

## 2026-2027 Clusters of Excellence Grants

Faculty	Department	Title of Proposal	Amount Awarded
Kraczkowski, Michelle; Savatorova, Viktoria	Biology; Mathematical Sciences	ERA-M2: Ecological Resilience Assessments through Mathematical Modeling	\$40,000.00
Williams, Chad; Kurkovsky, Stan; Wang, Hayou; Hou, Xiaobing; Gendron, Michael	Computer Science; Manufacturing & Construction Management; Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology; MIS	Central Cyber-Workforce Accelerator: Interdisciplinary Studio for Industry 4.0 Cybersecurity Education	\$40,000.00
		<b>Total Awarded =</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>

## 2026-2027 Curriculum Development Grants

Faculty	Department	Title of Proposal	Amount Awarded
Bloomer, Peggy	Art and Design	Writing in Design: Research, Editing, Production, and Open Access	\$1,200.00
Brewer, Nicole	English	Designing Basic Writing for Retention and Success: An Inclusive, AI-Responsive Revision of Central's Foundational Writing Courses	\$1,200.00
Catasus, Natalie	English	Introduction to Caribbean Literature	\$1,450.00
Chae, Myungjin (Andy)	Manufacturing and Construction Management	AI in Construction Management	\$2,000.00
Choi, Jiyong (Jay); Lee, Namhun	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Advancing Curriculum Innovation Through Project-Based, Experiential Learning IN Construction Management Education	\$2,400.00
Djangone, Armel	MIS	Redesigning Business Analytics and BI Course	\$1,878.00
Goh, Tan Leng; Gagnon, Amy; Martin, Matthew	Physical Education and Human Performance	Physical Education Curriculum Alignment with CPAST	\$3,600.00
Green, Ashley	Sociology	Sociology of Bodies and Embodiment	\$1,200.00
Greenwell, Amanda	Education	Multimodal Resources to Support Foundational Concepts in Secondary ELA Teaching across the English Secondary Education Program Curriculum	\$1,200.00
Heinen	Educational Leadership & Instructional Technology	Case Studies in Educational Law and Ethics	\$1,200.00
Hu, Nan	Art and Design	Transforming DES 499: Computer Application for Graphic/Information Design into AI-enhanced Motion Graphics Course at CCSU	\$1,656.00
Jayasinghe, Dharshani Lakmali	English	Development of the New Course "ENG 501: Law and Literature in Anglophone and World Literature"	\$1,200.00

Larsen, Kristine; Pozorski, Aimee; Foster, Patrick	Earth and Space Sciences	Honors Foundations: Thriving in the CCSU Honors Program	\$3,600.00
Leong, Chee-Hoi;	Physical Education and Human Performance	Developing a high precision sprint kinematic acquisition system for EXS 216 (Biomechanics) experiential lab activity.	\$900.00
Marjani, Sadie	Biology	Genome Editing – The Cutting-edge Science and Exploration of Applications	\$1,200.00
McMahon, Lisa	Physical Education and Human Performance	Health in Action: Connecting Campus and Community (2 credits – FYE) - New Course Proposal	\$2,200.00
Meng, Yunliang	Geography, Anthropology, and Tourism	Upgrading GIS Lab Tutorials to the Latest Version of ArcGIS Pro (3.6)	\$1,700.00
Nazari-Sharabian, Mohammad	Engineering	Streamlining and Strengthening Civil Engineering Environmental & Water Resources Curriculum	\$1,200.00
Ning, Weihong	MIS	Revisions to MIS531 Strategic IT Alignment	\$1,200.00
Pope-Portelinha, Cynthia	Geography, Anthropology, and Tourism	Geography of the Caribbean: Developing an Online Course for Timely Graduation	\$1,200.00
Sardar, Ferdous	Economics	Curriculum Development for ECON 398: Topics in Economics - Machine Learning Applications	\$1,545.00
Stewart, Stephanie	Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice	DNAP 516 Anatomy: Course Development	\$1,200.00
Zidani-Eroglu, Leyla; Ciscel, Matthew	English/Applied Linguistics	Meeting the Needs of ELLs in the Classroom	\$2,200.00
		<b>Total Awarded =</b>	<b>\$38,329.00</b>
<b>2026-2027 Faculty Development Grants</b>			
<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Title of Proposal</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Andersen, Drake	Music	Perspectives on Earle Brown at 100	\$3,000.00
Blake, Lori	LEECE	NAEYC 2026 Annual Conference	\$2,180.00
Catusus, Natalie	English	Conference Participation at 2027 Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)	\$1,939.00
Chae, Andy	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Drone-based Infrastructure Inspection and Digital Data Acquisition	\$2,919.00
Fernando, Chandima	Computer Science	Forging Students for Tomorrow's AI and Robotic Revolution	\$2,811.00

