WELCOME

The OSPR Newsletter will published quarterly and highlight recent awards, student success stories, and articles written by OSPR staff on finding funding opportunities, proposal development, grant management, and compliance. It will also feature important sponsored program news with articles written by Program Coordinators/Principle Investigators.

Who AND What is OSPR?

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Sponsored Research (OSPR) supports the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) stakeholders (inclusive of faculty, staff, administrators, and students) in the following:

- Identifying sources of external funding opportunities, especially for public agencies (inclusive of local, state, and federal governments)
- Developing applications/proposals for submission to appropriate funding agencies
- Providing comprehensive oversight aimed at the effective and efficient management of funded projects in compliance with institutional and funding agencies’ policies and expectations
Student Success Story

After getting her GED in the fall of 2014, Cathy Floyd-Davis started her academic journey at CCAC in developmental courses in spring 2015. Cathy’s goal was to become a registered nurse. She was preliminarily accepted on her academic merit, QPA, 3.2, and passed the entry exam. The final admission decision was contingent on completing the requirements within an official packet given by Boyce Campus. She was enthusiastic and petrified at the same time. Cathy started the CCAC nursing program in January 2018.

Cathy first heard about the Perkins Career Technical Education student support team at the orientation. The requirements, which include reading and studying difficult material, quickly became overwhelming. The first exam came; she was devastated---she failed! The Nursing program is at a higher standard; less than 78% is a failure. Her nursing professor suggested she go to the Perkins office to see Ms. Billeck.

“Cathy stood in the doorway, with a much-shaken voice, and asked if I was Ms. Billeck. I invited her in, and she began expressing how she felt overwhelmed, thought nursing was not for her, and indicated she failed the exam. We discussed how to use a planner/calendar and the benefits. I began mentoring her through her remaining academic journey.”

The fall semester of 2018 started great for Cathy. She got involved in a study group, had two study buddies, was organized, managed her time, and was very positive. Cathy continued to meet with Ms. Billeck to build on her study skills. She graduated with a 3.2 GPA on schedule, December 2019.

On June 4, 2020, she traveled to Ohio to take the NCLEX-RN examination and passed. Currently, Cathy is working at Allegheny General Hospital.

“I will never forget the first time I met Ms. Billeck. I will always be appreciative that she made time for me,” said Cathy.

The Perkins student support team provides students with skills, encouragement, and resources to be successful in the community college setting. Perkins’ goal is in line with the College’s tag line of “Our Goal Is Your Success.”

To learn more about the Perkins Grant, please visit https://ccac.edu/grants/perkins.php

Upcoming Events

Excellence in Funded Programs Commission Meeting
May 13, 2021
9:00 am (Zoom Meeting)
**Spotlight on Sponsored Programs**

**Health Professions Opportunity**

Pathway to Success in Healthcare (PSH) (HPOG):
Reducing Intake ‘No Shows’ from 50% to 12%

**A Promising Best Practice**

Since the start of the program, the no-show rate for student intake appointments has been consistently high. The average no-show rate has held steady at 50% for the past few years. A lot of time is invested between the recruitment and application process before each student is scheduled for an intake session. Before intake, time is already invested in collecting eligibility information, data entry, and staff assignment to complete the intake. It is frustrating when the student makes it through this process and then no-shows the appointment. For years the program has desired to discover ways to reduce the no-show rate.

**The Strategy**

A survey was conducted among participants about a year ago to understand factors driving the high no-show rate. The survey targeted participants who had missed previously scheduled appointments. The top reasons revealed in the survey included a lack of transportation and childcare. In response to the survey results, we partnered with several community organizations and hosted several intake sessions at centrally located and easily accessible locations by public transportation. During these sessions, childcare was offered, and participants were offered free bus passes to get to the intake site if they pre-registered.
Health Professions Opportunity (con’t)

Due to the pandemic, all processes, including intake, had to transition to a virtual format. With all campuses closed under state-mandated orders, the only option left was intakes through the zoom platform. To our surprise, the no show rate dropped from 50-60% down to 12% when intake interviews resumed. While this was never an option that was considered before the pandemic, it will remain when the pandemic is over, and in-person intakes become available again.

HPOG participants enroll in various training and education programs that result in an employer or industry-recognized certificate or degree. The most common training programs include nurse aides, home health aides, licensed and vocational nurses, registered nurses, medical assistants, pharmacy technicians, and phlebotomists. HPOG is a study funded by the federal government which is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people improve their skills and find better jobs. All new eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to participate in these training opportunities during the study. Not all eligible applicants will be selected to participate in these opportunities.

To learn more about the HPOG Grant, please visit:

Meet the VISTA’s

Rachel Bowden, Food Insecurity Project
As a current MPH graduate student, Rachel helps build the food security of low-income, food insecure CCAC students and staff members by overseeing and assisting with the existing on-campus food pantries. Rachel implements initiatives that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of food pantry operations across CCAC through resource development, research, and collaboration with partners. She also introduces additional nutrition and wellness initiatives to the pantry while encouraging an inclusive environment free of stigma.

Emilie Yosten, America Reads Project
Emilie is working to move our America Reads tutoring project virtual for the 2021 spring semester. The challenges of Covid on students and teachers has led to an increase in the need for tutoring which we are excited to provide. With assistance from The Mentoring Partnership, she is developing a sustainability structure for the program that includes offices and individuals within the College and the Pittsburgh Public School District.
Meet the OSPR Team

Office of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research
Team Members
Office of College Services
800 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Natasha Walton, Executive Director of Sponsored Programs & Sponsored Research Administration
412-237-3050
nwalton@ccac.edu

Contact Ms. Walton for questions regarding securing external funding from federal, state, and local government agencies to advance the College’s strategic goals, academic programs, and innovative initiatives, oversight related to proposals and awards in accordance with all applicable laws, policies, and regulations. Ms. Walton serves as the designated authorized official for all sponsored program activities.

Richard Adams, Director of Sponsored Programs
412-237-3162
radams@ccac.edu

Contact Mr. Adams for questions regarding post-award grant management services, including interpretation of various funding guidelines, reviewing grant awards/agreements, and implementing new sponsored programs.

Norm Downey, Director of Perkins and Pre-Award Sponsored Programs
412-237-4670
ndowney@ccac.edu

Contact Norm for information about CCAC’s Career & Technical Education programs, how to request funds for equipment or professional development from the Perkins Grant, articulation agreements with secondary CTC and CTE program compliance issues.

Kathy Weir, Grants Compliance Officer
412-237-3013
kweir@ccac.edu

Contact Ms. Weir for post-award grants compliance requirements, including budget revisions, performance reports, time and effort, and program closeout requirements.

Janet Varvaro, Secretary
412-237-3183
jvarvaro@ccac.edu

Mrs. Varvaro supports the daily operations of the OSPR office.