

Office of Sponsored Programs – Finance Report

Office of Sponsored Programs (For detailed information, please visit: <https://www.shepherd.edu/osp>)

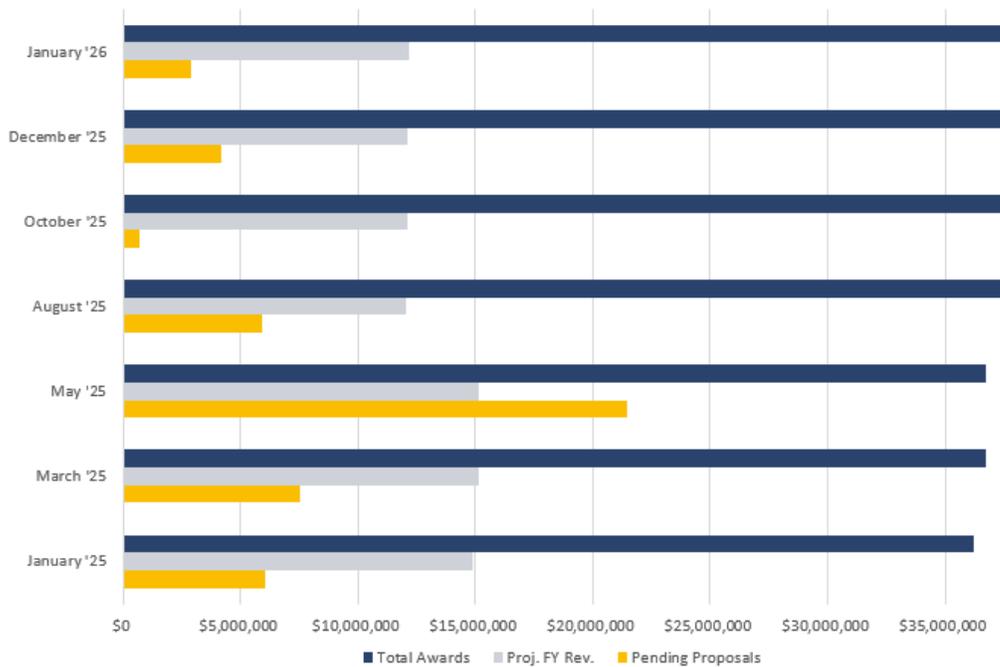
Pending Grant Proposals to Date: February 4, 2026

- Submitted and awaiting decision on award.
 - Total FY2026 current pending proposals: \$2,903,271
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FY2026 Active Grant Awards to Date: February 4, 2026

- Projected FY2026 revenue from active and closed grants: \$12,192,042
 - Total current value of all FY2026 grants (active, awarded and/or closed): \$37,860,388
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Grants Snapshot



ACTIVE GRANTS: Awarded and/or Implemented During this Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year: 2026, Month End: January

Total FY2026 projected revenue: \$12,192,042; Sum value of all current awards: \$37,860,388

NIH - National Institutes of Health, West Virginia IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE): \$20,882 for 1 year: February 3, 2026 - July 31, 2026: FY26: \$17,225
WV INBRE Student Research at Shepherd University

Funds support the biomedical research of a Shepherd student under faculty mentorship, providing critical academic research opportunities at the undergraduate level. This award is available on an annual basis from the West Virginia INBRE network, and funding passes through West Virginia University. Project Director: Dr. Qing Wang, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics.

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency, State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP): \$120,000 for ~2 years: February 4, 2026 - November 30, 2027: FY26: \$54,135

Enhancing Cybersecurity Infrastructure Through Encrypted Storage

Funding will enhance Shepherd's cybersecurity resilience and data protection through the implementation of a modern network storage infrastructure with robust encryption-at-rest capabilities. The funding will replace legacy hardware and address critical vulnerabilities in existing infrastructure. Project Director: Joanie Raisovich, Interim CIO/CISO. Co-Project Director: Jason Kerr, Network Administrator.

