

THE GRADUATE RECORD

THE CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

NEW AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Stella Kim (Department of Educational Leadership) on receiving a \$50,000 award from Caveon, LLC in support of her project, Psychometric Properties of AI Assist-Generated Items Across Formats. The award period runs from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027.



STELLA KIM

This project will provide important psychometric evidence on which assessment item formats are most effective for creating randomly parallel tests. Using generalizability theory, the research team will evaluate items generated by AI Assist—an AI tool designed to develop and administer tests—and compare psychometric properties across multiple item formats measuring the same content domains.

CELEBRATING AN AWARD

Dr. John Nance (Department of Counseling) was named the recipient of the Devoted Service Award by the North Carolina Counseling Association (NCCA).



The Devoted Service Award is one of NCCA's premier honors, recognizing a member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and sustained service to both the Association and the counseling profession—far beyond typical volunteer involvement. This award celebrates individuals whose dedication, commitment, and impact have significantly advanced the field of counseling.

This recognition is a well-deserved tribute to Dr. Nance's years of steadfast service, leadership, and meaningful contributions to the profession. His work exemplifies the very spirit of devoted service.

EMERGING LEADER

Dr. Denise Hawkins (Department of Counseling) has been selected for the Emerging Leader program with the North Carolina School Counselors Association for the 2026-2027 board year.

This prestigious program is designed to identify and cultivate leadership potential among professional school counselors across North Carolina through mentorship, professional development, and active engagement in association initiatives. Only four participants were selected statewide this year, making this an exceptional honor.



DENISE HAWKINS

CELEBRATING STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Several doctoral students in the Ph.D. in Special Education program recently presented their work at the conference of the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NC CEC), including first-year scholars Nick Olouch and Fuya Shi (see pictures). Their presentations reflect the strength of our program and their commitment to advancing educational outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents. We are also thrilled to share that Nick was recently appointed as the Student Representative to the NC TED Board, further highlighting his leadership within this important professional community. The North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children is the state unit of the Council for Exceptional Children, an international organization dedicated to advocacy, professional development, and resources that support exceptional learners.



NICK OLOUCH



FUYA SHI

HONORING EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY

Dr. Michael Matthews (Department of Special Education and Child Development) was selected by the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented (NCAAGT) as the recipient of the 2026 NCAAGT James J. Gallagher Advocacy Award. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have served as powerful advocates for gifted and talented students across North Carolina. Dr. Matthews is being recognized for his sustained leadership in advancing gifted education through educator preparation, impactful research, and meaningful partnerships with districts and schools statewide. His service on state and national boards, legislative advocacy, and innovative charter school leadership have championed equitable access and high-quality programming for advanced learners, reflecting and extending the enduring legacy of Dr. James J. Gallagher. The award will be presented to Dr. Matthews at the NCAAGT Annual Conference.



MICHAEL MATTHEWS

NEW AWARD ANNOUNCED

Dr. Erin FitzPatrick (Department of Special Education and Child Development) has received a \$293,986 award from the Arizona Educational Foundation, with funding originating from the U.S. Department of Education, for the project *Pathways to Evidence-Based Literacy: Embedding SRSD in Schools with AI-powered Support*. This innovative initiative will expand access to high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction by embedding Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD)—a proven framework for strengthening students' writing and reading comprehension—directly into school settings, enhanced by AI-powered tools that provide real-time, responsive support for teachers and learners. By combining rigorous research with practical implementation, the project aims to improve instructional quality, increase student engagement, and create sustainable pathways for scaling effective literacy practices across schools. We are excited to launch this impactful work and grateful for the partnership and support that make it possible.