Givens, Eugena	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Training and Professional Certification in Crime Analysis	\$1,985.00
Hammad, Khaled	Engineering	Attend & Present Research at the ASME's International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition (IMECE 2026)	\$3,500.00
Hartwig, Heidi	English	Presenting at the Borders and Crossings Conference, France	\$2,734.00
Kurkovsky, Stan	Computer Science	Advancing Software Engineering Education Through Engagement with ICSE 2027	\$3,500.00
Lee, Wonil	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Renewal of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Construction Outreach Trainer Certification	\$795.00
Pozorski, Aimee	English	Leading a Trauma-Informed Pedagogy Seminar at the MLA in LA, 2027	\$1,973.00
Vijayakanthan, Ramyapandian	Computer Science	Advancing Faculty Expertise in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence through Industry-Recognized Certification and Research Engagement	\$2,987.00
<b>Total Awarded =</b>			<b>\$30,323.00</b>

### 2026-2027 CSU-AAUP Faculty Research Grants

Faculty	Department	Title of Proposal	Amount Awarded
Abbas, Syed	Biology	Development of automated open source methods for behavioral analysis in crayfish	\$3,750.00
Albayram, Yusuf	Computer Science	Exploring User Privacy Strategies to Inform Personalized Privacy Training	\$3,750.00
Alicea-Velazquez, Nilda	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Phosphotyrosine recognition by SHP-1's tandem SH2 domains	\$3,750.00
Allen, Trevor	Political Science	The Far Right and the Left Behind: The Demographic Deepening and Surprising Durability of Western Europe's Righthwing Populists	\$5,000.00
Andersen, Drake	Music	"Perspectives on Earle Brown at 100"	\$5,000.00
<b>Archer, Susan; Benz, Christine; Ghodsi, Reza</b>	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Application of Data Mining and Advanced Data Analytics Methods to Aviation Accident Characteristics Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an Investigative Partner	\$8,624.00
Barrington, Candace	English	Listening to and Learning from Scholars (of Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales) outside the Anglophone Inner Circle	\$5,000.00
Bloomer, Peggy	Art and Design	Daguerreotypes Reimagined: Artists' Books, Early Photography, and AR/XR in the Shifting Epistemology of Medical Images	\$5,000.00
Boafo, Christopher	Management and Organization	Internationalizing Informal African Firms: Cross-border Learning and Knowledge Acquisition Nexus	\$5,000.00

Bragg, Caleb	Psychological Science	Custom XR Meditation Calibration Comparison on Skill Acquisition and Transfer of Training	\$4,100.00
Bray, Alicia	Biology	Evaluation of Insect Community Utilizing the Invasive Tree of Heaven in Connecticut	\$5,000.00
Cao, Junnan	Engineering	Performance-Based Evaluation of Recycled Concrete and Masonry for Sustainable Soil Stabilization	\$5,000.00
Catusus, Natalie	English	Subjects Adrift: Cuban and Haitian Sea Migration in Literature and Art (book manuscript)	\$2,500.00
<b>Chae, Myunglin;</b> Choi, Jiyong	Manufacturing and Construction Management	AI-Enabled Microtransit in Rural Areas of CT	\$9,840.00
Chakraborty, Sourav	Chemistry and Biochemistry	synthesis, characterization, and application as a dispersive SPE sorbent for serotonin and dopamine separation	\$5,000.00
Chase, Daniel	Biomolecular Sciences	Investigating the mechanism of dopamine signaling through the D2-like DOP-2 receptor in <i>C. elegans</i> .	\$5,000.00
<b>Chen, Jason;</b> Fan, Shihui	Accounting	The relationship between AI-assisted patent production and firms' labor investment efficiency	\$7,500.00
Choi, Jiyong (Jay)	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Standards and Quality Frameworks for Model-Based Digital Project Delivery	\$9,958.00
Clay, Elizabeth	Geography, Anthropology, and Tourism	Beyond Sugar: Spice Plantations and Slavery in the French Colonial World	\$5,000.00
Cohen, Diana	Political Science	Hostile Hobbies: Identifying Pathways to Gender Inclusivity in Sport Card Collecting	\$5,000.00
<b>Corbera Lopez, Silvia;</b> Sklenarik, Skyler	Psychological Science	Social vs. Non-Social Reward Processing in Young Adults	\$9,570.00
Crundwell, Guy	Chemistry and Biochemistry	The synthesis of various Lanthanide tetraarylporphyrin complexes	\$4,861.00
Dehigaspitiya, Dilani	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Design and Synthesis of Peptoid Metal Chelators	\$5,000.00
Dharavath, Haji Naik	Computer Electronics and Graphics Technology (CEGT)	Effect of Substrate Properties on Color Characterization for Inkjet Photographic Printing in a Color Managed Digital Printing Workflow (CMDPW)	\$3,750.00
Dobbs-McAuliffe, Betsy	Biomolecular Sciences	Assessing neurotoxic effects of nanoplastics in planarian flatworms	\$2,568.00
Dowling, Robert	English	David Foster Wallace: A Biography	\$5,000.00
Efremoff, Ted	Art and Design	CHIAROSCURO	\$5,000.00
Fallahi, Carolyn	Psychological Science	Stress, Cannabis Use, and Sleep as Linked Pathways to Health Disparities in Sexual Minority Emerging Adults	\$3,750.00

