

THE GRADUATE RECORD

THE CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

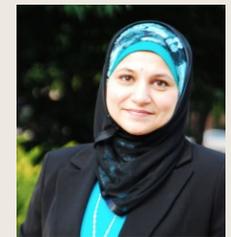
FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following faculty members selected as recipients of the inaugural Cato College of Education Faculty Research Grants.

1. **Dr. Regina McCurdy (Department of Middle, Secondary & K12 Education)** - Regina's project, titled "Braiding Science and Literacy," is an interdisciplinary initiative designed to strengthen 8th-grade student achievement at Ranson IB Middle School. The project facilitates professional development (PD) for Science and ELA teachers to collaboratively co-design instructional units centered around the book *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults*. Utilizing the Science Relevancy Bridge (SRB) framework, the project aims to enhance science relevancy and language literacy by connecting scientific concepts with students' diverse backgrounds and Indigenous ways of knowing.
2. **Dr. Ayesha Sadaf (Department of Educational Leadership)** - Ayesha's project, titled "Cultivating Metacognitive Learners Online," is a research initiative aimed at enhancing online higher education by identifying instructional strategies that foster metacognitive awareness and skill development. Utilizing the Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework, the study examines the relationship between three interconnected presences—cognitive, teaching, and social—and how they predict a student's perceived learning and metacognitive abilities across various academic disciplines.
3. **Dr. Carmen Serrata (Department of Educational Leadership)** - Carmen's project, titled "Entre Dos Mundos: Examining Latina Transfer Student Experiences," is a qualitative study focused on the post-transfer transition of Latina community college students in North Carolina. The research examines how cultural and social factors—specifically familial obligations (*familismo*), racialized expectations, and gendered norms (such as *marianismo* and *hembrismo*)—impact these students' academic adjustment, persistence, and degree completion. The project aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how Latina students navigate "mixed messages" regarding independence and family roles while pursuing higher education.
4. **Dr. Virginia Walker (Department of Special Education and Child Development)** - Virginia's project, titled "Supporting Educators to Promote Meaningful Participation in PBIS for Students with Extensive Support Needs," is a research initiative focused on making school-wide behavioral frameworks more inclusive. The project aims to adapt Tier 1 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to ensure students with extensive support needs (ESN)—such as those with autism or intellectual disabilities—can meaningfully participate in general education settings. By developing and implementing specific adaptations like visual supports, social narratives, and systematic instruction, the study seeks to reduce challenging behavior and promote equitable access.



REGINA MCCURDY



AYESHA SADAF



CARMEN SERRATA



VIRGINIA WALKER

OUTSTANDING SERVICE RECOGNITION

Dr. Michelle Stephan, Professor in the Department of Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education, was honored for outstanding service to the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) at the 30th Annual AMTE Conference held February 5-7, 2026, in Portland, Oregon. This recognition highlights her three-year tenure on AMTE's Board of Directors and her leadership as Vice President of Membership, a role in which she helped shape the direction of mathematics teacher education nationwide.



NEW FEDERAL GRANT

The Cato College of Education is celebrating a major new award supporting national efforts to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative (NTACT:C) has been funded for another five-year cycle (October 2025–September 2030), with UNC Charlotte receiving a \$2.93 million sub-award through the University of Oregon to continue its leadership in this work.

NTACT:C, originally established at UNC Charlotte and long recognized as a national leader in secondary transition, provides technical assistance across the U.S. to strengthen services that support students with disabilities in achieving success in postsecondary education, competitive employment, and community engagement.

Dr. Leslie Bross (Department of Special Education and Child Development) will serve as UNC Charlotte's Principal Investigator for this new award. Dr. Andy Masud and Michael Stoehr will continue in key technical assistance and knowledge development roles, and Dr. Catherine Fowler will contribute to the project through August 2026. UNC Charlotte partners in this national collaboration include the University of Oregon, George Washington University, the University of Kansas, the University of Maryland, and Portland State University.



