Faculty Research Mentor Matchmaking

There are many ways that WCU’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) can assist you with research development and grant writing. Because our grant specialists are constantly working with faculty in all academic colleges, they can put that knowledge to work for you to match you with willing and able mentors in the research grant writing and project management processes. This is the concept behind “Mentor Matchmaking”.

What is “Mentor Matchmaking”?  
Mentor Matchmaking is a way for bright, motivated yet less experienced professors (i.e. Adjunct Professors, Assistant Professors, newly named Associate Professors) to gain knowledge and experience from experienced researchers (i.e. Associate Professors, Professors). In an effort to support Mentor Matchmaking, ORSP can assist interested faculty in the following ways:

1. Pairing less experienced investigators with experienced investigators with similar educational, research, and/or departmental backgrounds.
   - Faculty do not need to come from the same department, or even college, and it is actually encouraged that faculty begin to work collaboratively between appropriate departments and colleges (although not required, as some research is not suitable for this type of collaboration).
   - Experienced faculty may be able to assist less experienced faculty with the grant process by identifying potential research sponsors, developing a grant proposal, developing an efficient research design, reading a one to two page synopsis of the research project, and reviewing a finished proposal, with recommendations and suggestions for some or all of the aforementioned activities.

2. As a less experienced professor and/or researcher, developing a research program from the ground up can be a difficult challenge. Let the ORSP office help link you with experienced faculty that have had successes with, but not limited to: recruiting students, developing measurable and attainable program goals, and maintaining the sustainability of a research program.

3. The facilitation of dialogue between all faculty researchers is a primary goal of the ORSP. Ask us how we can assist in linking you to other faculty members and to helping create a cohesive partnership through developing collaborative efforts by: clarifying research ideas, finding and choosing grant sponsors, assisting with grant writing, and organizing meetings for proposal consultation.

To get started as either a faculty mentor or mentee, please email your ORSP Grant Specialists assigned to your college:

**College of Business & Public Affairs, College of Education, College of Visual and Performing Arts**  
Catherine Spaur - Cspaur@wcupa.edu

**College of Arts and Sciences, College of Health Sciences**  
Laura Vassallo – lvassallo@wcupa.edu

Thank you for fostering an always improving research culture at WCU!

**WCU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs**