



# Grants Development

## • Department

# Annual Report

# 2023-2024



# Annual Report Overview

The **Grants Development Department** at St. Petersburg College (SPC) supports the College in securing and implementing grants from government and private sources to assist in achieving SPC's strategic objectives. The department manages a large portfolio of grant funded programs with an average of **\$25 million in grants and gifts annually**.



Working with SPC leadership, deans, provosts, faculty and program staff, along with funders and partners, the department supports the college's innovative strategies to address our **strategic pillars of success**:

- **Economic Mobility**
- **Excellence in Learning**
- **Community Advancement.**



## FUNDERS FY23

### Federal

- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Economic Development Administration

### State

- Florida Department of Commerce
- Florida Department of Education
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- Florida Education Fund
- University of Central Florida Research Foundation
- Veteran's Florida

### Local

- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Clearwater
- Juvenile Welfare Board

### Foundation

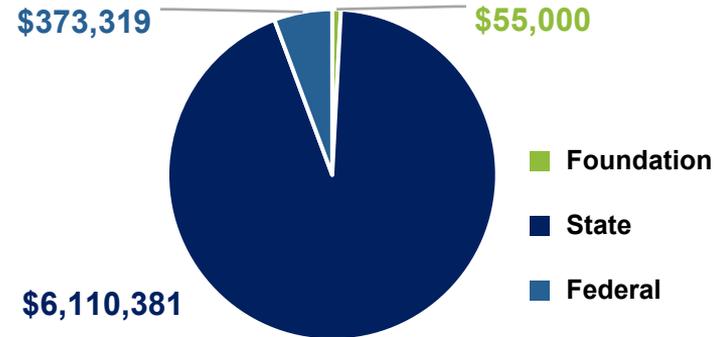
- Bank of America
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Helios Foundation
- National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs
- Nuts Bolts and Thingamajigs
- Sodexo Swipe Out Hunger Foundation
- VentureWell

## SPC Grant Portfolio Overview

Economic Development Administration STEM Talent Challenge Geospatial/AI	Florida Department of Education-College Reach –Out Program (CROP)
National Science Foundation-Blue Economy	Florida Department of Education-Entrepreneurship
Florida Department of Education-Perkins	Florida Department of Education-Open Door
Florida Department of Education-Equipment Upgrades	Florida Department of Education-PIPELINE Nursing
Florida Education Fund- Center of Excellence	Veteran’s Florida-Entrepreneurship
Florida Department of Commerce-Digital Connectivity	Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs
Swipe Out Hunger	Duke Energy

## New Grant Awards

- Win Rate: 58%
- # of New Awards: 14 as of 7/1
- # of New Grants Vetted: 57
- # of Grants Applied For: 33
- Total of New Funding: \$6,538,700



**Total: \$6,538,700**

# Grants Department Process Improvements



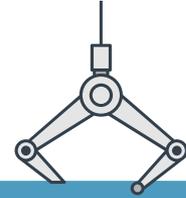
- ✓ Data security statement finalized
- ✓ 3 Grantseeker custom fields added for efficiencies
- ✓ New budget template finalized
- ✓ Pre-award and post-award risk mitigation checklists implemented with Grants Accounting
- ✓ E-Req system for contracts for enhanced tracking mechanism initiated
- ✓ Trello used for prospecting visualization
- ✓ New grant directory developed for grant managers
- ✓ Annual Zoom Grants 101 workshop for the Pinellas County Community
- ✓ Monthly Virtual Open Office Hour the last Wednesday of each month 2-3pm
- ✓ Standardized post-award meeting template used for grant compliance
- ✓ New Grant Onboarding Expectations Document developed to strengthen SPC policy awareness
- ✓ Team Boards and Lists used for Post-award grant management
- ✓ Three required mandatory trainings for Federal grant program managers

# Exploring Artificial Intelligence

The Grants Department has placed an emphasis this year on how to responsibly leverage AI in the grant application and management cycles. We have explored how to use AI to draft survey questions, expedite academic research and citation process, summarize funding opportunities, and find clarification to obscure questions on Federal Regulations.

Some of our **key outputs and activities** include:

- AI Retreat
- Acceptable AI Use Practices
- AI Use Statement
- AI in Grant Writing Publication



## AI in Grant Writing

In the Nature survey of 1,600 researchers, responses indicated that **25% of researchers** use AI to help them write manuscripts and that **more than 15%** use AI technology to help them write the actual grant proposals (Parrilla, 2023).