NEW AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Kaleb Thompson (Department of Counseling) on receiving a Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) research award for his project, *Understanding the Development of Youth Counseling Competency in Clinical Courses*. This study will examine how practicum students develop the knowledge, skills, expectations, and attitudes necessary to provide effective counseling services to child and adolescent clients, with the goal of informing counselor education practices and strengthening preparation for work with this protected population.



RESEARCH AWARD RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Dr. McCurdy on receiving a *Research Worth Reading* Award from the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) and the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST). Her publication, "*The Science Relevancy Bridge: Connecting Intersectionality and Science Identity in Science Learning Experiences*," was selected as one of three articles published in the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* this past year recognized for their significant implications for science educators and practitioners. Dr. McCurdy and her co-authors will be honored at a Research Worth Reading awards session at the upcoming NARST annual conference.



STUDENT AFFAIRS FACULTY FELLOW

Congratulations to Dr. Carmen Serrata (Department of Educational Leadership) on being selected as the inaugural Faculty Fellow within the Division of Student Affairs for the 2026-2027 academic year. A scholar-practitioner with deep expertise in student pathways and transitions, Dr. Serrata brings a powerful blend of research and practice that will be a tremendous asset to the division.



CARMEN SERRATA

Dr. Serrata's fellowship project will examine how mentoring relationships at UNC Charlotte shape students' sense of belonging, career development, and post-graduation pathways. Using qualitative methods—including interviews, focus groups, and observations—the study centers the voices of students, peer mentors, staff, and faculty engaged in mentoring initiatives across campus. In partnership with Student Affairs Research & Assessment and the University Career Center, the project will produce data-informed, actionable strategies to strengthen mentoring as a high-impact practice, advancing equity, student engagement, and career readiness in alignment with the Division of Student Affairs' strategic goals.

This research addresses a critical component of the student experience and will build upon and enhance ongoing campus-wide mentoring efforts. As UNC Charlotte continues to advance mentorship as a hallmark of the Charlotte experience, Dr. Serrata's work will play a vital role in deepening our understanding of how mentoring shapes students' belonging, aspirations, and post-graduation outcomes—further strengthening the Charlotte Model.

As a Faculty Fellow, Dr. Serrata will receive a \$5,000 semesterly stipend, funding for a graduate assistant for one academic year, and up to \$3,500 in travel support to present fellowship-related research.

STUDENT AFFAIRS SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECT

Congratulations to Dr. Xiaoxia Newton (Department of Educational Leadership) and her collaborator, Dr. Jing Yang (College of Computing & Informatics), who have been awarded the inaugural Student Affairs-sponsored research project. Their proposal, *"Student Success through Agentic AI: Interactive Data Reporting for Early Intervention Based on Engagement and Wellbeing Indicators,"* impressed the selection committee with its innovative cross-college approach and potential for high-impact outcomes.



XIAOXIA NEWTON



JING YANG

This pioneering project will leverage Agentic AI to transform student data into actionable, interactive dashboards, helping advisors and support staff identify students at risk and deliver timely interventions. By bridging Education and Computing/Informatics, Drs. Newton and Yang are poised to generate insights that will directly inform and enhance student success initiatives across our division.

RESEARCH AT CHARLOTTE TEACHER EARLY COLLEGE

A friendly reminder that the opportunity to conduct research at the Charlotte Teacher Early College (CTEC) is still available. To promote and track related research and facilitate collaboration, anyone interested in conducting research involving CTEC is encouraged to complete an [online form](#) found on our research webpage.

METHODOLOGICAL & DATA ANALYTIC SUPPORT

The Center for Educational Measurement and Evaluation (CEME) in the Cato College of Education provides statistical support and research methodological assistance to faculty, staff, and graduate students at UNC Charlotte. To receive CEME support, please submit a [service request ticket](#). The direct link to the ticketing system is also available on the CoEd Research website (click on Research Support link).

CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Student Presenter Support Sessions

The Student Council for Exceptional Children - Division for Research will host two events in March to support students who are presenting their research at the Research Symposium.

SAVE THE DATE: [March 2 SCEC Chapter Meeting - click here](#)

- **When:** Monday, March 2 | 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Where:** **In Person** (COED 259) OR **join us on Zoom** [<https://charlotte-edu.zoom.us/j/98291184884>]
- **What's on the agenda?** Develop your poster presentations for the Cato College of Education Research Symposium and/or the GPSG Graduate Research Symposium.

SAVE THE DATE: [March 23 SCEC Chapter Meeting - click here](#)

- **When:** Monday, Mar. 23 | 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Where:** **In Person** (Room TBA) OR **join us on Zoom** [<https://charlotte-edu.zoom.us/j/98291184884>]
- **What's on the agenda?** Practice your poster presentations, 3-Minute Thesis style!

Email Leigh Anne Baker with questions at lbaker59@charlotte.edu.

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS



GRAD PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

TEACHERS COUNSELORS
SCHOOL LEADERS
HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Cato College of Education
MARCH 5
6-7 PM, Virtual

SPEAK WITH
FACULTY | CURRENT STUDENTS | ALUMNI

PREPARE TO APPLY | PREPARE TO SUCCEED



REGISTER NOW



The Cato College of Education at UNC Charlotte wants to help **you** succeed on the Praxis II and other licensure tests.

We are offering a series of free study workshops virtually via Zoom from early February through April. The dates of the specific workshops that will be offered are indicated below.

Please email recruitment@charlotte.edu with any related questions.

To attend any of the workshops, please complete the online registration form via the link below. Once you have submitted the form, you should immediately receive email confirmation.

This email will include links to all of the online Zoom workshops. Please make note of the link(s) for the workshop(s) that you plan to attend, as you may not receive an individual invitation from the presenter.

Sign up via our Google Form:
<https://forms.gle/Z3Ymy8AfH7f2xwAz5>

TOPIC	PRESENTERS	DATE & TIME
Foundations of Reading	Alicia Kitten & Jean Vintinner	Thursday, 4/2, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Praxis Elementary Math CKT (7813)	Allison Elowson	Wednesday, 3/25, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
SPED General Curriculum (5543)	Shannon Pardue	Thursday, 2/26, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
MDLG (5440 or 5442) and Secondary (5435) Comprehensive Science	Regina McCurdy	Wednesday, 4/8, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
SPED Adapted Curriculum (5545)	Hannah Douglass	Tuesday, 4/14, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Praxis - Middle Grades Math	Allison Elowson	Wednesday, 4/1, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Praxis - Secondary Math	Allison Elowson	Wednesday, 4/15, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Middle Grades & Secondary English Language Arts	Adam Myers	Wednesday, 3/25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Middle School (5089) and High School (5081/5581) Social Studies.	Oscar Larsen	Wednesday, 3/25, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
English as a Second Language (5362)	Cornelia Okraski	Wednesday, 4/22, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
CTE (Business/IT (5101) Marketing (5561))	Nakesha Dawson	Wednesday, 3/18, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Praxis Core Math (5733)	Tynaiza Murphy	Wednesday, 2/11, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Praxis Core Reading (5713)	Phillip Pope	Tuesday, 2/3, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Praxis Core Writing (5723)	Phillip Pope	Monday, 2/2, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Instructional Coaching	Kate Gilbert	Saturday, 2/28, 10:00am-12:00pm

DATA LAKE

You are invited to join a virtual information session on March 25 (1-2 pm) hosted by Ellissa Brooks Nelson and Mark Manning from Student Affairs to learn about the Student Affairs Data Lake and how it can support teaching, research, and student success initiatives. The Student Affairs Data Lake—powered by Denodo—virtualizes and integrates data across Student Affairs units (including wellness, housing, engagement, UREC, student health, food pantry usage, veterans services, and more), enabling secure access to information that once took months to retrieve and can now be accessed in minutes. This data supports internal program improvement, external reporting, and research focused on student engagement, belonging, retention, and learning beyond the classroom.