HEPC STaR - Higher Education Policy Commission Science, Technology and Research, Instrumentation Program: \$20,000 for ~1 year: November 30, 2025 - May 29, 2026: FY26: \$20,000

X-Ray Fluorescence Analyzer

Funding supports the purchase of an X-ray fluorescence analyzer to support students interested in chemistry and forensics and other disciplines offered by Shepherd, like ecology and environmental science, physics, geographic information systems, and geology. This is a novel instrument for the chemistry program, which has no other X-ray instrumentation. Principal Investigator: Dr. Jacqueline Cole, Professor of Chemistry.

HEPC STaR - Higher Education Policy Commission Science, Technology and Research, Innovation Program: \$12,975 for 1 year: November 30, 2025 - November 20, 2026: FY26: \$8,555

GPS Equipment for Teaching, Mapping, and Surveying

Funding supports the purchase of a teaching set of Global Positioning System (GPS) units with peripherals for academic and research purposes. Environmental Science and Biology (ENVS-B) faculty recognize that the broad practical uses of GPS units to accurately map our world, including ground truthing structure from motion (SfM) activities, marking the locations of both natural (i.e., trees and rocks) and man-made features (i.e., driveways and utility systems). Students need to be prepared to use these systems when they enter the workforce; for example, when working with a municipality to survey their stormwater system. Principal Investigator: Dr. Sytil Murphy, Associate Professor of Physics and Chair, Department of Natural and Physical Sciences. Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Jeffrey Groff, Professor of Physics; and Dr. Zach Musselman, Associate Professor of Geology.

HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Open Education Resources (OER): \$25,000 for ~1 year: October 20, 2025 - May 29, 2026: FY26: \$25,000
Open Educational Resource Challenge: Business Administration

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Funding will support a team of six Shepherd faculty (including the department chair), an instructional designer, a Learning Management System (LMS) administrator, students in Business Administration (BADM) 310, and a student employee, aiming to facilitate the broader adoption of OER at WV institutions by reducing barriers to creating, discovering, adopting, and redistributing OER. Project Director: Dr. Robert Szarka, Assistant Professor of Business.

NIH - National Institutes of Health, West Virginia IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE): \$19,604 for 1 year: August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025: FY26: \$1,670

WV INBRE Student Research at Shepherd University

Funds support the biomedical research of a Shepherd student under faculty mentorship, providing critical academic research opportunities at the undergraduate level. Project Director: Dr. Qing Wang, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics.

NIH - National Institutes of Health, West Virginia IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE): \$22,082 for 1 year: August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025: FY26: \$7,522

WV-INBRE Summer Research Internship for High School Science Educators at Shepherd University

Funds support Dr. Qing Wang's mentorship of a local high school teacher on a biomedical research project funded by the WV-INBRE Summer Research Internship for High School Science Educators. Project Director: Dr. Qing Wang, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics.

WVHC - West Virginia Humanities Council Major Grants (MG): \$10,050 for ~1 year: March 1, 2025 - March 1, 2026: FY26: \$10,050

Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence (AHWIR)

Funding supports the AHWIR at Shepherd. This year-long, statewide project, March 2025 to January 2026, of humanities programs, events, and scholarly projects utilizes the prestige, talent, and body of work of a significant Appalachian writer to better understand Appalachian culture, language, history, customs, and traditions. Clapsaddle's work extends beyond her fiction and includes essays on the importance and perseverance of local foodways ("Everything is Nuts") and contemporary Cherokee belonging in North Carolina ("Smoky Mountain Roots," "Where's the Reservation?"). Her varied output will serve as the basis for programming at Shepherd throughout the 2025/26 academic year. Funding for this award was reduced due to National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) reductions. NEH has funded all state Humanities Councils through which such funding has been awarded. Project Director: Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, Director for the Center of Appalachian Studies.

