

THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

NEWS

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- Funding That Fits Your Research!
- Science of Science – Discovery, Communication and Impact
- Human Services and Education

Post-Award Services

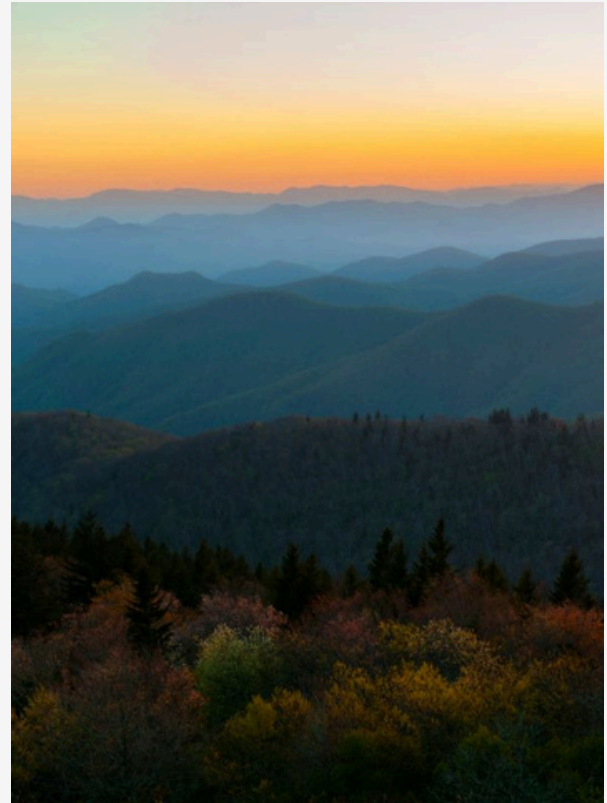
- Research Compliance Oversees Post Award Approvals
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RESTORING THROUGH RESEARCH

In Asheville, the French Broad River rose nearly 25 feet higher than its normal water levels. The water carried cars downstream, leveled buildings, and picked up debris that mixed and churned in the river. This once-in-a-thousand-year weather event has now become the third deadliest hurricane in U.S. history. [READ MORE...](#)

Research Data Dive

[View the Data of WCU's Research Pursuits](#)



Office of Research
Administration

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PRE-AWARD SERVICES NEWS

Get Matched with Funding That Fits Your Research!

Share your interests in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) using the form linked below, and we will utilize your responses to tailor funding searches, programming, and networking support through our campus.

[RSCA Interest Form](#)

Funding Opportunity: Science of Science - Discovery, Communication and Impact

This opportunity from the National Science Foundation supports projects that deepen our understanding of how scientific discovery works, how science is communicated, and how it informs evidence-based policy and public benefit. Proposals are due by September 9, 2025.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Funding Opportunity: Human Services and Education

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina is offering fall grants of up to \$25,000 through a Human Services and Education cycle. Applications are due August 29, 2025.

Human Services Focus

Funding supports programs that directly serve economically disadvantaged individuals in mountain communities. Priority is given to projects that:

- Continue, expand, or replicate proven service models
- Purchase equipment or materials that offer immediate, meaningful impact for service delivery

Education Focus

Grants aim to strengthen educational outcomes across all ages in Western North Carolina by supporting:

- Early childhood development initiatives
- K–12 programs in areas such as afterschool enrichment, academic achievement, and specialized technology or equipment (excluding routine classroom tools)
- Adult education efforts, including ESL, literacy, and support for non-traditional learners

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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POST-AWARD NEWS

Research Compliance Oversees Post Award Approvals

The Post-Award Team is re-structuring the expenditure approval process. Research Compliance Specialist, **Harrison Martin** (hsmartin@wcu.edu) will be leading the review of all sponsored expenditure approvals for the Office.

The transition of approval duties from the Grant Specialist to the Research Compliance Specialist ensures timely approvals and financial reviews in line with sponsor requirements. The timeline below outlines the shift from Cameron to Harrison.

- May 19th : Travel Reimbursements in Emburse Enterprise
- May 26th : Catamart Requisitions and Check Requests
- June 9th : Personnel Hiring in Talent Management

Please reach out to **Ben Peters** (bpeters@wcu.edu) or **Harrison Martin** (hsmartin@wcu.edu) with questions or support needs related to approvals.