During the session, presenters will discuss data governance and request processes, available data sources, and opportunities for faculty engagement—including the Student Affairs Faculty Fellows program, which provides funding support for a graduate assistant, research activities, and dissemination. Faculty will also learn how the Data Lake can strengthen research, enable longitudinal and cohort analyses, and enhance grant proposals with institutional data. If interested in attending the virtual session, please [register here](#). Anyone who expresses interest will be sent a calendar invitation with the Zoom link. I hope you will join us to explore how this resource can benefit your scholarship and support student success.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES IN-PERSON COED OFFICE HOURS

Our designated pre- and post-award staff from the Office of Research Services now offer in-person office hours in the Cato College of Education. Specifically, Catherine Butt (Post-award Specialist) and Caroline Kennedy (Pre-award Specialist) are available one day each week in Room 150C, located in the Business Office Suite on the main floor in Mebane Hall.

The goal of this initiative is to provide faculty with easier access to support for proposal development and award management, and to further strengthen the grant support available to the College.

To schedule a meeting with Catherine or Caroline, please click on this [link](#) for the in-person research administration meeting sign-up sheet. The link will be included in each issue of the Graduate Record in the section that provides the contact information for our Research/Funding Support team.

Pre-Award Support: Caroline Kennedy, Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Post-Award Support: Catherine Butt, Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



CATHERINE BUTT



CAROLINE KENNEDY

For a more comprehensive list of funding opportunities that align with areas of research interest and expertise in the Cato College of Education, please visit the curated list created in Pivot at the link provided below. You may be prompted to log in to Pivot to access these results. If you do not have a Pivot account set up, you can use your UNC Charlotte NinerNet credentials as the shibboleth anywhere when prompted.

https://pivot.proquest.com/curated_opps/9932

Charlotte Urban Institute

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

Featuring: UNC Charlotte Cato College of Education



March 24, 2026 | The Dubois Center

2:00pm - 4:30pm

Presented by the Charlotte Urban Institute, featuring the Cato College of Education, the Community Engagement Showcase highlights education-centered community-engaged research, programs and projects strengthening partnerships across Charlotte. The event will feature short project presentations, followed by a networking reception.

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

Consider using Mursion software in your classes this spring (2026). Our subscription provides access to both ready-to-use (whole class) 50-minute simulation sessions and 30-minute (individual student) practice simulation sessions that address a lot of skills relevant not only to teacher preparation programs, but also educational leadership and counseling (see above Library of Sessions). If you would like to learn more about what a Mursion session look like, check out this [YouTube video](#) created by our Mursion representative Catherine Guimares. To schedule a session, please complete the sign-up form [here](#). Maddison will schedule your session and send you the link to share with your students.

Educational Leadership	Middle School	High School	ELED & ECE	Special Populations	Counseling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal-Teacher Conference Family Conference - ECE Behavioral Issues Family Conference – ECE Data Family Conference – K-5 Data Family Conference – Middle School Data Family Conference – Middle School Behavioral Issues Family Conference – Concerns with IEP Family Conference – Introducing Need for IEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing Rapport (Meet & Greet) Classroom Management Introducing Content Eliciting Student Thinking Comprehending Personification Understanding Exponents Welcoming a New Student Defining Science Vocabulary Understanding Angles Understanding Instructions Comprehending Nonfiction Vocabulary Social Emotional Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet and Greet Classroom Management, Setting Expectations Introducing Content Demonstrating Science Lab Safety Establishing Science Lab Safety Eliciting Student Thinking, Environmental Sciences Leading Group Discussion, Biology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing Rapport (Meet & Greet) Classroom Management Introducing Content Eliciting Student Thinking – Long Division Social Emotional Learning Leading a Morning Circle Read Aloud Assessing Phonetic Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Exponents (ASD) Comprehending Personification (ASD) Comprehending Nonfiction Vocabulary (LD) Understanding Instructions (LD) Welcoming a New Student (EL) Defining Science Vocabulary (EL) Understanding Angles (EL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting a Counseling Session Checking-in New Patient Behavioral Health Interviewing Pediatric Guardian Delivering News to a Minor