WVDHHR - West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Title IV-E Child Welfare Curriculum Development and Implementation Project: \$207,157 for 1 year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026: FY26: \$207,157

Shepherd University Social Work Program 2023-24 Title IV-E Training Grant

Funding supports a collaborative effort with the public universities in West Virginia that have accredited social work programs to provide child welfare training and support training in foster care and adoption services for the DHHR Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) across 15 counties, with the goal of improving the Child Welfare workforce in West Virginia. Project Director: Dr. Craig Cline, Assistant Professor of Social Work.

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WVDE - West Virginia Department of Education: \$6,500 for ~2 years: September 3, 2024 - March 31, 2026: FY26: \$3,125

WV Academic Showdown

This funding supports seven area high school teams for the 2025 West Virginia Academic Showdown. Project Director: Jack Shaw, Associate Vice President for Campus Services.

SFF - Sherman Fairchild Foundation, Arts and Technology Grant (ATG): \$500,000 for 4 years: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2028: FY2026: \$154,660

Shepherd University Interdisciplinary Media Hub

This funding will support the development of existing campus programs—including music, theater, communications, design, journalism, and sports communications—to help Shepherd students strengthen their demonstrable skills within their academic concentration and engage in interdisciplinary and multimedia projects for their tangible work portfolios, resulting in improved post-graduate career acquisition. Project Director: Dr. Kurtis Adams, Dean for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Co-Project Director: David Modler, Chair, Department of Contemporary Art and Theater.

CWBF - Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Education Grants: \$172,756 for 2 years: September 20, 2025 - September 29, 2027: FY26: \$86,378

Shepherd University's Rising Leaders Program

Funding will support a program that builds on the existing, successful LEADS (Leadership. Education. Action. Development. Service.) program for incoming freshmen, held in the week prior to their first Fall semester, as well as the 25-year-established Washington Gateway program. The Rising Leaders program will occur during the summers of 2026-2027 with a target audience of rising high school seniors. The program's goals are to increase undergraduate readiness for collegiate-level curriculum, financial decisions, and environmental/cultural shifts. Project Director: Julia Franks, Chief of Staff, Student Affairs.

CWBF - Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation: \$150,000 for 2 years: May 1, 2024 - September 30, 2026: FY26: \$59,902

Stubblefield Institute's Community Leadership & Civil Advocacy Certificate

Funding supports a 50-hour certificate program through the Stubblefield Institute for any college student looking to develop leadership and advocacy skills and competencies for effective civic engagement, especially collaborative problem-solving, navigating conflict, and building bridges across differences at work or in their community. Students will be offered the opportunity through partnerships with schools throughout West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. This program brings intention, reflection, personal development, and community-building to the leadership journey. Participants will deepen their understanding of their local community resources, strengthen their confidence to engage in constructive dialogue across differences, and gain knowledge and skills from leaders within the Institute, universities and colleges, community organizations, and the participant's local community. Project Director: Ashley Horst, Executive Director for the Stubblefield Institute.

NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Extension and Public Outreach Program (EPOC): \$5,000 for 1 year: June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026: FY26: \$5,000

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Seeding Your Future Initiative

Funding supports the Seeding Your Future Initiative (SYFI). The SYFI is composed of three outreach components: the Seeding Your Future Conference (SYFC), the Seeding Your Future Workshop Series (SYFWS), and the Seeding Your Future Grab-A-Lab (SYFGAL). The goal of the SYF is to offer regularly scheduled interactive opportunities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) that would be outside the normal classroom experience and to connect the participants with the STEM faculty and undergraduate students at Shepherd. The SYFGAL is a new outreach endeavor to help STEM further connect with the local elementary, middle, and high school science departments and students by creating individual labs in a box that the local teachers can check out for a period of time, take back to their classroom, run the lab as written or even experiment on their own, and return the box to Shepherd for refilling supplies for the next teacher. This grant would fund all outreach needs for SYFI for the 2025-2026 year. Project Director: Dr. Sytil Murphy, Associate Professor of Physics and Chair, Department of Natural and Physical Sciences. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Jacquelyn Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry; Dr. Lindsey Levitan, Associate Professor of Psychology; and Dr. Sara Reynolds, Assistant Professor of Biology.

NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Affiliate Awards: \$17,000 for 1 year: June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026: FY26: \$17,000

Shepherd University's Space Grant Fellowships and Research Enhancement Awards

Funds support 10 students working with Faculty Mentors across the various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines. This work would be conducted in various laboratories such as Plant Biology, Neurosciences, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Cybersecurity, Environmental Sciences, Ecology, Sustainable Agriculture, Aquaponics, Mathematics, Data Science, Immunology, Mycology, and Herpetology. Project Director: Dr. Courtney Campany, Assistant Professor of Biology. Co-Project Director: Dr. Robert Warburton, Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing.

HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, GlobalWV Strategic Internationalization Grants (GSIG): \$7,000 for 1 year: May 30, 2025 - June 30, 2026: FY26: \$6,452

Shepherd University's WV Global Study Abroad Project

Funding bolsters three activities that support expanding student participation in study abroad and deepening nascent international partnerships while supporting our global studies program that integrates international experience into its curriculum: student scholarships, deepening connections to international partners through a site visit, and maintaining robust partnerships via support for partner students to come to Shepherd. Project Director: Dr. Samuel Greene, Director of Study Abroad.

HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Nursing Program Expansion (NPE): \$306,000 for 1 year: January 30, 2025 - January 29, 2026: FY26: \$152,563

The Future of Nursing. The Future of You: Be a NURSE iii

This funding will build on the first and second phases of Shepherd's "The Future of Nursing. The Future of You." Program, aiming to retain and motivate both nursing faculty and nursing students. This project encourages clinical competency with an emphasis on simulation technology. Project Director: Dr. Laureen Donovan, Assistant Professor of Nursing.

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**HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, First2 Network (F2): \$25,000 for 1 year:
September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025: FY26: \$4,641**

Expansion of the First2 Network at Shepherd University

First2 Network funding for the academic year 2024-2025 builds upon the initial First2 award to further integrate Shepherd into the First2 Network to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation of students pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) majors that are first-generation college students, from families of limited financial means, and/or who are from traditionally underrepresented populations in STEM. Project Director: Dr. Sytil Murphy, Assistant Professor of Physics and Chair, Department of Natural and Physical Sciences. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Jacquelyn Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry; and Dr. Robert Monahan, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

**HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Deferred Maintenance Grant (DMG):
\$10,000,000 for 2 years: July 1, 2023 - November 5, 2025: FY26: \$1,370,429**

HVAC and Building Controls Systems and Electrical Upgrades

Funding supports the professional design, construction, equipment, and miscellaneous costs associated with HVAC and building controls systems and electrical upgrades for Shepherd's Dining Hall, Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center, Byrd Science and Technology Center, Student Center, Snyder Hall, and CCA I and II. Project Director: Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

**HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Deferred Maintenance Grant (DMG):
\$4,050,000 for 2 years: July 1, 2023 - November 5, 2025: FY26: \$4,050,000**

Roof, Gutter, and Masonry Replacements

Funding supports the professional design, construction, equipment, and miscellaneous costs associated with roof replacement, gutter replacement, and masonry updates for Shepherd's McMurrin Hall, White Hall, Facilities, Reynolds Hall, Human Resources Building, CCA, and Popodicon. Project Director: Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

**HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Community and Technical College System
(CTCS): \$25,000 for ~2 years: January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026: FY26: \$25,000**

2025 West Virginia Student Leadership Conference

Funding is designated for the 2025 West Virginia Student Leadership Conference expenses. The West Virginia Student Leadership Conference is an event that is attended by student leaders representing Student Government Associations at West Virginia's colleges and universities, and their Student Government Association (SGA) Advisors. Project Director: Jack Shaw, Associate Vice President for Campus Services. Co-Project Directors: Holly Morgan Frye, Vice President for Student Affairs, Director of Community Relations; and Rachael Meads, Director of Student Activities and Leadership.

