

Research Initiation Program (RIP)
Award Recipients
2017-2018

The Research Initiation Program received an outstanding response to the call for proposals. After thorough review by the assigned reviewers, the following were awarded.

Dr. Rachele Barnes
Psychological Studies
Award Amount: \$9,300.00

Project Title: “*The Effects of a Counseling Careers Awareness Program on the Career Aspirations of Ethnically Diverse College Students*”

Abstract: The purpose of the proposed study is to determine the level of awareness racial/ethnic minority students have about behavioral health careers, especially master’s level positions. It is hypothesized that these students will have some familiarity with doctoral level positions (e.g., clinical psychologist), but will have lower levels of awareness of master’s level positions (e.g., professional counselor). A summer program was developed to address the students’ potential gap in knowledge about these fields. The program participants will complete survey materials at the onset of the study, at the conclusion of the week-long program, and at the end of the academic year. It is hypothesized that the summer program will increase the students’ awareness of specialties in professional counseling which may, in turn, lead to these students pursuing careers in the counseling field. The findings of the study will provide graduate programs in counseling more information to help with the recruitment of racial/ethnic minority students. This may, in turn, lead to an increased number of racial/ethnic minority counselors, resulting in more people of color seeking mental health services.

Dr. Hye Young Kim
Art + Visual Studies
Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

Project Title: “*New Media Art Using Augmented Reality (AR) to Challenge Human Perception of identity*”

Abstract: Augmented Reality (AR) is a direct or indirect view of a physical and real-world environment whose elements are augmented or supplemented by computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, animation, graphics, or GPS data. Even though AR applications are rapidly developed in many areas such as medicine and military for use in training, education, advertisement, travel, GPS, and gaming, AR technology is not fully explored in the visual arts. At the College Art Association conference in 2016, the New Media Caucus’s Exhibition and Event Committee acknowledged the potential and importance of artist practices with augmented reality.

The objectives of this research are to challenge human perception of identity through new media art using AR technology and to investigate the potential and limitations of AR technology in creative production by examining various AR experiences. To challenge a person's current perception of identity, I propose the development of "Augmented Reality Masks" project (ARM), which is an interactive installation designed for people to interact with AR devices. These AR devices aid the user in seeing and perceiving virtual faces through masks, which are visual markers. The ARM project would allow users to explore the issue of identity from a new direction. This new direction is created by overlapping a virtual face on a real face, which creates a co-existence between the real and the virtual. My method is to develop AR applications by using AR tracking and registration technique with AR software. I will then conduct this project using AR applications and experimenting interactivity with AR devices (such as mobile devices and mixed reality headsets). The outcome of this research will be the "Augmented Reality Masks" project, which includes AR art installation as a creative product using AR digital application and a manuscript on the success and challenges of new media art using AR technology by comparing the tools, content, collaborative processes, methodology, and interactivity in various AR experiences.

The proposed research will raise questions of AR technology's impact on human perception of identity through the transformation of human faces. The ARM project will expand people's perception and open up new ways of thinking about virtual reality in the visual arts. It is expected that findings from the project will provide guidelines to design new media art using AR technology. It is also expected to increase awareness of AR technology's impact on human perception to other artists and scholars. In addition, this research will contribute toward the development of animation courses (ART3311/ART3322) that teach students the use and application of AR technology with animation in art. These courses will allow students to develop advanced technological education and created a strong resume to pursue a career and or higher education. After developing this research with AR, I will be able to apply for external funding from sources such as the North Carolina Arts Council Artist Fellowships and the Southeastern College Art Conference Artist's Fellowship.

Dr. Elijah Onsomu

Nursing

Amount Awarded: \$3,895.00

Project Title: "Factors Associated with Nursing Students Health-Related Quality of Life in a South Eastern HBCU"

Abstract: Perceived stress has been documented to have a significant impact on health-related quality of life (HRQL). Various factors that can impact nursing students HRQL have been previously documented. However, HRQOL among nursing students in relation to their perceived stress has not been previously examined. Using a prospective cross-sectional survey design we hypothesize that there will be a statistically significant mean difference in HRQOL scores between undergraduates and graduates, that there will be a statistically significant mean difference in HRQOL scores in at least one of the levels of study

(Accelerated BSN, RN-BSN, traditional BSN, MSN, and BSN-DNP/DNP), and there will be a relationship HRQOL scores and perceived stress among nursing students attending a historically black college and universities (HBCUs). This study will provide an understanding of how perceived stress is related to HRQOL using multiple linear regression. Furthermore, differences among students in relation to HRQOL scores will be examined using T-Test for two groups and ANOVA for three or more groups. This information will aid administrators to provide timely interventions for students' success in their program of study.

Dr. Christina Placilla

Music

Amount Awarded: \$9,804.00

Project Title: "Amy Beach 150th Anniversary Concert Series"

Abstract: In the field of music, women composers and American composers are underrepresented in the presentation of their art music. A survey conducted by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra studied the programming of music by the 21 major American orchestras. The findings of this study, which categorizes the selection of works over the 2014-2015 Classical season concerts found that 1) "Female composers account for only 1.8% of the works performed;" and 2) "American composers made up less than 11% of the pieces performed." ("Orchestra Season by the Numbers." Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Meyerhoff and Strathmore.) Additionally, in a separate study by Q2 Music, a contemporary Classical radio station, the following was found in their study of contemporary women composers: "Q2 Music has analyzed several key areas in contemporary classical music. In the U.S., women hold only 15% percent of composition faculty positions; women constitute under 15% of living composers whose works were featured on recent orchestral seasons and new-music series; and in the history of prestigious composition prizes, women obtain top honors only 9% of the time. While a handful of established women have risen to garner these elite awards and lucrative commissions, emerging composers still struggle to break through and get their music heard." ("New York's Classical Music Radio Station." WQXR.)

Dr. Kristina Roberson

Nursing

Amount Awarded: \$8,155.00

Project Title: "Exploration of Patient Perspectives about Hypertension at a Federally Qualified Health Center in North Carolina"

Abstract: Despite hypertension awareness and treatment, there remains relatively high rates of uncontrolled blood pressure. This fact is an impetus for the Healthy People 2020 objective to increase the proportion of adults with hypertension whose blood pressure is under control. Controlled hypertension decreases the risk of cardiac disease and death. Awareness and treatment endure as pillars of hypertension management, yet given the

suboptimal outcomes of uncontrolled hypertension and suboptimal patient self-management, there is a need to understand patient perspectives about their disease. Patient perceptions may be an integral component of blood pressure control, specifically as a determinant of health playing a role in disease management and treatment adherence. The need to explore these perspectives resonates more among low-income minority communities disproportionately affected by cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. Many medically vulnerable patients receive primary health care services at Federally Qualified Health Centers. To date, no identified studies have focused on patient perspectives surrounding blood pressure control in Federally Qualified Health Centers in North Carolina. This qualitative study will utilize focus groups to explore patient perspectives regarding hypertension at a Federally Qualified Health Center in North Carolina.

Dr. Nancy Smith

Physical Therapy

Amount Awarded: \$4,414.00

Project Title: *“Facilitation of Physical Therapy Student Hypothetical Deductive Clinical Reasoning Using a Scaffolded Mobile Application”*

Abstract: This study will utilize an intervention-based, sequential, embedded, mixed-methods design (QUAL? QUAL (quan)? QUAL (quan)) (Creswell & Clark, 2010 and Creswell, 2015) to investigate the utility of a mobile application to scaffold the process of clinical reasoning by using a case-based mobile application. To date, no research has been conducted on the utility of mobile applications on facilitating clinical reasoning skills in physical therapy students. Instead, research on the utility of mobile applications on influencing student learning in physical therapy has previously been limited to applications that focus on the development of task-based, psychomotor skills, with many studies demonstrating improvement in learning outcomes, including unpublished data by this researcher. By investigating the utility of mobile technology on improving clinical reasoning in physical therapy students, this study proposes to better define how mobile technology may facilitate learning in physical therapy students, and therefore broaden the utility of mobile learning in physical therapy from the previously established literature focusing on task based skills to the possibility of using mobile technology to facilitate higher order thinking processes such as clinical reasoning.