Fernando, Warnakulasuriya Chandima	Computer Science	AI Driven Robotic Inspection of Thermal Imaging for Detecting Heat Leakage in Buildings	\$3,728.00
Garbovskiy, Yuriy	Physics and Engineering Physics	Enhancing the Energy Efficiency of Liquid Crystal Devices Beyond Displays	\$5,000.00
<b>Gendron, Michael;</b> Abubakar, Mohammed	MIS	Critical Thinking Isn't Shared: Modeling Faculty-Student Misalignment in the Age of AI	\$10,000.00
<b>Goh, Tan Leng;</b> Leong, Chee Hoi	Physical Education and Human Performance	The Effects of the "Fit and Healthy" Program on Student's Physical Activity, Fitness Levels, and Dietary Habits	\$10,000.00
Gotchev, Ivan	Mathematical Sciences	Cardinal inequalities for topological spaces related to de Groot's and Bella's inequalities	\$3,750.00
Hammad, Khaled	Engineering	Coherent Structures in Turbulent Flows Over Rectangular Cavities	\$3,750.00
Hapeman, Paul	Biology	Validating eDNA as a Method to Detect Everglades Mink ( <i>Neogale vison evergladensis</i> )	\$5,000.00
Hartwig, Heidi	English	Conversion in David Jones' Long Poems	\$5,000.00
<b>Hassan, Md Rafiul;</b> Rahman, Mohammad	Computer Science	Bridging the Trust Gap in AI Diagnostics: A Comparative Evaluation of Explainable AI (XAI) Frameworks for Prostate Cancer Detection	\$6,350.00
Heinen, Ethan	Educational Leadership and Instructional Technology	The Impact of Leadership Training for Special Educators	\$1,875.00
Hoopengardner, Barry	Biomolecular Sciences	Moth flies: a proxy model system for RNA editing and its relation to leishmaniasis	\$4,900.00
Hossain, Khondoker	Marketing	When Bigger Isn't Always Better: How Image Vividness Shapes Size-Based Persuasion Under Crowding	\$2,775.00
<b>Hossain, Khondoker;</b> Wang, Yiru	Marketing	When Humanizing Backfires: How Social Crowding Reverses the Appeal of Partner and Servant Anthropomorphic Brands	\$3,375.00
Hu, Nan	Art and Design	Developing AI Ethics Principles for Visual Design Education	\$5,000.00
<b>Hughes, Heidi;</b> Bragg, Caleb	Management and Organization	The Influence of Mindsets on Proactive Career Behavior and Career Readiness	\$5,413.00
Jayasinghe, Dharshani Lakmali	English	Fiction as histories in the Contemporary South Asian Novel	\$5,000.00
Johnson, Steven	Engineering	Structure and Mechanical Property Determination of Spark Plasma Sintered Al and Al Alloy Powders	\$5,000.00
Kapper, Martin	Biomolecular Sciences	Assessing HSP 70 Function During High-Salinity Adaptation in an Estuarine Mollusc by PCR and Real-Time PCR	\$3,698.00
Koomson. John	Mathematical Sciences	Smooth L0 Variable Selection for Zero-Inflated Count Models	\$5,000.00