ERIN FITZPATRICK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

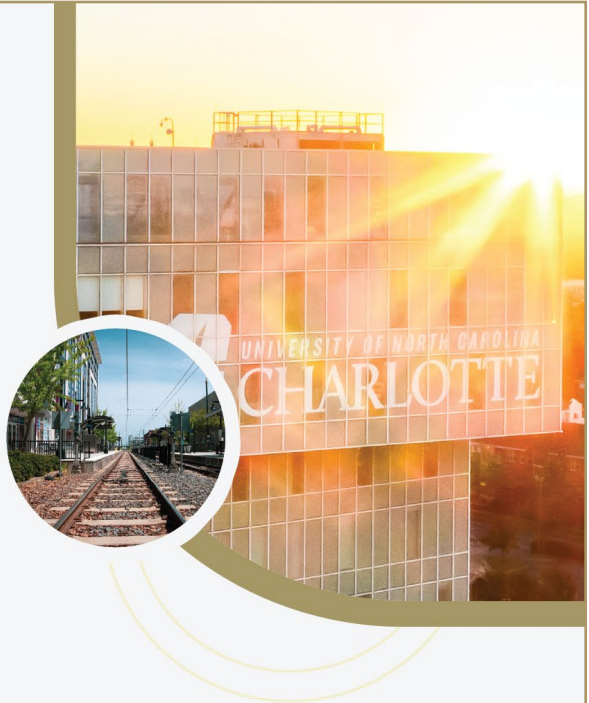
The following Cato College of Education faculty, staff and students and community partners shared their community engaged work at the Community Engagement Showcase on March 24 at the Dubois Center:

PRESENTER	PROJECT TITLE
Spencer Salas	Senior Class Writing Workshops: Supporting First Generation College Aspirants in Cabarrus County
Kate Gilbert Danyeal Morrison Premkumar Pugalenth Bailey Taylor	Educator Ecosystem: Elevating Community Voices and Alumni Mentorship in Intentional Pre-Service Teacher Clinical Placements
Erin Washburn Corinne Kingsberg Alicia Stewart Kitten Leigh Anne Bake	UNC Charlotte Reads: Scaling Enhanced Clinical Literacy Experiences Through Partnerships That Benefit Teacher Candidates, Schools, and K-5 Learners
Leslie Bross Kailey Galloway-Mays Kendalee Marcus	Power Card Strategy to Support Early Work Skills of Transition-Aged Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Tracy C. Rock Amy Good Karen Kopitsky	Innovative Learning Experiences: Putting Project-Based Learning into Action
Ann Jolly Jordan Boyd Regina McCurdy Coreen Okraski Elisabeth Wilson	Beyond the Placement: The UNC Charlotte Tiered Partnership Framework
Richard G Lambert	The Early Educator Support Program
Heather Taylor Niki Sashington Kawanna Jackson	Promoting Partnerships in the Community to Support Family Early Literacy Initiatives
Laura McCorkle Lindsey Moss Katherine Stimpson	Enhancing Partnerships to Support Early Intervention and Family-Centered Practices
Kristin Davin Scott Kissau Debra Diegmann	Teaching Our Rich Cultural Heritage: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Teacher Licensure Partnership Program
Kyle Cox Carl Westine	Formulating Synergies with the Center for Educational Measurement and Evaluation (CEME): Highlighting Services and Collaboration Opportunities
Miranda Fitzgerald	Bridging Literacies Through Community Outreach
John C. Nance	Girl Scouts/Hornets Nest Community Engagement & Mental Health Initiatives
Lan Kolano Samira ShiriDevich	Together We Bloom: A Longitudinal Analysis of One Community-Based Organization's Impact on Immigrant Children and Families
Kristen D. Beach Angela Preston	Measuring What Matters: Bridging the Gap Between Programming and Impact

Charlotte Urban Institute

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

Featuring: UNC Charlotte Cato College of Education



March 24, 2026

2:00pm - 4:30pm

The Dubois Center

320 E 9th St., Charlotte, NC 28202

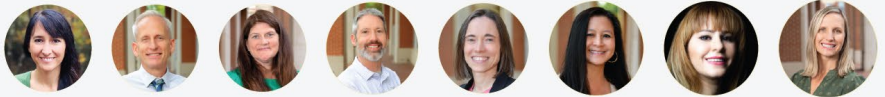
Presented by the Charlotte Urban Institute, featuring the Cato College of Education, the Community Engagement Showcase highlights education-centered community-engaged research, programs and projects strengthening partnerships across Charlotte.

