, research administration, and research aspirations at Drexel via the [submission form](#) on our new COEUS Replacement Project website.

For more details visit: <https://drexel.edu/research/news/announcements/2020/September/coeus-login/>

Town Hall for Graduate Students

Recently, Drexel held a town hall for all grad students. To hear the latest news and to see Marla Gold’s COVID-19 presentation to the graduate student community, follow the link below. A lot of great info on COVID in Philly and how Drexel is addressing these unprecedented challenges was presented. Check it out at the link below:

<http://drexel.edu/eventsonline/GradTownHallFall2020>

NSF sunsetting FastLane; transition to Research.gov starting soon

After an amazing run, FastLane will be phased out entirely by 2022. The transition to Research.gov will be starting soon with the BIO Directorate to soon require the utilization of Research.gov for submission. PIs and research administrators should familiarize themselves with the new system using the training materials developed by NSF and found here [About Research.gov site](#).

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in147.jsp?org=NSF>

Funding Opportunity Resources



NIH RFA-DK-19-004: Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (P30)

Summary: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications for Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (DDRCCs). The DDRCCs are part of an integrated program of digestive and liver diseases research support provided by the NIDDK. The purpose of this Centers program is to bring together basic and clinical investigators as a means to enhance communication, collaboration, and effectiveness of ongoing research related to digestive and/or liver diseases. DDRCCs are based on the core concept, whereby shared resources aimed at fostering productivity, synergy, and new research ideas among the funded investigators are supported in a cost-effective manner. Each proposed DDRCC must be organized around a central theme that reflects the focus of the digestive or liver diseases research of the Center members. The central theme must be within the primary mission of NIDDK, and not thematic areas for which other NIH Institutes or Centers are considered the primary source of NIH funding

Click here for more info: <https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1787803>

Deadline: 12/01/20

NIH PAR-17-221 (2021): Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Educational Diversity (ESTEEMED) Research Education Experiences (R25)

Summary: The over-arching goal of this National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) R25 program is to support educational activities that enhance the diversity of the biomedical, behavioral and clinical research workforce. The ESTEEMED program is intended to support

underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. It will prepare these participants for an Advanced Honors Program, such as a MARC U-STAR (T34) program and institutional program with similar goals, in the junior and senior years and subsequently, to pursue a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree and a biomedical research career in academia or industry. The PD/PI should be an established investigator in the scientific area in which the application is targeted and capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program. The PD/PI will be expected to monitor and assess the program and submit all documents and reports as required.

Click here for more info: <https://drexel.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1818968>

Deadline: 12/24/20

Events and Education



PreAward Training Opportunities

Join the Office of Research & Innovation PreAward grants team for several training sessions in the fall! You can register in Career Pathway and will receive the Zoom information upon registration. As always, you can reach out to your [PreAward contacts](#) for individualized training on specific topics, or suggest a topic that the wider community may benefit from.

NIH Proposal Submissions: “So Many Attachments, So Little Time”

Presented by Andrew Kunitskiy and Stuart Politi

Wednesday, October 28th, at 10am

This presentation will help you navigate the National Institutes of Health application process and attachment requirements for grant proposal submissions in ASSIST and COEUS. A detailed look at page formatting, page limits, and bio-sketches for R01, R21, Individual Career Development Award (K), Fellowship (F), and Training (T) proposals will be covered.

ORI is Your Partner!

Presented by Jeri Nutter and Gia Boersema

Thursday, November 12th, 11am

In this session, we will discuss the ways the Office of Research & Innovation and the department staff can partner to expedite requests and reduce administrative burden. Topics to be covered are requests for signatures, the timely execution of documents, COEUS record routing, and how-to self-check the status of documents.

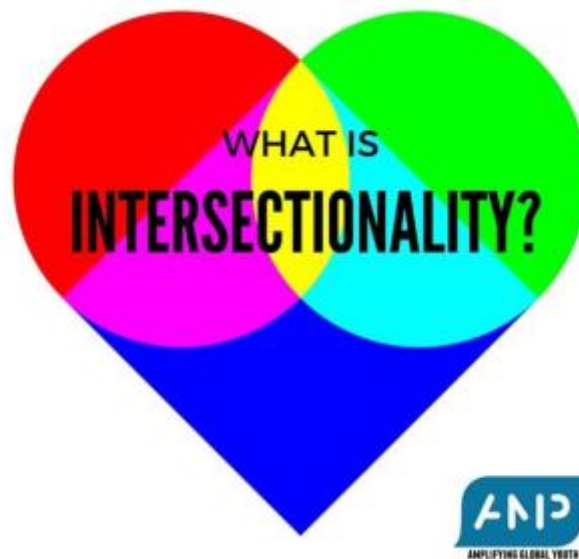
NSF: Collaborative Proposals and File Updates

Presented by Kia Haslam and Katie Montalto

Wednesday, December 9th, 10 am

This Presentation will focus on National Science Foundation Collaborative Proposal and File Updates, based on the updated NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guidelines dated June 1, 2020. Some topics to be covered include collaborative proposal submission types and how to update files in NSF after a grant has been submitted.

