

August 2020

Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning

Hello UWF Faculty and Staff-

On behalf of UWF's Office of Research Administration and Engagement (**RAE**) it is my pleasure to welcome newly arrived faculty and staff, and welcome back all returning colleagues, to what is surely the most unusual Fall term in my 15 years at UWF.



We at RAE stand by ready to help you search for, identify, and submit proposals for funding opportunities and are prepared to help you navigate contractual relationships that support your research. RAE staff can also help you sort through the process of disclosing and protecting your **intellectual property**, and we are home to the UWF research compliance efforts via the Institutional Research Board (**IRB**) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (**IACUC**).

As you all enjoy this calm* before the storm of the semester's first week, I want to quickly introduce (or remind you) of some of the resources that RAE hosts to support your research goals:

- RAE subscribes to **GrantForward**, a metasearch engine that can match you up with federal, state, and private grant opportunities that align with your own self-identified profile.
- Have you identified a funding opportunity that you want to explore? Submit a **Proposal Request** on the **RAE Jira Service Desk**.
- Our Researcher Interests and Skills (RIS) database records each faculty's self-identified research keywords so that we can match you with opportunities, including requests for proposals (RFPs) and industry

partners.

Check and update your research keywords [here](#). Want to find a UWF colleague with a particular skill set? You can [search the database](#) yourself.

If you want to discuss how to best move forward with your research interests, please feel free to reach out to me at mschwartz@uwf.edu or research@uwf.edu. RAE staff has been working on new ways to better serve you, including a revised website and a new Principal Investigator (PI) Handbook.

2020 has been a year like no other in memory. Thank you for all you do to support the UWF Mission and our students.

Regards and best wishes,

Matthew Schwartz

Professor and AVP of Research Administration

* P.S. Best wishes to all of you who are compiling new courses for face-to-face or online instruction, as well as the many of you who are working hard to convert your practiced face-to-face course into a shiny, new, and engaging online offering. If you've not already done so, please make sure you avail yourself to the expertise of the wonderful staff from [Global Online](#), our in-house experts on all things related to online learning course technology, and the Center for University Teaching, Learning, and Assessment ([CUTLA](#)), a resource for all UWF teachers regardless of the course modality.

Students help defense, intelligence communities tackle challenges

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

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Innovative Solutions for Industry, a summer course that pairs University of West Florida students with organizations in the defense and intelligence communities, wrapped up its third year of operations in late July.

Over the summer, three teams of students participated in the course, which the University first offered in 2018. Each team worked with advisors, faculty members, and industry partners on a project. The teams' goal was to develop products or services that would meet their industry partners' needs.

The first team developed plans for a device to improve situational awareness for warfighters. The second worked to build a database of past and potential conflicts. The third designed water survival training material for crews of an aircraft model used by the military.

“It’s a combination of a capstone project and an internship,” **Dr. Dallas Snider**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Information Technology, said of Innovative Solutions for Industry. Snider serves as teaching lead for the program.

“So, (the program) gets students out of their comfort zone,” Snider said.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided new challenges to the students, as in-person meetings with advisors and industry partners had to be moved online, said Dr. Donovan Chau, director of research engagement with the Office of Research Administration and Engagement.

“Despite taking the class completely online, this summer’s ... teams demonstrated once again that students are the University’s true innovators because they are the ones who will be the experts of the future,” Chau said.

Innovative Solutions for Industry is part of **Hacking for Defense**, a nationwide network of similar programs that aim to deliver hands-on research and development experiences to students.

Hacking for Defense began at Stanford University. The University of West Florida was the first institution in the state to participate in Hacking for Defense. Since the University first offered Innovative Solutions for Industry in 2018, other Florida universities have joined the Hacking for Defense program.

Funding Opportunities

Watch this space! RAE is currently re-working how we share funding opportunities to our faculty and staff.

In the meantime, feel free to access **GrantForward**—UWF faculty and staff can sign up with their UWF account to create a free profile with this funding search tool! For a step-by-step guide, please refer to our **GrantForward Handout**.

Grant Forward Quick Tip



Subscribe to the [CASSH](#) and [CEPS](#) newsletters.



Received a Grant or Have Some Good News About a Research Project?

*We'd love to share your accomplishments!
Please feel free to [contact us](#).*

GrantForward: Sign up with your UWF account to search funding opportunities and receive personalized recommendations.



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