End of Fiscal Year 2024-2025: Important Updates and Reminders

As we approach the close of FY25, this is a particularly busy time for our Post-Award team, and there is a high volume of closeout activities for both sponsors and the University. Utilize the Post Award Action Form as soon as you have a request for a timely response and action.

Please note that **Cameron Lopez**, our Grant Specialist, will be out of the office for military service from **May 30th to June 15th, 2025**. During this period:

- **CC Ben Peters** on all email correspondence.
- **Route all check requests and IC paperwork** to Harrison Martin (hsmartin@wcu.edu), Research Compliance Specialist via Adobe Sign.
- **Also CC Ben Peters** (bpeters@wcu.edu) and **Kloo Hansen** (kchansen@email.wcu.edu) on all check requests and IC paperwork routed through Adobe Sign.

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POST-AWARD NEWS

To ensure visibility and timely processing, continue using the [Post-Award Action Form](#) for all PARs.

We kindly remind all PIs and AOs to **review and reconcile FY25 (7/1/2025–6/30/2025) expenses in Banner**. Once we transition into FY26 on **July 1st, 2025**, expenses from FY25 can no longer be recoded. As a reminder here are important deadlines for June 2025:

- **June 10th, 2025:** WCU Purchasing deadlines for PCards and Catamart
- **June 13th, 2025:** Post Award deadline to submit FY 25 recodes, invoices, check requests, & travel reimbursements for approval
- **June 20th, 2025:** All invoices, check requests, and travel reimbursements are submitted and paid.

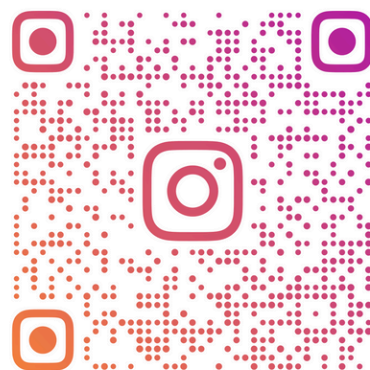
If you have not yet received a fund review in May, please request a fund review using the [Post-Award Action Form](#).

Thank you for your attention and collaboration as we wrap up the fiscal year. Your partnership helps ensure a smooth and successful closeout process.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



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COMPLIANCE NEWS

Effort Reporting Requests

Effort reporting requests will be sent to anyone compensated from a grant or contract between January 1 and May 31, 2025.

- Required completion date: June 11
- For questions, contact: Mallory Ball, mball@wcu.edu

Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) Audits

The Office of Research Administration's Research Compliance unit has begun conducting Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) audits of non-exempt IRB studies.

- The audits will be conducted on a random selection of studies.
 - Notification: If your study is selected for monitoring, a member of the Research Compliance unit will reach out to you directly to schedule the monitoring visit.
- For questions, contact: IRB@wcu.edu

Research Security Training

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires Research Security training for all NSF-funded researchers effective May 2025.

- Included in the 2025 Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
 - Training Provider: citiprogram.org
- For questions, contact: Mallory Ball, mball@wcu.edu

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STUDENT RESEARCH NEWS

WCU students present at National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Recently, 29 Western Carolina University students and other students from across the country presented their research at the National Research Conference on Undergraduate Research in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

NCUR promotes undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students. NCUR differs from other organizations because it invites undergraduate students from all institutions of higher learning, from all disciplines. It is the largest symposium of its kind, bringing together almost 4,000 undergraduate students each year.

At NCUR, students can share their research through oral presentations, posters, performances, and visual art. Presenting at NCUR gives undergraduate researchers a voice, while also providing them with the opportunity to learn more about the research process and network with other researchers from different institutions.

Students from WCU were able to both share their research and learn from other students. Leading up to NCUR, students gained a better understanding and appreciation for the research process.

[Read the Full Story.](#)

CATALYST Program Builds Momentum in Year Two: Empowering Students Through Early Research and Leadership Engagement

The CATALYST: Summer Research and Leadership Program is set to welcome its second cohort of incoming honors students on June 24, 2025, following freshman orientation. This initiative, launched in summer 2024, is a collaborative effort between the Office of Research Administration and the Brinson Honors College.

CATALYST is a week-long immersive experience designed for incoming Honors College students. Participants stay on campus and engage in sessions that spark interest in undergraduate research and explore the intersection of research and leadership—two core touchstones of the Brinson Honors College.

[View the Data of WCU's Research Pursuits](#)