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Psychological Foundation - Springfield Research Fund Dissertation Fellowship - The Springfield Research Fund Dissertation Fellowship supports graduate students at any stage of their dissertation who are interested in researching contemporary LGBTQIA+ issues in an effort to dispel stereotypes and other negative information that leads to prejudice and discrimination. One fellowship of up to \$10,000 is available. Successful applicants will also be eligible for a \$1,000 bonus upon publication of their dissertation research. **Deadline: 12 June 2026.**

Association of Teacher Educators - Robert F. Schuck Distinguished Research in Teacher Education Award - The award has been established to recognize and promote exceptional research that substantially contributes to the improvement of teacher education. The Association of Teacher Educators presents this award in anticipation that such recognition will stimulate research to: (1) further the development of teacher education; (2) disseminate related information nationally and internationally; and (3) expand the knowledge base relative to teacher education. **Deadline: 15 May 2026.**

Brady Foundation - Existing Educational Program Evaluation Grants - The Foundation is currently accepting Existing Program Evaluation (EPE) proposals that have the potential to provide data that will inform how to address disparities in educational opportunities associated with race, ethnicity, and family income. The primary aim must concern evaluating the effectiveness of programs designed to promote positive cognitive and/or achievement outcomes for children (birth through 18 years) with the goal of informing ways to close the educational opportunity gaps associated with race, ethnicity, and income.

Deadline: Stage 1 Applications are accepted throughout the year. If Invited to Continue, Stage 2 Proposal Due Dates are listed on the funder website.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund - The Burroughs Wellcome Fund aims to stimulate growth of new connections between thinkers working in largely disconnected fields who might together change the course of climate change's impact on human health. In the three years between Fall 2023 and Summer 2026, we will dedicate \$1M to supporting small, early-stage grants of \$2,500-\$50,000 toward achieving this goal.

Deadline: Quarterly through July 2026 (Next: 4/23/26, 7/23/26).

Caplan Foundation - The Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood is an incubator of promising research and development projects that appear likely to improve the welfare of young children, from infancy through 7 years, in the United States. The Foundation's goal is to provide seed money to implement those imaginative proposals that exhibit the greatest chance of improving the lives of young children, on a national scale. The Foundation provides funding in the following areas: 1) Early Childhood Welfare; 2) Early Childhood Education and Play; 3) Parenting Education.

Deadline: 31 May 2026 (Letter of Inquiry).

German Academic Foundation - The German Academic Scholarship Foundation invites applications for its doctoral scholarships. These support doctoral candidates studying at a German university and German citizens pursuing a PhD abroad. An average of 350 scholarships are awarded each year. Doctoral scholars receive €1,450 a month, comprising a basic monthly stipend of €1,350 and a research allowance of €100 a month. Doctoral scholars who travel abroad for research purposes, laboratory visits or to attend conferences can apply for grants for travel and additional living expenses. Funding is initially granted for two years. On application and subject to successful progress, the scholarship may be extended twice, for up to six months respectively. The maximum funding period is 36 months, for scholarship holders with children this period can be increased to 48 months. **Deadline: Applications may be submitted at any time.**

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International Research Foundation for English Language Education - Doctoral Dissertation Grants - Supports doctoral candidates conducting dissertation research on topics related to English as a Second Language, foreign language instruction, teacher education, and educational programs, fostering advancements in language education and instructional practices.
Deadline: 13 May 2026.

