

August 2007

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Greetings from the Office of Research and Economic Development. I hope that you had a productive summer, and are looking forward to the Fall Semester. Personally, I am always energized at this time of the year – the excitement of all of the students returning, the beginning of the MSU Bulldog Football season, and seeing lots of new faces on campus.

One of our summer activities was to publish our annual research magazine, which is available in our office (paper version) or on our website (www.research.msstate.edu). If you would like any copies of the magazine for faculty searches, to hand out to potential sponsors, or to put in your main office lobby, please contact Cristi Stevens at cstevens@research.msstate.edu.

The Academic and Research Leadership program I announced in a previous letter had an outstanding response – we had over 50 nominations for the program. In order to accommodate as many people as possible, we accepted 25 people this year (who are split into 2 smaller classes), and anticipate also running two classes next year. I will keep everyone updated on this activity as the year moves forward.

Faculty development is a key component of a successful research university, and I would encourage all of you to make use of the variety of different seminars and programs that are open to faculty, staff, and students. All of these types of programs are done cooperatively between the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Research and Economic Development, and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. There are opportunities at both the college and university level, and I would encourage you to attend as many of the programs as you can. If there is a program topic that you don't see and would like to, please let my office know, and we will assemble a program tailored to your needs.

Dr. Sandra Harpole, Associate Vice President for Research, has worked with the campus community to put together an outstanding Research Seminar Program for the 2007 – 2008 academic year. A brochure highlighting the different seminars will be sent to all faculty and research staff members on campus, and is available on the ORED website on the front page (<http://www.research.msstate.edu/>). Highlights of the program include seminars on grant writing and budget development, funding opportunities from the National Endowment for the Humanities, what to watch for in Export Control, and the steps to obtaining a patent from your research at MSU.

I am especially pleased to report that we had another record setting year for new grants and contracts at Mississippi State University. In our report to the IHL, Mississippi State has nearly \$187M in new grants and contracts – up almost \$30M from the record \$154M set the previous year. This is an outstanding accomplishment as a university, and one in which we all should take great pride.

The breakdown of new grants and contracts by administrative units is as follows –

College of Architecture, Art, and Design - 419,146.85
College of Arts and Sciences - 3,657,269.21
University Branch Campus – Meridian -25,073.00
College of Business and Industry - 202,365.53
University Centers and Institutes- 46,096,663.28
Division of Academic Outreach & Continuing Education - 4,085.00
College of Education - 13,724,714.77
Bagley College of Engineering - 63,302,613.73
College of Forest Resources/FWRC - 7,709,122.00
General Administration - 495,000.00
Office of Graduate Studies - 465,329.60
Office of the President - 1,142,190.00
MS Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)/CAL - 25,378,283.65
MS State University Extension Service (MSU ES) - 10,509,615.82
Other - 5,332,827.00
College of Veterinary Medicine - 4,723,288.50
Vice President for Research & Economic Development - 3,064,921.00
Vice President for Student Affairs - 307,343.50
TOTAL - \$186,509,706.44

The largest funding sources for this past year were the U.S. Department of Defense (\$37.9M), U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$22.0M), NASA (\$14.1M), U.S. Department of Energy (\$10.9M), and National Science Foundation (\$7.2M). All of the new funding supported a total of 1,691 new projects this last year. If you would like to see all of the details sent to the IHL on our sponsored research, you can download the PDF file on the Office of Research and Economic Development website (www.research.msstate.edu).

Research funding is one of the key measures in achieving the highest Carnegie Classification, but it is only one of several components. Clearly, there are some significant differences in the availability of external research funds dependent on discipline, but I would like to see all of our faculty members submitting proposals in support of scholarly work. Some of these proposals will be for large, multimillion dollar, multi-university centers, while others may be a travel grant to study a unique scholarly collection in Europe. Regardless of grant size, all of these activities help us to extend our scholarly capabilities. These numbers help provide us with solid data on areas of strength and areas of opportunity. Keep up the great work!

Good luck as you start the fall semester.

Go Dawgs – Beat LSU!

Kirk.