Koulidobrova, Elena 'Helen'	English	Documentation of Ecuadorian Sign Language: Narratives and elicited production	\$5,000.00
Kraczkowski, Michelle	Biology	A Genetic Analysis on Connecticut's Five-Lined Skink ( <i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i> ) Populations	\$5,000.00
Kurkovsky, Stan	Computer Science	How Students Learn to Reason about Software Requirements with AI Tools	\$5,000.00
<b>Lee, Namhun</b> ; Choi, Jiyong	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Developing an Implementation Framework For AI-Driven Materials Procurement in Construction Organizations	\$7,125.00
<b>Lee, Wonil</b> ; Chae, Myungjin	Manufacturing and Construction Management	Advancing GIS-Based Spatial Interpolation Methods for Localized Heat Stress Prediction Among Outdoor Construction Workers	\$10,000.00
<b>Lim, Hyoun-Sook</b> ; Lee, Christopher	Management and Organization	Exploring Factors Influencing Nurse Retention	\$8,000.00
Martin Santo, Noemi	World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures	From Travel Writing to Imperial Wunderkammer. Wonder and Collecting in the Spanish Pacific.	\$3,144.00
Maurer, Sarah	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Development of a Biosensor for Carcinogenic "Forever Chemicals" using a Liposome-Based Microfluidic Assay	\$5,000.00
Mitrano, John	Sociology	Route 66 at 100: A Sociological Study of Tourism, Business, and Cultural Identity	\$3,554.00
Mortensen, Dena	Literacy, Elementary and Early Childhood Education	Spaced and Interleaved Retrieval Practice: Building Undergraduates' Content Knowledge for Teaching Elementary Reading	\$2,542.00
Naoumov, Viatcheslav	Engineering	Additives for the Enhancing of Combustion Performances of Bio-Derived Fuel for Hybrid Propellant Rocket Engines	\$3,750.00
Nazari-Sharabian, Mohammad	Engineering	Future Precipitation Extremes and Variability in Connecticut: A CMIP6-Based Assessment	\$4,850.00
Nedela, Mary	Counselor Education and Family Therapy	Queer Discourse Analysis	\$3,886.00
Nigro, Lisa	Biology	A Microbiome Investigation of <i>Cassiopea xamachana</i> , the upside-down jellyfish	\$3,750.00
Pana, Elisabeta	Finance	A Bibliometric Analysis of Investment Adviser Misconduct	\$3,600.00
<b>Papallo, Christen</b> ; Takemae, Natsuko	Special Education and Interventions	International research: A global perspective on teacher preparation for thriving education	\$5,000.00
Perdomo, Oscar	Mathematics	Laplacian Spectra of Minimal Hyperspheres	\$5,000.00
Pope, Cynthia	Geography, Anthropology, and Tourism	Endurance and Transformation: A Geographical Biography of Mercedes Gonzalez Cruz in Belize, Central America	\$5,000.00
Potter, Christopher	Biology	Investigation of the role of Transposable Elements in Activation of an Immune Response in an Alopecia Areata Mouse Model	\$5,000.00

<b>Puleo, Simone;</b> Gilmore, Susan	World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures	Mina Loy's "Politics", chapter for <i>Mina Loy in Context</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2027	\$5,445.00
Sardar, Ferdous	Economics	Gender Earnings Gap: The Role of Task Assignment	\$4,933.00
Savatorova, Viktoria	Mathematical Sciences	Mathematical Modeling of Fish Migration in Dam-Regulated Rivers	\$5,000.00
<b>Schenck, Samantha;</b> Soper, Carolyne	Economics	Assessing Quantitative Reasoning in Introductory Economics Courses, Applying the AAC&U VALUE Rubric	\$7,730.00
Seifert Gonzales, Allison	Physical Education and Human Performance	Preparing to Perform: Sport Science in Competitive Collegiate Dance	\$3,886.00
Sharma, Nimmi	Physics and Engineering Physics	Using Laser Light Scattering to Illuminate Atmospheric Properties	\$5,000.00
Singhal, Rahul	Physics and Engineering Physics	Synthesis and characterization of biochar/CuMnO <sub>2</sub> composite for supercapacitor applications	\$3,750.00
Vaziri Sereshk, Mohammad Reza	Engineering	Novel Inhomogeneous Topologies for Lattice Structures in Protection Applications	\$5,000.00
Wang, Yiru	Marketing	A Series of Research Papers with Dewey Dataset	\$3,600.00
Warshauer, Matthew	History	Creating and Failing the 9/11 Generation: The Real Story of September 11 – A Documentary Film	\$5,000.00
Westcott, Barry	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Structural and magnetic studies of metal complexes with a novel mixed heterocyclic ligand	\$3,750.00
Zalewski, Leanne	Art and Design	William T. Walters in Paris: How the Civil War (1861-1865) Changed the US Art Market	\$983.00
Zlatareva, Neli	Computer Science	A Modular Architecture for Semantic Web and Knowledge Graph Applications	\$3,375.00
		<b>Total Awarded =</b>	<b>\$394,538.00</b>