October Diversity Dialogue - What Is Intersectionality and What Does It Have to Do with Me? (an exploration of gender and racial justice)



The Office of Research & Innovation (ORI) Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be hosting the fourth in a series of Diversity Dialogues on October 30, 10:30am to 12pm, "What is Intersectionality and What Does It Have to Do with Me? (an exploration of gender and racial justice)." In this session, we will discuss the intersections of identities, such as those related to race and gender, and how they relate to existing social and cultural hierarchies. We will also look at what constitutes justice in terms of these differing identities, and how to achieve a standard of equity especially in the workplace.

Register at this link: <http://bit.ly/divdialogue4>

We are looking forward to as robust a dialogue as we have enjoyed in our previous three sessions, each of which drew over 120 attendees from the Drexel community, and hope to see you there.

[Confronting Urgent Threats to Human Health & Society: COVID-19 and Climate Change \(NAM Annual Meeting\) - October 17-19, 2020](#)

The National Academy of Medicine will hold its annual meeting virtually from Saturday through Monday, October 17-19, 2020. The scientific program, this year titled Confronting Urgent Threats to Human Health and Society: COVID-19 and Climate Change, will be held on Monday, October 19th, from 10:00 am ET — 5:30 pm ET.

For information click here: <https://nam.edu/event/confronting-urgent-threats-to-human-health-society-covid-19-and-climate-change/>

[Developing Intentional Strategies to Improve Campus Climate: A Discussion Space](#)

This free webcast from Academic Impressions will be held on October 7, 2020, 3-4pm. Today's higher education environment demands more equitable and inclusive practices, so it is more important than ever that leaders are attentive to their overall campus climate. As a campus leader, you may be asking yourself questions like "How can I change or improve faculty culture?" or "How do we, as a campus

community, handle the inequities that show up in our policies and procedures?” These are difficult yet critical questions to consider if you are trying to raise awareness, institute a strategy, or make lasting change to create a more inclusive campus environment.

Join us online for an engaged discussion that will help you take a more intentional and anticipatory approach to managing and improving your campus climate. Through a combination of idea-sharing with your peers and practical guidance from our speakers, you will leave this webcast better able to:

- Identify what you *wish* you knew when it comes to improving campus climate and how to gather perspectives and data to move your initiative forward
- Articulate the “why” behind the strategies you are putting in place
- Understand how the 4-Way Implementation Model, developed by our presenters, can serve as a blueprint to help you measure effectiveness and identify gaps in your current efforts

Presented by:

- Kathryn Young, Ph.D., Professor, School of Education, Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Myron R. Anderson, Ph.D., Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, The University of Texas at San Antonio

Learn more and register [here](#).



Society of Research Administrators International Training Modules

The Society of Research Administrators International (SRAI) offers many research administration learning courses via live webinar and online sessions. See below for a few upcoming programs.

2020 iSRA Basics of Research Administration

SRAI created the [Basics of Research Administration program](#) for research administrators new to the field with less than 2 years' experience. The content is designed to provide a broad awareness across research administration.

Participants will work through micro-credentialing modules on their own time, then interact with instructors weekly through online classes in real-time. Discussions with your peers and instructors will continue through an easy-to-use digital platform providing a study community in a virtual world. The program will include five micro-credentialing modules with six one-hour cohort sessions online to discuss key elements and review course concepts.

Register for this program [here](#).

Principles of Post-Award Financial Research Administration

This module offers the following learning objectives:

- Explain how to receive and establish an award
- Review award management, including
 - Expenditure review and monitoring
 - Subrecipient Monitoring
 - Sponsor invoicing and LOC draws
- Provide an overview of financial reporting, including
 - Regular federal reports (Quarterly Cash Transaction Reports, Annual Expenditure Data Reports)
 - Reporting of income generated by award activities
 - Final financial reporting and award closeout
- Introduce external audits

Learn more and register [here](#).

[Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Discussion](#)



In celebration of National Cybersecurity Awareness month, Drexel University Information Security invites you to attend James Goepel's presentation on the Department of Defense's (DoD) new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification. This certification was created to ensure information protection within the DoD supply chain. This new certification has five levels and requires a third-party assessment. Some Drexel researchers must obtain a specific certification level to bid and receive awards for selected contracts. If your research is connected to the federal government and deals with confidential information, you may benefit from attending this presentation. This event will take place on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 11am EST, and you can join the event here:

<https://drexel.zoom.us/my/doctorp>

[Drexel Human Resources Trainings on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

