

UPDATE: UNIVERSITY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Spring 2021



Tonya Smith-Jackson, PhD, CPE
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Board of Trustees University Affairs Committee
02/26/2021

History

- Chartered in 2018
- Education, Research and Service
- Interim Directors:
 - > February of 2019: McEwen, Smith-Jackson, Kelkar
 - > \$100,000 each for start-up (Title III)
- Permanent Directors for CEPDAM and CREO hired in August of 2020 (University Distinguished Professors)
- Second search for CEEI Director is underway (Endowed Professor)

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

THADDEUS MCEWEN – INTERIM DIRECTOR

Education Accomplishments

- Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Sandra Johnson, Global Mobile Finance, Inc.
- Conducted a five-week *Jumpstart Your Business Accelerator*
 - > Fall 2020, six student-owned companies, \$12,000 in donations from local entrepreneurs
- Hosted eight (8) Webinars as professional development for students.
- Conducted a seven-week *N.C. A&T Innovation I-Corps Program* (sponsored by NSF)

Outreach/Community Engagement

- Co-sponsored *Amazon Small Business Accelerator*, which served 21 students and members of the local community.
- Hosted four webinars to help strengthen local Black Businesses (\$30,000 grant from the NC IDEA Foundation)
- Collaborated with the Greensboro Business League, Greater Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Winston Salem Center of Access Success and Equity

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION THADDEUS MCEWEN – INTERIM DIRECTOR

Research Accomplishments

- Awarded seed grants of \$25,000 each to six faculty; resulted in two competitive proposals submitted to funding agencies.
- Grant Proposals
 - *4 interdisciplinary proposals – 4 submitted and 2 funded*
 - Submitted funding requests of approximately \$500,000.
- Grants Awarded
 - NSF EAGER I-Corps Grant (I-Corp Effectiveness for HBCUs; \$300,000)
 - NC IDEA Foundation Grant (Black Businesses, NC IDEA total \$30,000.)

Other

- Established 25-member Executive Advisory Board.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCT DESIGN AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

SALIL DESAI – DIRECTOR

Education and Outreach

- Supported local healthcare facilities and business with 3D printed PPEs (Moses Cone Hospital and Absonutrix, LLC)
- Worked with faculty and department chairs to design an Advanced Manufacturing certificate with COE, COST, JSNN
- First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics at Early College at Guilford

Established Partnerships

- Digital Manufacturing Institute (MxD), Chicago (Workforce Development)
- NC BioImpact (Biotechnology Education & WFD)
- Carolina Cyber Network (Cybermanufacturing Workforce Dev.)
- Greensboro Housing Authority (Outreach with Title 1 & 3 communities)
- Oak Ridge and Savannah River National Laboratories

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCT DESIGN AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SALIL DESAI – DIRECTOR

Research and Publication Accomplishments

- Grant Proposals: *11 interdisciplinary proposal submissions; 12 faculty affiliates, \$22M*
- 12 faculty affiliates, 5 different colleges with a total funding request of \$22 million.
- Awarded thus far:
 - NSF, \$498,951; \$59,999; \$400,000
 - Army Educational Outreach Program: \$20,977; Waste Management Inc. \$45,543

Other

- Centers of Excellence Research Symposium (Dec 11, 2020), 40 + attendees
- MoU with SecureAmerica Institute (Texas A&M) - Cybermanufacturing
- Workshop on Additive Manufacturing with UNC – Charlotte
- Participated in NSF I-Corps program with NYCRIN node
- CEPDAM faculty affiliates with DARPA; Oak Ridge and Savannah River National Labs
- Established External Advisory Board (EAB) for CEPDAM

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

HOSSEIN SARRAFZADEH –DIRECTOR

Research

- Submitted grant proposals: 11 submitted, 9 approved by CREO affiliates\ 4 submitted through CREO
- Total Awarded = \$3,400,000 (1 NSF, 1 DOE)
- Submitted AI Institute Large Grant Application (\$20M)
- Issued 5 Seed grants awarded to faculty affiliate members

Education

- Scholar-in-Residence: Steve Cook, NSA
- Selected as NSA OnRamp II University - Opportunities for students to work with the National Security Agency
- Working on CyberHealth Check program – Students and faculty evaluate Cybersecurity health of companies
- Developing Web sites for CREO, CPDAM, CEED with students
- Investigating Cybersecurity certificate course for WDCOBE (Testout)

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

HOSSEIN SARRAFZADEH –DIRECTOR

Outreach

- Co-sponsored - Intellectual Property (IP) Clinic: Intellectual Property 101 Presentation by Kim Gatling – September 30, 2020
- Coordinated event for Cybersecurity Month - Zoom Presentation - CYBERSECURITY TECH TALK - An Evening With the National Security Agency
- Established partnerships with e.g. Guilford County Schools and National Security Agency