This event will feature short project presentations, followed by a networking reception.

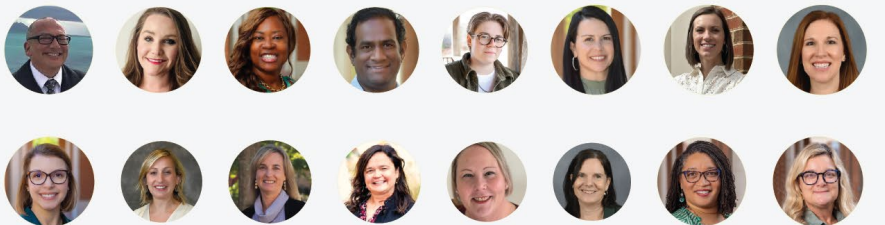
Early Childhood



Regional Impact Initiatives



School Partnerships



CHARLOTTE
URBAN INSTITUTE

CHARLOTTE
CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

NEXUS 2026: MAKING AN IMPACT

Nexus: Networking Across Disciplines fosters interdisciplinary research teams by providing structured opportunities for faculty to learn about one another's work and identify shared interests. Through summer workshops, Nexus supports early-stage project development as faculty refine research questions, explore analytical approaches, and identify potential funding sources.

With the theme **"Making an Impact,"** Nexus 2026 will advance interdisciplinary collaborations that amplify the real-world impact of research, creative work, and innovation. At a time when higher education's value is under scrutiny, this theme invites scholars to translate ideas and discoveries into meaningful societal benefits.

Potential areas of exploration include:

- **Ethical technology:** Deploying emerging technologies to maximize societal benefit while minimizing unintended consequences; reducing environmental impacts of large-scale infrastructures such as AI data centers; leveraging data science and analytics to improve quality of life while safeguarding privacy and fairness.
- **Human-centered design:** Ensuring equitable access to advances in health, education, and technology; shaping innovation and policy through design, humanities, and creative practice; fostering human and environmental flourishing through infrastructure and place.
- **Translating policy:** Bridging research and implementation to address social, economic, and environmental challenges; supporting scalability and sustainability through business models and partnerships; leveraging technology to bridge community-university and theory-practice divides.
- **Institutional impact:** Measuring and communicating research impact; identifying metrics and community-engaged approaches that capture real-world outcomes; clarifying the university's role in addressing societal challenges.

By convening faculty with diverse expertise, Nexus 2026 seeks to catalyze collaborative teams committed to advancing knowledge and generating transformative societal change.

Nexus 2026 workshops will be held on May 14-15 and August 12, 2026, with working groups expected to develop ideas over the summer. Details and application forms are available on the [Nexus website](#). Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

For more information, join us for a reception on Thursday, April 2, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Lambla Gallery of the Storrs Building ([RSVP here](#)). We will celebrate the successes of interdisciplinary working groups formed through past Nexus workshops and discuss target research areas for Nexus 2026. Questions may be directed to CHES Associate Dean for Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration Beth Whitaker (bwhitaker@charlotte.edu).

FACULTY INVITATION: SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR STUDENT RESEARCH

Faculty are warmly invited to attend the **7th Annual Cato College of Education Research Symposium** on **April 2 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Student Union 340 (Salons A-C)**.

This event showcases the outstanding graduate and undergraduate research taking place across the College and provides a valuable opportunity to celebrate our students' scholarly achievements. Students will present their work in 20-minute poster sessions, creating space for meaningful dialogue, mentorship, and collaboration.

Your presence makes a difference. By attending, you demonstrate your support for student scholarship, encourage emerging researchers, and help strengthen our vibrant academic community.



CATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

SUBMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION ARE NOW OPEN



SUBMISSIONS

APRIL 2
3:30-5 PM | Student Union 340 A-C

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL EDUCATION STUDENTS

REFRESHMENTS | AWARDS

Proposals due by Feb 6
Notification by Feb 13

Posters printed by Dean's Office at no charge - due Mar 13, ready by Mar 30

Email spkissau@charlotte.edu with questions

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).

FACULTY RESEARCH MENTORING PROGRAM

Thinking about applying for a large grant (\$100K+) this summer or fall (7/15/2026-1/14-2027)? Consider applying for the Cato College of Education Faculty Research Mentoring Program (FRMP). The FRMP supports faculty-to-faculty mentoring by pairing a senior faculty member with a track record of extramural funding, and an assistant or associate (with limited grant writing experience) faculty member who wants to be mentored and commits to submitting a competitive funding proposal at the end of the mentoring period. Both the mentor and mentee receive a \$2000 stipend upon submission of the proposal. The deadline to apply for this funding cycle is June 1, 2026. More details can be found [here](#)

NEED FUNDS TO COMPLETE A RESEARCH PROJECT?

The Cato College of Education “Just in Time” Funding program is designed to provide necessary financial support to faculty and staff to complete research projects that would otherwise go unfinished or be significantly hampered. Investigators can apply to receive a maximum of \$2,000 toward the purchase of supplies or core services not supported by departmental research overhead funds or other external or internal funding sources (e.g., start-up funds, research incentive funds). Documentation of IRB approval is necessary prior to obtaining funds for any research that includes Human Subjects. The next funding deadline is April 3, 2025. Applicants can expect to hear a funding decision within a couple of weeks of the deadline. As a reminder, any funds received must be spent during the fiscal year. More information about this funding opportunity and how to apply can be found [here](#).

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

VISIT THE 2ND ANNUAL GERMAN-AMERICAN DOCTORAL STUDENT VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

The Cato College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the University of Education Ludwigsburg are pleased to host the 2nd Annual German-American Doctoral Candidate Virtual Research Symposium from April 21-24.

We warmly invite faculty, staff, and students to visit the symposium website during these days to view doctoral research posters, ask questions, offer feedback, and leave comments for presenters. Your presence truly makes a difference. By engaging with our doctoral students' work, you help encourage emerging researchers, support student scholarship, and strengthen our vibrant academic community.

The symposium builds on the success of last year's inaugural event, which brought together 31 doctoral students from the U.S. and Germany to share research, refine ideas, and begin new international collaborations. This year's event continues that spirit of scholarly exchange while expanding opportunities for interaction and feedback.

Even a brief visit to explore posters or leave a comment is meaningful and greatly appreciated by our student presenters.



GERMAN-AMERICAN VIRTUAL DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

INFO SESSION AND PROPOSALS NOW OPEN



INFO SESSION



PROPOSALS

APRIL 21-24

ONLINE EXPERIENCE

WITH PARTICIPANT MEET & GREET APRIL 20

SHARE RESEARCH | BUILD PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE
RECEIVE FEEDBACK | MAKE INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Info Session Feb 10
Proposals Due Feb 27

Email spkissau@charlotte.edu,
bianca.roters@ph-ludwigsburg.de, or
anni.lenz@ph-ludwigsburg.de
with any questions

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Cato College of Education, in collaboration with the College of Health & Human Services, is offering the 3rd and final workshop this spring (4/7/2026; 3:30-5PM) in a 3-part series on grant proposal development. This 90-minute webinar (Keys to Writing Effective Proposals) will focus on the key steps for planning a fundable research project and writing a competitive proposal, best practices, and common mistakes to avoid. Faculty, staff, and doctoral students are welcome. Please click on this [link](#) to register. An email invitation containing the link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to everyone who expresses interest in attending the workshop. Please share this invitation with your doctoral students.

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.

