



Welcome to The
DIVISION OF RESEARCH
November Newsletter
Amplifying Charlotte's World-Class Research & Innovation

DIVISION OF RESEARCH (DR) NEWS

Welcome to the November Edition of our Division of Research (DR) Newsletter for UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, and students. We would like to draw special attention to our story featuring the Inaugural Faculty Research Fellowship Program, the formation of an AI Research Council, funding opportunities, and new funded awards.

FEATURED STORY

UNC Charlotte Launches Faculty Research Fellowship Program to Accelerate Interdisciplinary Research Excellence

The Division of Research (DR) is excited to announce the appointment of two outstanding UNC Charlotte faculty for the inaugural Faculty Research Fellowship Program (FRFP) - Dr. Evelyn K. Orman, Professor of Music Education, and Dr. Mesbah Uddin, Professor of Mechanical Engineering.



FRFP represents a significant step in our commitment to accelerate interdisciplinary research across campus, guided by the overall university strategic plan (Shaping What's Next) and "Research Shaping What's Next: UNC Charlotte's Research Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (RSWN)."

For FY 2025, DR will pilot the program with a focus on three priority areas: DoD (Department of Defense), Healthy People & Communities, and Art/Humanities. During that time, Dr. Orman and Dr. Uddin will work closely with the Division of Research Vice Chancellor, Dr. John Daniels, and Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Deb Thomas.

"I am truly excited and thankful to serve as one of the inaugural Faculty Research Fellows in the Division of Research. I strongly believe that collaboration across the arts, creative design, humanities, and the sciences is essential for addressing the complex challenges we face today and for advancing research in meaningful ways. By combining these diverse disciplines, we can generate novel insights, foster creative synergies, and produce research that is innovative, ethical, culturally relevant, and impactful, promoting a more holistic understanding of the human experience," shares Dr. Orman.

Dr. Orman will spearhead the development of an actionable roadmap to accelerate and promote interdisciplinary and translational research within the Arts & Humanities across the University. Dr. Uddin will spearhead defense research initiatives.

"This feels like the first step toward a long-held vision of establishing a National Defense focused research center at UNC Charlotte. I'm deeply grateful to our university leadership—Chancellor Sharon Gaber, Vice Chancellor for Research John Daniels, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Deb Thomas—for placing their trust in me and showing such strong commitment to advancing our defense research efforts. Their support is both humbling and inspiring, and I look forward to working toward this important goal for our university and community," shares Dr. Uddin.

The program is a win-win for the University and for faculty members at the forefront of our research priority areas.

"The FRFP allows us to deep dive into some of our important focus areas, leveraging the expertise of our exceptional faculty fellows, while also increasing their awareness about the inner workings of the Division of Research," shares Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Thomas.

Please join us in congratulating our inaugural Faculty Research Fellows!

*You can read more about Drs. Orman and Uddin, and the [full article here](#).

DR NEWS CONTD...

| Guiding the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Research

The Division of Research (DR) has formed a new AI Research Council to provide guidance on the use of AI for the research community at UNC Charlotte. This Council is an extension of the [University's AI Steering Committee](#) on which Division of Research Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Deb Thomas, is a member. The new DR AI Research Council will:

- Establish a framework for the ethical and responsible use of AI tools in research and innovation
- Review research policies and procedures for potential adjustments to incorporate AI
- Identify gaps in policy that may need new policy creation
- Provide on-going guidance on use in research

| Niner Research Reception

The Division of Research hosted its annual Niner Research Reception on October 31st. It was amazing to celebrate the exceptional work among dozens of categories—from books and musical recordings, to externally funded and new PI awards, to DR staff and student recognitions. The energy in the room reflected the excitement around accelerating research in all its forms. Read more in this [UComm story!](#)



| The Division of Research & Researchers Taking Steps to Amplify Communication

The Division of Research (DR) has also formed a new University Research Council to increase communication between researchers and the Division so we can continue to expand our research footprint in meaningful ways. Researchers will:

- Provide input, guidance and ideas about research strategy and operations
- Offer insights into research needs
- Highlight exciting research underway in their colleges
- Hear directly about current efforts underway in DR



| UNC Charlotte Student Inventors Meet USPTO Leadership

During the competition trip for the Collegiate Inventors Competition, student innovators Naz Fathma Tumpa and Aiden Hawkins had a unique opportunity to meet Derrick Brent, the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Thanks to ORCP Executive Director, Laura Peter, for making it happen!