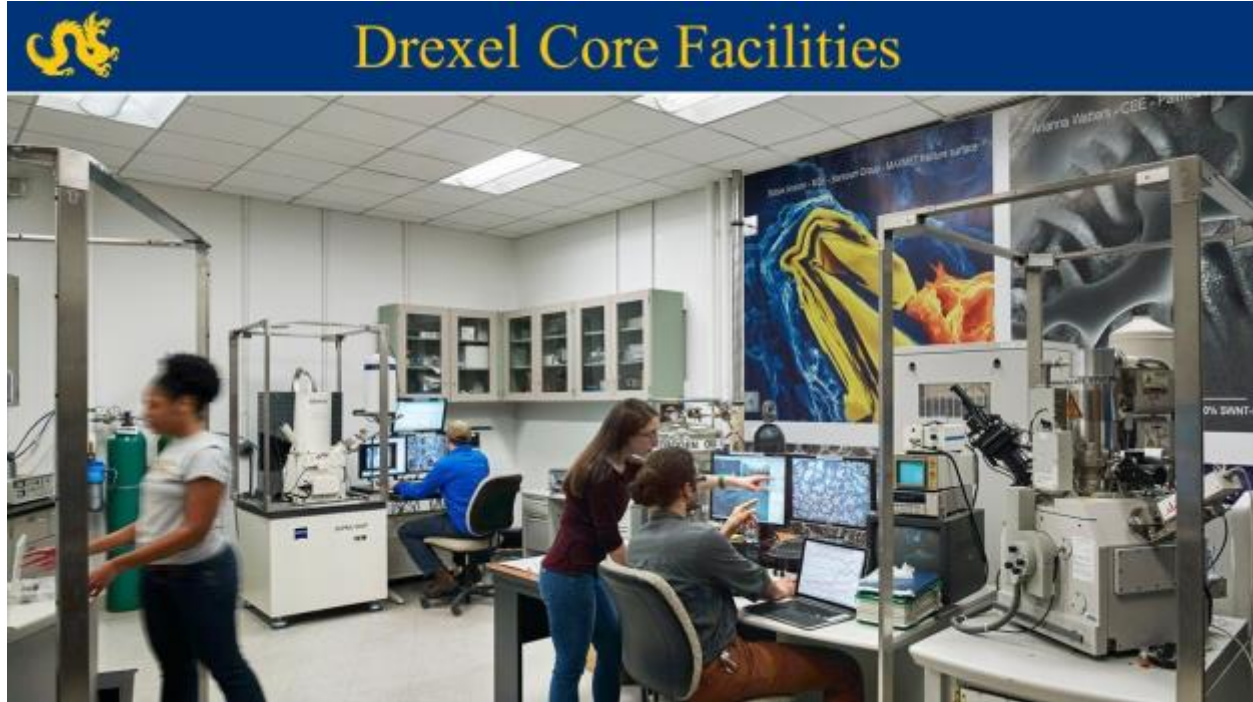
Sign up for various trainings on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion within Career Pathway. Human Resources is offering these trainings to help all Drexel employees better understand and infuse the se values into an environment built on respect and dignity. Included are trainings on microaggressions, allyship, implicit bias, privilege, and building community, among others. Trainings are offered in webinar format to allow employees to participate as schedules permit. We encourage all of our colleagues to engage in these trainings as a starting point in helping to create a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment for all.

[Fashion, Style & Queer Culture Conference May 2021](#)

The Office of Research, The Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design, Drexel University Online, with The Department of Design, are proud to present Fashion, Style & Queer Culture, May 20-22, 2021. In this third Fashion, Style &... we will focus on how fashion and style is portrayed in queer culture. This conference moves beyond fashion as clothes and is broadly interdisciplinary, considering all areas of media, arts and design. Members of the LGBT community have recaptured the terminology 'queer' as it becomes a new area of study allowing LGBTQA to re-examine how we look at lifestyle. But as the queer theorist Thomas Piontek (2006) has discussed –through the prism of identity and its discontents the field (queer) studies modelled itself on other areas such as ethnic studies programs, perhaps to be intelligible to the university community –this conference aims to see the other interdisciplinary connections and approaches to queer. With the advent of queer theory, there are now many perspectives available that frequently find themselves at odds with the traditional, and while fashion has been one of them, this conference hopes to examine all areas, representations and expressions of queer culture found in style, art, exhibition, religion, education, the humanities, health, medicine, business, social sciences, everyday lifestyles, practice-based disciplines and other various forms that are indicators of this phenomenon. We welcome all disciplines throughout the university as this conference will be free to all those who are affiliates of Drexel! Abstracts from those at Drexel are due February 1, 2021.

[Fashion, Style & Queer Culture Conference](#)

Online Resources and Links



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- [Office of Research & Innovation](#)
 - [Find Your Pre-Award Program Administrator](#)
 - [Resources and Forms](#)
 - [Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Research Ramp-Up Guidance](#)
 - [Contact members of the Office of Research & Innovation](#)
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Contact Us



We Want To Hear From YOU! Let us know what you like (or don't like) about our newsletter and which research administration topics you'd like to learn more about. All feedback is welcome. [Contact Us.](#)

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This message sent to all Faculty and Staff via Drexel Announcement Mail was approved by Aleister J. Saunders, PhD, Executive Vice Provost for Research and Innovation