Learning Disabilities Foundation of America - Applications must be for projects which conform to the mission of the Learning Disabilities Foundation of America by responding to an unmet need in the field of learning disabilities. Funds are granted for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes or for the identification, ongoing evaluation, education of and services for children and adults with learning disabilities. **Letter of Inquiry Deadline: 06 Apr 2026.**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - ROSES 2025: Collaborative Opportunities for Mentorship, Partnership and Academic Success in Science - The COMPASS program fosters collaborations between NASA Centers and academic institutions to advance NASA's scientific priorities, expand STEM education, and train the future workforce. It emphasizes mentorship, professional development, and inclusion of underrepresented institutions to build research capacity and support U.S. STEM growth. **Deadline: 26 Mar 2026.**

National Science Foundation - CyberAI Corps Scholarship for Service (CyberAI SFS) - This program supports initiatives to address the talent gap in AI and cybersecurity by funding scholarships for service and innovative projects. It emphasizes integrating AI and cybersecurity in education, workforce development, and fostering government and academic partnerships to enhance national security. This is a limited submission. Each performing organization is limited to one (1) proposal per annual SFS competition. **Deadline. 03 April 2026 (Scholarship and Innovation Track); 21 July 2026 (Scholarship Track).**

National Institute of Health - NIH Collaborative International Research Project - This program aims to support collaborative international research projects. All collaborative international research project applications must include at least one international subproject, where the proposed project must be related to the programmatic interests of one or more of the participating NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices based on their scientific missions. The application will be evaluated as a whole, and the international subproject(s) will be evaluated on whether the project presents special opportunities for furthering research programs through the use of unusual talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions in other countries that are not readily available in the United States. **Deadline: 25 May 2026.**

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research - Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT) Program - Employment - This program supports advanced research training for scholars, including those with disabilities, to enhance expertise in multidisciplinary disability and rehabilitation research. The focus is on improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities through high-quality, innovative approaches.
Deadline: 12 Mar 2026 (LOI); 13 Apr 2026 (Full Application)

National Science Foundation - Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (GRANTED) - The National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks to encourage nationally transformative ideas and scalable models to strengthen the Nation's research enterprise, particularly at emerging research and minority-serving institutions. Broadly defined, the research enterprise includes human capital, practices and processes related to research development, research administration, technology transfer and commercialization, corporate relation/public-private partnerships, research integrity, compliance and security, research policy, student research training, and research leadership.
Deadline: You can apply for this opportunity at any time.

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National Science Foundation - NSF K-12 STEM - The program encourages innovative, multidisciplinary, and potentially transformative projects that build theory, generate new knowledge, and inform education practices in a rapidly evolving technological landscape with advances in emerging technologies including artificial intelligence (AI). It supports fundamental, applied, and translational research that enhances STEM teaching and learning and across the human lifespan and in a range of formal and informal learning settings. In addition to building theory and informing practice, the program seeks projects that produce new tools and frameworks; harness exemplary formal and informal learning; and unlock new avenues of scientific inquiry and discovery in STEM education to strengthen the Nation's standing as a global leader in STEM innovation. Proposals submitted to the STEM K-12 program may focus on learning or instruction in any field(s) of STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) and may involve a variety of contexts in which teaching and learning take place, including formal education (pre-K to 12) and informal learning environments. ***Deadline: Proposals accepted anytime.***

National Science Foundation - Research Coordination Networks (RCN) - The goal of the RCN program is to advance a field or create new directions in research or education by supporting groups of investigators to communicate and coordinate their research, training and educational activities across disciplinary, organizational, geographic, and international boundaries. The RCN program provides opportunities to foster new collaborations, including international partnerships where appropriate, and address interdisciplinary topics. Innovative ideas for implementing novel networking strategies, collaborative technologies, training, broadening participation, and development of community standards for data and meta- data are especially encouraged. RCN awards are not meant to support existing networks; nor are they meant to support the activities of established collaborations. ***Deadline: Proposals are accepted at any time.***

PNC Foundation - PNC Grow Up Great Foundation Grants - The PNC Foundation supports a variety of nonprofit organizations with a special emphasis on those that work to achieve sustainability and touch a diverse population, in particular, those that support early childhood education and/or economic development. PNC Grow Up Great is our signature program. It is a multi-year, bilingual initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life. ***Deadline: You can apply for this opportunity at any time.***

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity - Evidence for Action prioritizes research to evaluate specific interventions (e.g., policies, programs, practices) that have the potential to counteract the harms of structural and systemic racism and improve health, well-being, and equity outcomes. We are concerned both with the direct impacts of structural racism on the health and well-being of people and communities of color (e.g., Black, Latina/o/x, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander people, and other races and ethnicities)—as well as the ways in which racism intersects with other forms of marginalization, such as having low income, being an immigrant, having a disability, or identifying as LGBTQ+ or a gender minority. ***Deadline: Continuous.***

Teagle Foundation - Education for American Civic Life - The Education for American Civic Life initiative supports efforts to prepare students to become informed and engaged participants in the civic life of their local and national communities. Grants of varying amounts, ranging from \$100,000-\$300,000 over a 24-36-month period, will be made to each funded project participating in this initiative. ***Deadline: Continuous.***

The Stranahan Foundation - Early Childhood Education Program - The program aims to improve access to high-quality early care and education for young children, particularly those from low-income families. We do this by investing in the development and retention of a high-quality, thriving early educator workforce. The spring 2026 funding cycle will support nonprofit organizations and projects that align with our Innovation and Proven Professional Development (PD) strategies. These strategies specifically fund professional development organizations, early childhood networks, institutions of higher education, and local and state early childhood departments that are designing and/or implementing larger-scale models (at 5+ early childhood programs). This call is open to U.S. nonprofit organizations, including fiscally sponsored groups, public school districts, and colleges that provide professional development to five or more early childhood providers or programs. ***Deadline: 03 Dec 2026 (Letter of Inquiry).***

Urban Studies Foundation - Urban Urgencies Programme - This initiative supports collaborative research on urgent urban challenges, including climate change, inequality, housing, public health, and technology. Projects must engage non-academic partners and aim to develop inclusive, equitable, and sustainable responses to intersecting crises affecting cities globally across diverse contexts and scales. The USF welcomes proposals from researchers and organizations globally, and will support modest overheads for host institutions based in countries present on the most recent OECD list of ODA recipients.

Deadline: 23 March 2026.

U.S. Department of State - Fulbright Specialist Program - The Fulbright Specialist Program, part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at receiving institutions. The Fulbright Specialist Program aims to provide a short-term, on-demand resource to foreign institutions, giving them greater flexibility in how they participate with Fulbright. Specialists are strongly encouraged to continue to work with these institutions in the years following their initial exchange, creating opportunities for ongoing cooperation and consultancies.

Deadline: 06 Mar 2026; 08 May 2026.

RESEARCH/FUNDING SUPPORT

Finding Funding Opportunities

Kailey Hess, Limited Submissions and Internal Funding Coordinator, Research Development Office

Khess10@charlotte.edu

Proposal Development & Submission

Caroline Kennedy, Proposal Development Officer, Office of Research Services

cekenned@charlotte.edu

Post-award Support

Catherine Butt, Award Management Specialist, Office of Research Services cbutt@charlotte.edu

Jennifer Jones, Business Services Coordinator

Jennifer.Jones@charlotte.edu

To schedule an in-person meeting in Mebane Hall (150C) meeting with Caroline or Catherine, click on this [link](#) for the sign-up sheet.

IRB Questions

Cat Runden, Research & Economic Development

CatRunden@charlotte.edu

Have content related to graduate education, research, or grant writing that you would like to share with COED faculty and staff in a future issue? Please contact Scott Kissau: spkissau@charlotte.edu.