**HEPC - Higher Education Policy Commission, Open Educational Resources (OER): \$12,730 for
~2 years: March 22, 2024 - December 31, 2025: FY26: \$12,730**

Student-Centered Innovation: Using OER to Increase Value for Students, Phase 8 and 9

Funds supported the creation and use of OER materials that were either in the public domain or released under a license that allowed them to be used, changed, or shared with others. Project

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Director: Dr. Jason Best, Associate Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness, and Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$36,250 for 3 years: September 21, 2025 - September 21, 2028: FY26: \$12,072

Community-Based Composting at SUAIC

Funds support the purchase of composting equipment and supplies for the Shepherd University Agricultural Innovation Center (SUAIC). The impetus for this project is three-fold: 1. Providing a practical demonstration of sustainability, social responsibility, and entrepreneurship for Shepherd University students at SUAIC, 2. Having an estimated \$2,000 in annual operational cost savings spent on disposal of waste and purchase of compost for Shepherd and SUAIC activities; 3. Generating operating revenue to SUAIC for ongoing operations and projects through the sale of compost produced by equipment purchased from the grant. Project Director: Matthew Ware, Farm Coordinator.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$36,250 for 3 years: September 21, 2025 - September 21, 2028: FY26: \$12,072

PodQuest: Expanding Horizons in Academic Study Spaces

Funds allow the purchase of study pods for the Scarborough Library. These pods will provide 256 additional students each year with access to quiet, private, and technologically equipped environments, which are vital for ensuring equitable academic opportunities. Project Director: Theresa Smith, Library Director.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$26,750 for 3 years: September 18, 2024 - September 17, 2027: FY26: \$8,925

Accommodate Accessibility Software

Funding will provide critical accessibility software to support students, staff, and faculty. Project Director: Jessica Anders, Director of Accessibility Services.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$26,750 for 3 years: September 18, 2024 - September 17, 2027: FY26: \$8,925

Forensic Science Lab Classroom

Funding will support the upgrades necessary for the use of a laboratory space in which to teach Forensic Science. This space will allow for a new certificate and curriculum in Forensic Science to be developed and made available. Project Director: Dr. Jacquelyn Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$26,750 for 3 years: September 18, 2024 - September 17, 2027: FY26: \$8,925

Florence Shaw Demonstration Cottage "Little House" Remediation

Funding will pay for the safe remediation of the historical and beloved "Little House" on Princess Street. Updates will allow the Little House to be fully utilized in experiential learning opportunities and community events alike. Project Director: Holly Morgan Frye, Vice President for Student Affairs, Director of Community Relations.

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WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$35,500 for 3 years: September 18, 2023 - September 17, 2026: FY26: \$17,750

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) Certificate Program

This funding will help to establish a CAST Certificate Program at Shepherd University. CAST, developed by the Zero Abuse Project, is an evidence-based, interdisciplinary, nine-credit-hour certificate program. The purpose of CAST is to enhance child welfare workforce readiness by developing students' understanding of factors that contribute to child maltreatment and the systems that respond to these situations. Through CAST, students learn about the importance of interprofessional responses to child abuse and neglect and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate on behalf of children as victims and survivors of child maltreatment. Project Director: Dr. Craig Cline, Assistant Professor of Social Work.

WISH - Women Investing in Shepherd: \$35,500 for 3 years: September 18, 2023 - September 17, 2026: FY26: \$1,052

Environmental and Physical Science Lab Updates

Funding will be used to update lab equipment and lab spaces used by the Department of Environmental and Physical Sciences. These updates will improve the experience of students within classes and the Environmental Science program, providing students with access to technological advancements, while also portraying Shepherd in a favorable light during community outreach events, such as Seeding Your Future. Project Director: Dr. Sytil Murphy, Associate Professor of Physics and Chair, Department of Natural and Physical Sciences.

LOC WU - Library of Congress, Waynesburg University's Teaching with Primary Sources (WU TPS): \$21,240 for ~1 year: January 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025: FY26: \$8,297

Almost Heaven: A Collection of Primary Sources to Teach WV History

Funding supports the development of a virtual West Virginia History Hub and conference component to attract and empower WV teachers to utilize the broad primary source catalog provided by the on-campus Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and the Library of Congress. The Hub and conference would culminate in a body of knowledge from which WV teachers can source educational plans within the framework of WV history that meet Shepherd University faculty criteria for dissemination. Project Director: Dr. Jason Allen, Assistant Professor of Education. Co-Project Director: Dr. Ben Bankhurst, Director of Appalachian Studies.

HRSA - Health Resources and Services Administration, Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANew): \$2,599,992 for 4 years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027: FY26: \$704,322

WV REACH: Redesigning APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) Education with innovative Academic-clinical partnerships in rural/underserved Communities for primary care, substance use disorder care, and mental health services

Funding provides up to 26 scholarships and stipends per year for Doctor of Nursing Practice students, as well as faculty stipends, and professional development activities to enhance the educational offerings and support the regional clinical training partnerships established in the prior round of funding. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase the number of nurse practitioner providers in rural West Virginia and to provide them with advanced training in the areas of substance abuse treatment and prevention, mental health, and maternal care. Project Director: Dr. Kelly Watson-Huffer, Associate Professor of Nursing.

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NSF - National Science Foundation, Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC): \$637,210 for 2 years: August 15, 2023 - January 31, 2026: FY26: \$277,347

CC* Networking Infrastructure: Shepherd University Science

This project will deploy a new cyberinfrastructure dedicated to data-driven research, connect it to Research and Education (R&E) networks, make the new services available to campus researchers, and shape the evolution of the campus network core. A significant part of this effort will be dedicated to the existing Science Drivers, evaluating their research activities, and helping them utilize the new resources by migrating their cyberinfrastructures to the Science Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which is a high-powered computer subnetwork. Principal Investigator: Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO. Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation, and Education; and Dr. George Ray, Assistant Professor of Business.

NSF - National Science Foundation and the West Virginia Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Program

Track-1: \$945,458 for 5 years: June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2028: FY26: \$304,362

RII Track-1: West Virginia Network for Functional Neuroscience and Transcriptomics (WV-NFNT)

Funding allows for the continued investigation into the neural development of the *Drosophila* (fruit fly species) brain. This grant creates opportunities for undergraduate students to learn genetic and imaging skills, conduct neuroscience research, and work in collaboration with West Virginia University and Marshall University. There will also be an increase in partnerships with local industries for students' career development, internships, and job opportunities while enhancing our regional alliances with businesses, industry, and government agencies. This project creates a neuroscience educational platform for K-12 students to use and a "Brain Camp" for high school juniors interested in learning about neuroscience. Principal Investigators: Dr. Conor Sipe, Assistant Professor of Biology. Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Qing Wang, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics; Dr. Robert Warburton, Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing; and Dr. Jason Best, Associate Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness, and Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

NSF - National Science Foundation, Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM): \$1,499,993 for 6 years: October 15, 2021 - September 30, 2027:

FY26: \$415,620

Enhancing Academic Achievement and Career Preparation for Scholars in Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering

This program addresses the challenges facing low-income, academically talented students with demonstrated financial need seeking degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Funds provide scholarships and establish a coherent ecosystem of effective evidence-based practices. Additionally, the project assesses the effects of those practices and other factors on student success to generate knowledge about how institutions can create and strengthen learning environments for their scholars. Principal Investigator: Dr. Qing Wang, Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics. Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Osman Guizide, Associate Professor of Engineering; Dr. Robert Monahan, Associate Professor of Mathematics; and Dr. Weidong Liao, Professor of Computer Science and Information Sciences. Evaluator: Dr. Amy DeWitt,

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Professor of Sociology and Assistant Dean, Student Academic Enrichment.

