



Executive Summary

In 2009, the Binghamton University Foundation Board of Directors designated \$2 million from a large anonymous gift to advance the University's academic mission. In consultation with the Foundation Board, the provost created the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund to support projects initiated by faculty and deans. Between 2009 and 2012, the provost invited proposals to support research projects and program development initiatives. A panel of faculty members and administrators reviewed the proposals and made recommendations to the provost, who made final funding decisions. During this period, 33 projects, totaling \$696,795, were funded.

In 2013, as Binghamton University initiated a new approach to research by identifying and investing in five Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence (TAEs), the provost asked the Foundation Board of Directors for its support for a different approach to allocating funds from the Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund. Rather than issuing a general call for proposals, he recommended that \$25,000 be allocated annually to each of the TAEs, and that the faculty steering committee that guides each TAE use the funds to support research and programming. By doing so, the Fund would support a University initiative that guides faculty recruitment and seeks to enhance Binghamton University's strength and stature as a research university. With the support of the Foundation Board, this strategy was implemented in the 2013-14 academic year.

A total of \$125,000 was allocated to the five TAEs for use in 2013-14. Because this was the inaugural year for the TAEs, the steering committees spent considerable time defining the foci of their areas, developing plans to invest resources at their disposal, and participating in 30 faculty searches in five schools. As a result, the steering committees allocated a total of only \$65,308 to support research and programming. However, the initiatives supported played a critical role in getting the TAEs off to a strong start and building support across campus for this new approach to research and hiring.

Updates on funded projects

Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence Projects Supported in 2013-14

Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging

Steering Committee Chair: Bat Ami Bar-On, professor of philosophy, Judaic studies, and director of IASH

During the 2013-14 academic year, the Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging TAE focused its attention on defining three areas of research focus: Citizenship and Belonging; Human Rights; and Movement, Place and Conflict, as well as involvement in six faculty searches. The steering committee used \$960 of the funds allocated to sponsor an event—titled “Quick Conversations”—which brought together faculty from across campus who share an interest in the TAE's theme to discuss their research interests with colleagues. The committee plans to use the remaining funds in 2014-15 to support a competition for collaborative research grants and scholarly conferences.

Health Sciences

Steering Committee Chair: Terrence Deak, professor of psychology

The Health Sciences TAE utilized the generous funding provided by the Binghamton University Foundation to support several major endeavors. Specifically, \$13,000 was dedicated to seed grant

including a new emergent group of faculty with common interests in Environmental Genetics; a scientific symposium that brought distinguished scientists from around the world to the new Center of Excellence to present papers on learning, memory and alcohol exposure that will be published in a special issue of the scholarly journal, *Physiology and Behavior*; support for Harpur's Ferry EMS conference; and travel expenditures for speakers at the Global Health Research conference held on campus this past spring. The remaining budget is being held in reserve for anticipated growth of requests for funds in the upcoming fiscal year. All expenditures were reviewed and approved by the Health Sciences TAE.

Material and Visual Worlds

Steering Committee Chair: Tom McDonough, associate professor of art history

During the 2013-14 academic year, the Material and Visual Worlds TAE focused its energies on developing an engaged consortium of faculty and graduate students across campus, and its use of funds reflects this priority. During the Spring 2014 semester the steering committee invited to Binghamton five internationally renowned scholars and artists whose work has significantly shaped current thinking on issues of materiality and visuality: Daphne A. Brooks (Professor, English and African-American Studies,

four events over the past year—a fall conference open to Binghamton University faculty, staff and community members with more than 75 participants; a two-day conference on the local impacts of hydraulic fracturing (funded by SUNY Conversations in the Discipline) that was attended by researchers from across the nation and Canada; a day-long health equity symposium; and an evening with Roseanne Haggerty, president and CEO of Community Solutions, an organization dedicated to strengthening communities and ending homelessness. The steering committee allocated \$8,441 in funding from the Foundation to support these projects.

Projects Funded, 2009-2013

Understanding Health Service Needs and Availability for Foreign-born Individuals in the Southern Tier Area

Principal Investigator: Youjung Lee, Assistant professor of social work

This study consists of two phases. In Phase I (Quantitative Phase), the Area Resource File was obtained and linked with the 2007-2009 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of the American Community Survey. The findings of the analyses were prepared and sent to conference proposals and manuscripts for publications. Based on the finding of the quantitative research, in the Phase II, the research questions were refined and focused on older adults raising grandchildren in Southern Tier Area. Qualitative interviews with 23 grandparents were conducted and the findings from the interviews were submitted for conference proposals (i.e., Gerontological Society of America) and manuscripts. To specify their needs and ways to help the families further, we expect to conduct qualitative interviews with teachers and school administrators who work with the grandparents-headed families in Southern Tier Area.

Inter-institutional Partnership to Offer Joint PhD Seminars

Principal Investigator: Upinder Dhillon, dean of the School of Management

The School of Management continued its inter-institutional partnership with Syracuse University enabling students at the two institutions to participate in PhD seminars offered at Syracuse or Binghamton. Three accounting PhD students, Qiaoqiao Jiang, Jung Yeun Kim, and Julie Hunt attended Professor Charles Wasley's PhD seminar in Empirical Financial Accounting inter-institutional.

In the year 2014-2015, we will work on the following action items:

Conduct an exit survey with those who completed the program

Increase the enrollment from non-Watson School students (especially from Economics and Management)

Receive external evaluation of the program

Write an open-access textbook on the foundations of complex systems

<http://opensuny.org/omp/index.php/SUNYOpenTextbooks/catalog/book/134>)

GERD Risk in College Students

Principal Investigator: Lina Begdache, adjunct lecturer of biological sciences

Objective 2. Support the pedagogical infrastructure of student participation. This will occur on the undergraduate and graduate levels and include students from various disciplines.

Mentored 17 undergraduate, 2 masters and 5 doctoral level students.

Designed and offered the first course (NURS499) in the DSON for undergraduate nursing students to actively participate in ongoing clinical research. In the fall semester 8 students were registered and in the spring, 11 students. The

Second Annual Binghamton University German Studies Colloquium

Principal Investigator: Neil Christian Pages, associate professor of German and Russian studies