# Diversification of Portfolio

This year, we diversified our portfolio with 6 new funders:



- **Veteran's Florida** - supporting entrepreneurship programming
- **National Science Foundation**- Ocean Technology division
- **Economic Development Administration** - Geospatial/AI STEM Talent Challenge
- **National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs** - Everyday Entrepreneur
- **Swipe Out Hunger**
- **Florida Department of Commerce** - Digital Inclusion Project

# National Science Foundation



## Project Updates

- ✓ LSAMP B2B
- ✓ NSF FloridaMakes
- ✓ NSF SAILS
- ✓ Blue Economy Conference

## Submitted with Feedback

- ✓ LSAMP B2B- awarded
- ✓ ATE
- ✓ IUUSE



New guidance on Grants Department website

Click here



SPC FUTURE STUDENTS | CURRENT STUDENTS | FACULTY/STAFF | FRIENDS + PARTNERS

National Science Foundation Special Conditions -

**UPDATES FROM NSF 24-1**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) issued their latest PAPPG update (NSF 24-1) in March 2024, with an effective date of May 20, 2024. Here are the key changes:

- **Disclosure Requirements:** There's an emphasis on foreign funding transparency. Researchers are now required to report annually on any foreign financial support they receive, as mandated by the CHIPS and Science Act. The PAPPG also references a new certification regarding involvement in malign foreign talent recruitment programs. The SPC grants office will outreach to PIs and CoPIs each summer to determine foreign financial support and report findings to NSF.

# Interdisciplinary Emerging Technology Grant

One of only 11 organizations that were awarded the **U.S. Economic Development Administration's 2023 STEM Talent Challenge**, SPC developed an innovative talent development pathway with employer and community partnership for job placement of graduates in good paying emerging technology jobs.

This interdisciplinary program combining **entrepreneurship, AI, Geospatial technologies and Drone programming** has a goal to place 100 socially and economically disadvantaged individuals over the two-year period. Developed between the **College of Business** and the **Workforce Division**, this successful outcome reveals the value of teamwork and interdisciplinary program exploration.



# Grant Management Overview



The department managed **\$21,166,776** in 30 grants for **FY23-24**. A grant management specialist is assigned to each grant to provide guidance for the program staff and coordinate efforts among leadership, faculty, program coordinators, legal, marketing, and accounting staff for these grants. This coordinated effort ensures exemplary management of grant resources including data reporting.

Grant management focused heavily on **risk mitigation** in our grants management as funders began a heightened alert to fraud and program and fiscal compliance. A new quarterly meeting with Grants Accounting was initiated focused on pre and post award risk management; three new webinars through the Department of Education were made mandatory for grant managers; and new NSF compliance standards were implemented.

# Grants Personnel and Indirect Recovery

Several new program managers joined the team including Kelly Fried, Department of Education TRIO SSS, Tamica Green, Department of Education TRIO EOC, Johnathan Proctor, Economic Development Administration Geospatial/AI, and Melissa Kent, UCF Titan’s UP Program. New grants accountant Mary Ludovici also joined the team. Additionally, we welcomed Shanya Turner, Executive Director of Retention Services who provides leadership over all Student Affairs grant programs.

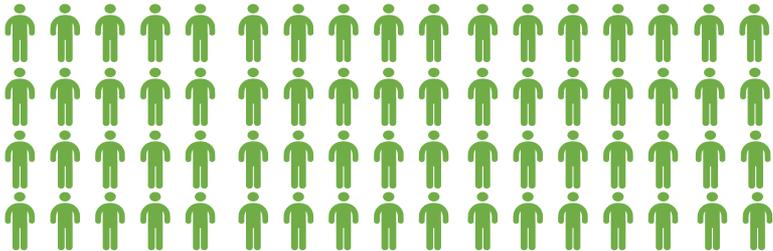


## New Grants Department Personnel:

In 2024, the grants department welcomed new grant writer Kevin Leary and new grant management specialist Kristina Renaud to the department.



