Grant Watch

CCAC

Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research

October 2021

- OSPR Survey
- Policies and Regulations
- Spotlight: PRAISE-ET
- New Award: CDL
- OSPR Website
- Upcoming Event

Community College of Allegheny County

Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research

800 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

OSPR Wants to Hear from YOU!

OSPR is conducting an ongoing survey to determine if internal resources available to you from OSPR for proposal submission and award management meet your needs. This survey will help us evaluate and improve our services. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. Please complete the brief online survey to let us know about the services you received from our team. Thank you.

College Policies and Regulations for Sponsored Programs

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research contributes directly to the College's mission by providing comprehensive support to faculty and staff in administering externally sponsored instruction, research, and other sponsored projects. OSPR considers the policies, regulations, and requirements issued by the Federal, State, and College for every individual-project. Therefore, OSPR revised the College's policies related to grants to reflect updates in CCAC's organizational structure, along with several substantive changes to bring the policies in line with current federal guidelines and regulations. The following sections have been revised:

- VIII.01: Administration of Budget Monitoring
- VIII.02: Administration of Cost Transfers

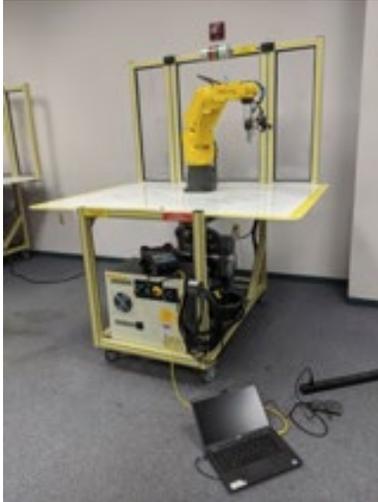If you manage a sponsored program, please review the above policies in CCAC's Policy Manual.

Spotlight: NSF Remote Access Equipment Grant

Dr. Justin Starr, Assistant Professor of Mechatronics wrote and was awarded a National Science Foundation Grant to Provide Remote Access to Industrial and Scientific Equipment for Engineering Technologies (PRAISE-ET). This three-year grant valued at nearly $600,000 will remedy one of the most significant barriers to effective remote CTE—authentic, hands-on instruction and learning with engineering technologies, funded by the Advanced Technological Education program.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in spring 2020, CCAC instructors scrambled to convert a full range of CTE course offerings to remote instruction – and, as any instructor will tell you, a computer simulation is no substitute for using actual equipment. When students attempt to simulate tasks with robots or programmable logic controllers, simulators show devices working perfectly every time. A simulator will never get out of alignment or have an intermittent connection. Students trained on these simulators struggle to develop effective troubleshooting practices. To remedy this, CCAC will collaborate with a Pittsburgh-based company – RealBotics, Inc. – to create a software platform with an interface and sensory setup that allows students to remotely access physical equipment and view the results of their control and programming in an immersive window from another location. Course curriculum leveraging this technology will be created and assessed throughout the grant.

Many equipment vendors provide options for controlling hardware over the Internet, but these tools are designed for advanced practitioners and can be dangerous to work with. Remotely controlling a robot or hydraulic system over the Internet can subject facilities and bystanders to risk. CCAC will mitigate this by developing remote control solutions that have critical safety components integrated at its core. These will account for stuck inputs, network lag, and malicious actors and have not been implemented by Industry to date.

CCAC also plans to focus on pedagogy. The tools and resources developed by this grant will enable students to collaborate with remote workers – a critical skill set for the distributed teams necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This also provides a route for the college to integrate advanced technology like Augmented Reality and Digital Twins into the curriculum. Accordingly, the project addresses areas beyond technical proficiency by requiring students to collaborate, communicate in writing, execute complex operations in teams, and display respect to one another through the integrated software platform.

Finally, this program will equalize access to equipment and resources across higher education. Utilizing remote instruction, partnering institutions can specialize in relevant CTE training, given their local labor market and context, while providing students access to world-class resources. As a result, colleges and universities need not make as many difficult choices regarding purchasing expensive technical equipment. Students located in rural locations can obtain the same world-class training as their counterparts in the vicinity of CTE labs. Similar expanded access will be provided to students with physical limitations, as alternative controls can also be implemented. According to Dr. Starr, "This grant proposal will make CCAC a leader in remote-access instruction and give graduates skills that will be highly relevant - with or without a pandemic."

If you are interested in writing a grant proposal, please email grants@ccac.edu to learn about grant opportunities.

New Award: Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Program

CCAC's Workforce Development was recently awarded a one-year grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. This Commercial Driver's License Training Program will enroll veterans, current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their family members, in CCAC's Commercial Driver's License program. The grant will award a total of 31 scholarships to eligible participants.

Please contact Anne Tanski, Workforce Development Program Manager at atanski@ccac.edu, for further information about this grant. Also, please visit the Commercial Driver's License website to learn more about the program.

Guiding You Through the OSPR Webpage

The Office of Sponsored Programs is happy to share with you our revamped webpage. The webpage provides details on what we do and what makes a grant fundable. Expandable boxes will help direct you to the necessary information throughout the webpage while providing direct links to OSPR documentation and forms.

For example:
- ☑ Below OSPR News, you will find valuable and useful information in our newsletters and a listing of new grant awards.

☑ Within Pre-Award Services, you will be exposed to step-by-step directions on preparing and submitting grant proposals. Take a minute to become familiar with this process to help guide you through preparing an award-winning proposal.

☑ Once you secure that grant, please review the Post-Award Services to help with managing a sponsored program.

Furthermore, if you are looking for funding opportunities to support new program ideas, we offer an array of links to funding announcements.

The OPSR team welcomes you to visit our <u>webpage</u> and share your feedback at <u>grants@ccac.edu.</u>

List of Sponsored Program Awards

CCAC

Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research
Awarded Sponsored Programs
Last update: August 20, 2021

The awarded sponsored program list includes new Funding projects. CCAC's reoccurring sponsored programs such as KEYS, Act 101, and Perkins are not listed. For additional information on our sponsored programs, please email grants@ccac.edu.

Funding Agency	Title	Total Award	Description
Campus Compact	After Hours & Weekends I.T. Help Desk	$44,000	Funding to provide CCAC with in-kind funding to contract with BlackBeltHelp™ to provide the technology platform and services for the After Hours & Weekends I.T. Help Desk Grant
Goodwill Industries	IGNITE - Young Adult Reentry Partnership	$199,600	Funding to provide education and training services to improve the employment outcomes for young adults between 18 and 24 currently and previously involved in the criminal justice system
Partner4Work	Registered Apprenticeship Training Early Child Education	$5,600	Funding to develop the Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship program and provided tuition and fees for students pursuing a career in the Early Childhood industry
Partner4Work	Registered Apprenticeship Training Early Child Education	$9,330	Funding to develop the Early Childhood Registered Apprenticeship program and provided tuition and fees for students pursuing a career in the Early Childhood industry
Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development	Contact Tracers	$399,900	Funding to develop and provide training to establish the protocol necessary to perform the job as a contact tracer in the community
Pennsylvania Department of Education	Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER)	$615,330	Funding to support the Virtual Desktop Integration (VDI) integration and shared software resources such as AutoCAD and other highly needed software industry products made available in a virtual environment
Pennsylvania Department of Education	It's On Us	$30,000	Funding to expand resources and services to our community members to optimize sexual assault awareness, prevention, reporting, and assessment

To view the full list of awards, please <u>click here</u>.

Upcoming Events

Excellence in Funded Programs
Joint Commission Meeting
with CCAC's Educational Foundation
December 9, 2021
9:00 am (Zoom Meeting)