[Read more here.](#)

| NSF INVITES UNC CHARLOTTE TO SUBMIT A FULL PROPOSAL TO ITS SECOND REGIONAL INNOVATION ENGINES COMPETITION

In case you missed this exciting announcement, UNC Charlotte has been selected to submit a full proposal to the [U.S. National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines \(NSF Engines\)](#) program.

With UNC Charlotte as the lead organization, our “CLEANcarolinas Regional Innovation Engine” addresses advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies, including power systems and conversion, grid technologies, and electro-mechanical technologies.

The project's Principal Investigator is Division of Research, Vice Chancellor Dr. John Daniels.

[Read the full article here.](#)

ANNOUNCING NEW FUNDING AWARDS FOR OCTOBER

Award PI	Department	College	Other Personnel
Charles Y Lee	Mech Engineering & Engineering Sci	COEN	
Anthony Fodor	Bioinformatics and Genomics	CCI	
Menelaos Kimon Poutous	Physics and Optical Science	COS	
Wesley B. Williams	Engineering Tech & Constr Mgmt	COEN	
Erina Baynojr Joyee	Mech Engineering & Engineering Sci	COEN	
Apryl Alycia Alexander	Epidemiology and Comm Health	CHHS	Annelise Mae Mennicke
Michael Stephen Smith	Engineering Tech & Constr Mgmt	COEN	
Hedda Meadan-Kaplansky	Special Ed & Child Dev	COED	
Jeremy Holleman	Electrical & Computer Engineering	COEN	
Eric Moore	Urban Institute	UrbanCORE	Jenny Anne Hutchison, Marye Lorelle
Nicole Adams	Special Ed & Child Dev	COED	Thomas, Sydney S Idzikowski
Katie Michelle Tomer	Wellness Promotion	Health & Wellbeing	

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE | LIMITED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES

11/20/24 | [NSF Safety, Security, and Privacy of Open-Source Ecosystem \(SAFE-OSE\)](#)

12/09/24 | [NSF S-STEM](#)

12/13/24 | [NSF IGE](#)

12/20/24 | [NSF Expanding AI Innovation through Capacity Building and Partnerships \(ExpandAI\)](#)

POLICY UPDATE

NSF & Multifactor Authentication Implementation for Research.gov - To ensure that only authorized users can access Federal resources online, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has updated its policy for logging into [research.gov](#), now requiring multifactor authentication (MFA). Please be sure to use DUO as your MFA method. You can find the full NSF announcement [here](#).

NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

Conference Presentation: Stacy Leotta, Center for Research Excellence Assistant Director & Program Coordinator, presented at the [NC RAA First Annual Conference](#) in Durham, NC. Her informative session covered the Research Development life cycle and creating a professional research support center.



IN THE NEWS | UNC CHARLOTTE PROFESSOR BRINGING TOGETHER URBAN EDUCATION PRACTITIONERS & RESEARCHERS GLOBALLY

UNC Charlotte's internationally recognized voice on Urban Education, Dr. Chance Lewis, hosted another successful International Conference on Urban Education (ICUE) in Cancun, Mexico earlier this month, drawing hundreds of K-12 educators to "share best practices on how to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing urban schools around the globe," according to the online article in *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*.

Dr. Lewis is the Director of the Urban Education Collaborative and the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor in Urban Education.

Check out the [full story here](#).