



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Office of the President™

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 18, 2019

TO: Administration, Deans, Faculty

FROM: Lawrence Schovanec, President
Michael Galyean, Provost
Joseph Heppert, Vice President for Research

RE: TTU Prior Year Research Accomplishments and Goals for Future Research Activity

[Infographic: Research Expenditures & Federal Awards/NSE HERD Rankings](#)

Congratulations on an excellent year in research and creative and scholarly activity for Texas Tech University! We are proud of all the forms of scholarship and creative activity produced by TTU faculty, all of which enhance awareness of the quality of Texas Tech faculty, students, and staff. We will continue working with academic leaders to foster and publicize these successes, and to tell the broader story of how Texas Tech is contributing to our state, nation, and the world through its research mission—a mission that goes hand in hand with a continuing commitment to educating and empowering our students.

One aspect of this scholarly activity that remains essential for TTU to remain in the ranks of the Carnegie Very High Research Activity institutions and to move into top 50 of public research universities as published by the Center for Measuring University Performance is external, and especially, federal research expenditures. Research universities rely on external funds to provide support for their research mission, and federally sponsored project funding is by far the largest contributor of support to academic research across the nation. Additionally, it needs to be acknowledged that federal research funding has become a proxy measure for the quality of individual and programmatic university research. Moreover, the associated influx of external resources from federal funding inevitably provides us with greater flexibility to support scholarship and creativity across all disciplines. Texas Tech has just completed a record year in federal awards (\$45 million) and total research expenditures (\$188 million). In addition to increasing institutional support for "STEM" research, these enhanced resources have helped us support a variety of initiatives related to scholarly activity in the arts, humanities, and efforts in community engagement over the past two years. We believe that the quality of our research compares favorably with anything the world has to offer and that there is a passion among faculty and staff researchers to see TTU research recognized as some of the most innovative in the nation. As an institution, we are moving in the right direction, and we need to continue this momentum.

However, sustainably increasing federal awards requires that we submit both more proposals and more competitive proposals. As an institution, we are dedicating more resources to help with both

these efforts. The Office of Research and Innovation and various academic colleges have committed funding for faculty visits to federal agencies, which will ensure their research ideas align with the priorities of the agencies. Moreover, we have sponsored internal and external workshops to increase the competitiveness of TTU proposals. These efforts are contributing to improved results, and they will continue into the coming year. Nonetheless, achieving our goal of moving into the rankings of the top 50 public research universities over the next four years will require us to achieve \$40 million in federal STEM expenditures. This is not far from where we are today, and increasing our proposal submissions and targeting proposal submissions into areas of strength will help us achieve this goal.

Over the past five years, we produced about 650 proposals annually, and this metric has been relatively static. Our objective for this year is to increase proposal submissions by 20 percent across the institution. We do not expect that this increase will be uniform. We recognize that there are areas where increasing the level of grant submissions obviously needs to occur, whereas in other areas, submissions are already occurring at a high level. All the Deans will be working with departments and units to identify how to enhance applications for all types of sponsored projects, with an emphasis on federal proposal submissions. This goal can be a game-changer for TTU, not only helping the campus community achieve our professional aspirations, but raising the profile and competitiveness of Tech within the state and across the nation.

The quality and quantity of scholarly publication is another factor that directly contributes to our perception among peer research universities. Though external funding opportunities can vary greatly across disciplines, all our tenured and tenure-track faculty are active scholars. Academic scholarly work is fully realized and recognized when we publish in high-quality peer-reviewed journals, monographs, and other peer-reviewed outlets. Thus, another vital aspect of Texas Tech's advancement and recognition as a great public research university is growth in the number and the quality of scholarly publications, citations, and monographs per faculty member. We urge you to continue to emphasize publishing in discipline-appropriate, high-impact journals that will allow your colleagues around the world to experience the high-quality scholarship that is occurring at Texas Tech.

What practical steps can we all take to enhance the profile of Texas Tech University research in these, and other relevant areas over the coming year? We believe that extending efforts across the faculty to systematically increase our scholarly productivity will build momentum toward a lasting positive impact on TTU's scholarly reputation. For example, among faculty who have the capacity, authoring one more publication in a high-quality journal and submitting one more quality federal grant application would materially enhance TTU's national visibility and grow our research endeavor. Attending one additional impactful professional conference, submitting one additional creative piece to a juried exhibition, or targeting a publication for a more highly recognized journal venue would have a similar cumulative effect on our scholarly standing. Approaching the enhancement of our research, scholarly and creative activity using this "plus one" strategy will materially enhance our scholarly profile now, and lay a groundwork for more substantial improvement in the years to come.

Working together, we are confident that Texas Tech University will indeed achieve our goal of being counted among the top public research institutions. Thanks for your continuing commitment to our great university. We look forward to celebrating your success in the days ahead.

RESEARCH EXPENDITURES & FEDERAL AWARDS NSF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (HERD) RANKINGS

TOTAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES
RECORD



FEDERAL AWARDS
RECORD



FULL TIME GRAD STUDENTS



RANK 67
TOP 10%
OUT OF 693

DOCTORATES AWARDED



RANK 58
TOP 15%
OUT OF 431

FEDERAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES



RANK 178
TOP 20%
OUT OF 992

TOTAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES



RANK 113
TOP 15%
OUT OF 902