NSF - National Science Foundation, WV Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE): \$161,475 for 3 years: December 15, 2023 - December 14, 2026: FY26: \$57,280

Shepherd Opportunity to Attract Research Students (SOARS) V

Funding supports stipends for 10 students to participate in summer research projects with skilled STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) faculty mentors at Shepherd University. This is the fifth SURE SOARS proposal for the program at Shepherd, building on remarkable previous success. Project Director: Dr. Robert Warburton, Professor of Biochemistry and Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing. Co-Project Director: Dr. Sara Reynolds, Assistant Professor of Biology.

USDA - United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG): \$17,000 for ~2 years: August 1, 2024 - January 31, 2026: FY26: \$1,931

An Examination of the Use of Agritourism by Farms in West Virginia

Funding supports a study that examines the adoption of agritourism by farms in West Virginia. This study will be conducted in two steps. During the first step, by conducting the literature review, in-depth interviews with farm operators, and content analysis of farm websites, the main categories of agritourism activities will be identified. In the second phase of the study, using primary survey data collected from farms in West Virginia, the team will examine the agritourism farm activities and financial and managerial resources that are positively related to performance. Findings from this study will provide implications to promote agritourism in small areas in the early stage of development. Project Director: Dr. Zahra Pourabedin, Assistant Professor of Business. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Jim Dovel, Assistant Professor of Business; and Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation and Education.

USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program: \$96,891 for 3 years: October 1, 2022 - December 7, 2025: FY26: \$24,223

Pathways to Postsecondary Education for Rural Students I: Dual Enrollment Distance Learning

The goal for Phase I of this project is to create distance learning options for rural high school students through dual enrollment courses in Jefferson and Berkeley counties. Project Director: Will Bell, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management. Operational Lead: Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation, and Education. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Jeffrey Groff, Professor of Physics; Barbara Kandalis, Coordinator for Dual Enrollment; and Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO.

USDE - U.S. Department of Education, TRIO Upward Bound Program: \$1,488,005 for 5 years: September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2027: FY26: \$362,478

TRIO Upward Bound Program (II)

Awarded funds support a high school-to-Shepherd conduit for students in the region through a summer residential program on campus and weekend programs throughout the academic year. Nationally, Upward Bound programs demonstrate success in creating a path to college attendance for first-generation college students. Typically, more than half of Upward Bound participants enroll at their host campus after graduating from high school. This program extends the purview of TRIO

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staff from just retention efforts to outreach and recruitment of future Shepherd students. Project Director: Dr. Evora Baker, Director, TRIO Programs.

USDE - U.S. Department of Education, TRIO Student Support Services Program: \$1,361,820 for 5 years: September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2030: FY26: \$226,099

TRIO Student Support Services (III)

Funding supports staff salaries and programmatic offerings for Shepherd students who meet the needs criteria. The program offers mentoring, academic counseling, and tutoring services for participating students to support their good academic standing while increasing retention and graduation rates. Project Director: Dr. Evora Baker, Director, TRIO Programs.

USDE - U.S. Department of Education, TRIO Student Support Services Program: \$1,058,028 for 5 years: September 1, 2020 - August 31, 2025: FY2026: \$58,635

TRIO Student Support Services (III)

Funding supports staff salaries and programmatic offerings for Shepherd students who meet the needs criteria. The program offers mentoring, academic counseling, and tutoring services for participating students to support their good academic standing while increasing retention and graduation rates. Project Director: Dr. Evora Baker, Director, TRIO Programs.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$2,235,000 for 3 years: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027: FY26: \$1,066,972

Academic Classrooms and Auditorium Improvements

This project will renovate and revitalize more than 40 labs, classrooms, and learning environments on the Shepherd University campus to improve the safety, cost-effectiveness, and educational impact of these spaces and provide an enhanced student experience through technological improvements. Project Director: Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation, and Education. Co-Project Director: Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$250,000 for 3 years: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027: FY26: \$166,598