Consider incorporating Mursion simulations into your classes before the semester concludes. Our current subscription provides access to both ready-to-use 50-minute whole-class simulation sessions and 30-minute individual student practice sessions, covering a wide range of skills relevant to teacher preparation, educational leadership, and counseling (see the Library of Sessions above). We still have several simulation hours remaining that must be used before June 1. To schedule a session, please complete the sign-up form [here](#). Maddison will coordinate the scheduling and send you the session 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

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.

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).

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) | German Academic Exchange Service - This opportunity supports early-career researchers in artificial intelligence, emphasizing its integration with neuroscience. Participants engage in virtual and in-person networking, foster collaborations with German institutions, and explore short-term research projects to advance AI-driven neuroscience innovations.

Deadline: 07 Apr 2026; 23 Sept 2026.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation - Youth Literacy Grants - Supports K-12 literacy development through program implementation, technology integration, and resource acquisition, fostering improved reading education and access to literature for children and young adults. The Youth Literacy maximum is \$5,000. Books, instructional materials, computers and technology, software and professional development are funded through this grant program.

Deadline: 02 Apr 2026

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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.

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 Endowment for the Humanities: Institutes for Higher Education Faculty and Institutes for K-12 Educators - NEH-funded institutes are professional development programs that convene higher education faculty from across the nation to deepen their understanding of significant topics in the humanities and enrich their capacity for effective scholarship and teaching.

Deadline: 25 June 2026.

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 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 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.***

Springer Nature - Nature Awards AI for Discovery - Nature Awards AI for Discovery, in partnership with the BCG X AI Science Institute, celebrates the pioneers pushing the boundaries of this new world. The award supports researchers harnessing AI and machine intelligence to solve pressing societal challenges. With dedicated resources, global recognition and bespoke training, this programme empowers outstanding scientific leaders to break new ground and translate their discoveries into real-world impact. ***Deadline: 27 May 2026.***

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).**

U.S. Department of State - FY 2026 English Language Fellow, Specialist, and Virtual Educator Program - The English Language (EL) Fellow, Specialist, and Virtual Educator award builds English language capacity in direct support of U.S. policy priorities and contributes to stable, educated, and economically empowered societies, which support U.S. trade, national security, and global leadership. Through this award, U.S. educator participants provide foreign educators, professionals, and students with the communication skills they need to participate in the global economy, while ensuring the United States continues to be recognized as an international leader in English teaching, education, educational training and technology, vocational education and upskilling. **Deadline: 24 April 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: 08 May 2026.**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund - The Student STEM Enrichment Program (SSEP) - The Student STEM Enrichment Program (SSEP) supports diverse programs with a common goal: to enable primary and secondary students to participate in creative, hands-on STEM activities for K-12 students and pursue inquiry-based exploration in BWF's home state of North Carolina. **Deadline: 10 Jun 2026.**

Spencer Foundation - Racial Equity Special Research Grants - The Racial Equity Research Grants program supports education research projects that will contribute to understanding and disrupting racial inequality in education and work to reimagine generative possibilities to advance educational equity, with budgets up to \$75,000 for projects ranging from one to five years. **Deadline: 04 May 2026 (Letter or Intent). 01 July 2026 (Full Proposal).**

U.S. Department of Labor - TRIO Talent Search Program - The Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor, is soliciting applications in support of the administration of the Talent Search Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The purpose of the Talent Search Program is to identify qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds with potential for education at the postsecondary level and encourage them to complete secondary school and undertake postsecondary education. Talent Search projects publicize the availability of, and facilitate the application for, student financial assistance for persons who seek to pursue postsecondary education, and encourage persons who have not completed programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete these programs. We encourage prospective applicants and interested parties to use the Grants.gov subscription option to register for future updates provided for this particular Announcement Notification and Instructions. **Deadline: 01 May 2026.**

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 shibbolethnywhereh login when prompted.

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

RESEARCH/FUNDING SUPPORT

Finding Funding Opportunities

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

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Proposal Development & Submission

Caroline Kennedy, Proposal Development Officer, Office of Research Services

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Post-award Support

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

Jennifer Jones, Business Services Coordinator

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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

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