### GRANT-FUNDED PERSONNEL



March 2024 Grant Indirect Cost Recovery = \$450,926 for all grants

# Titans Up in Action

Supported by the University of Central Florida's Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program (FPCTP), SPC's **Titans UP!** assists students like Zachary Owen, who is now completing his second semester and is working toward earning his Certificate of Completion in Digital Photography. Zachary was the featured artist along with his father at Coastal Christie's **Artfully Aligned** event. Zachary enjoys working with his photographer father and looks forward to following in his footsteps. Zachary shared that he is grateful for the opportunities the Titans UP program is providing to support his career choice.



The Titan's UP! Program is a one-year (four-semester) non-degree certificate program offering an integrated peer-to-peer classroom experience for students with an IQ of 70 or below. Students may choose from a variety of academic Pathways offered available at different campuses. This is a fully adaptive college experience with the goal of providing students with intellectual disabilities the skills and knowledge required to transition to independent adult roles and community-based employment.

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE'S

**Titans UP!**  
Unique Possibilities

# Engaging our Communities

The Highpoint Youth Empowerment Center is a new partnership developed through community outreach efforts from our **City of Clearwater Project GAIN** grant, which addresses COVID-related learning loss. Participants were invited to the Titan Transition fieldtrip in February but because of their programming schedule conflict, the team scheduled a special visit to the college this summer. During the fieldtrip, the participants from middle school to ages 22 learned about the different parts of the college through a scavenger hunt. For many, this was the first time to step foot on a college campus- what an exciting time for them!



**The Florida Department of Commerce** awarded SPC a **\$258,735 grant** for its PowerPlug: Empowering individuals through technology and community project which will provide both SPC's Titans Care programs, and the external community with 300 laptop computers and digital literacy education. The purpose of the project is to bridge the digital divide between those equipped with digital literacy and those left without to empower and enable work, education and health monitoring.





# Flourishing Entrepreneurs

Working with new funder **Veterans Florida**, SPC was able to offer two cohorts of **10-15 veteran students** the opportunity to learn how to start their own businesses. Partnering with the Greenhouse, participants attended 8-week in person programs and through learning modules, subject-matter experts, mentoring, coaching opportunities and pitch practice, made important professional connections for business growth for a lifetime. This program was made possible through a collaboration between the College of Business, Veterans Affairs and the Workforce division.

Additionally, funding from the **National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship** allowed SPC's participation in the Everyday Entrepreneur Program which includes curriculum enhancement, faculty development, student support and community engagement supporting SPC's entrepreneurial ecosystem.



**VETERANS  
FLORIDA**

**NACCE**  
THE IMPACT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

## SPC Grants Development maintains relationships with Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations as grant collaborators, partners, and supporters:



SPC Grants Development maintains relationships with employers in the Greater Tampa Bay Area as grant collaborators, partners, and supporters:

JABIL



Each December, the Grants Department shares its expertise with the Pinellas County community through a free online Grant Writing Workshop. All are welcome to learn about grant resources, the basic elements of pre-award planning, research and writing and post-award grant management, compliance and risk mitigation strategies.



**GRANT  
WRITING  
WORKSHOP**

This intro to grant writing will provide an overview of basic elements of a grant proposal.

Presented by SPC's Grants Development Department

**JOIN US**  
DEC 6TH FROM 12-1PM

**WORKSHOP DETAILS:**

- JOIN US VIRTUALLY ✓
- LEARN HOW TO FIND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ✓
- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) ✓

**100%  
FREE**

MULLIN.GRETCHEN@SPCCOLLEGE.EDU | WWW.SPCCOLLEGE.EDU

The flyer features a yellow background with a dark blue wave at the top. The SPC logo is on the left. The text is in white and yellow. A yellow starburst contains the text '100% FREE'. The footer is a dark blue bar with white text.

# Join us for Grants Open Office Hour!

- The Grant's Department will be holding a virtual, open office hour the last Wednesday of each month from 2-3pm.
- 2024 Dates: September 25, October 30, November 27
- 2025 Dates: January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28
- No registration is necessary, drop in by clicking the link below.
- Ideal place to ask general questions about grants, get guidance on grant ideas or just to get to know SPC's grants' team.
- Join us: [Join the Open Office Hour now](#)





## Grants Development Staff

- **Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki:** Grants Executive Director
- **Kevin Leary:** Grant Writer
- **Jess Sager:** Grants Associate
- **Kristina Renaud:** Grants Management Specialist
- **Renee Skelton:** Grant Support Specialist



THANK  
YOU  
THANK  
YOU



## GET IN TOUCH

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