WV Emerging Project

WV Emerging is a novel way to generate forward-thinking, multigenerational policy recommendations. The Bill and Bonnie Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications is setting out to develop a research-based methodology for facilitating discussions that bridge political divides to offer solutions to the most pressing issues of our time. Once developed, the Institute aims to use this framework to tackle one targeted issue each year, bringing together the many voices engaged in solving the issue. Among these voices will be experts, legislators, lobbyists, nonprofits, and the best and brightest of our Shepherd students and students from around the state. These groups will take part in a yearlong challenge to, through a series of facilitated discussions, propose a solution that will address the urgency of the problem and create a pathway to overcoming that problem for the future of our state. Project Director: Ashley Horst, Executive Director for the Stubblefield Institute.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, Small Business Association (SBA): \$1,422,200 for 3 years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026: FY26: \$474,464

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Total FY2026 projected revenue: \$12,192,042; Sum value of all current awards: \$37,860,388

Agricultural Small Business Incubator at the Shepherd University Agricultural Innovation Center

This project develops new agricultural production systems to demonstrate and train novice farmers in innovative small-scale agriculture and provide the infrastructure necessary to establish an agricultural business incubator at Tabler Farm with access to arable land and focused training in agricultural entrepreneurship. Project Director: Dr. Brooke Comer, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation, and Education; Dr. Peter Vila, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies; and Dr. Jeffrey Groff, Professor of Physics.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): \$609,000 for 3 years: September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2026: FY26: \$206,148
Chemistry Department Revitalization of Labs and Classrooms

This project will revitalize the Chemistry Department's labs and classrooms to meet current scientific methods and pedagogy. Project Director: Dr. Jacquelyn Cole, Associate Professor of Chemistry. Co-Project Director: Dr. Robert Warburton, Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$20,000 for 1 year: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024: FY26: \$1,602

Special Education Curriculum Development

Funding will be used to develop the curriculum and courses necessary to offer a special education endorsement for Elementary and Secondary Education majors. Project Director: Dr. Belinda Mitchell, Director for the School of Education.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$657,000 for 3 years: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026: FY26: \$219,000

Professional Development Series: "The Write Way Forward: WV Students Succeed"

Funding will establish a professional development series for high school teachers to improve high school students' writing skills and college and career readiness. Project Director: Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, Professor of English.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Economic Development Initiative (EDI): \$936,000 for 7 years: May 1, 2023 - August 31, 2030: FY26: \$150,075

East Loop: Gateway Entrance

Funding provides for the installation of improved road access and egress for vehicles and pedestrians. The new infrastructure paves the way for the construction of revenue-generating facilities that will complement the overall student experience at Shepherd. Project Director: Sonya Sholley, Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Presidential Operations. Co-Project Director: Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Economic Development Initiative (EDI): \$1,475,000 for 7 years: May 1, 2023 - August 31, 2030: FY26: \$321,930

ACTIVE GRANTS: Awarded and/or Implemented During this Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year: 2026, Month End: January

Total FY2026 projected revenue: \$12,192,042; Sum value of all current awards: \$37,860,388

East Loop: Environmental Remediation and Demolition

Funding will be used to enhance the physical university campus in a manner that will make it more desirable for students, which begins with the removal of unused facilities surrounding the East Loop. Project Director: Sonya Sholley, Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Presidential Operations. Co-Project Director: Dr. Scott Barton, Vice President for Finance and Administration.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$135,000 for 3 years: September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2025: FY26: \$27,762

Enhanced Cyberinfrastructure and Regional Connectivity

This award funds a collaborative effort with nearby community colleges and universities to identify opportunities for establishing regional connectivity for research and education. Project Director: Dr. Robert Warburton, Dean for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing. Co-Director: Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$36,000 for 3 years: September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2025: FY26: \$0

Equitable Educational Resources

These funds, provided to Accessibility Services and the Student Success Center, were used to purchase software that will enhance Shepherd's ability to provide timely, updated, and secure technology for students with diverse learning needs. The upgrades also support efforts to create and maintain an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Project Director: Jessica Anders, Director, Accessibility Services.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Education (USDE): \$70,000 for 3 years: September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2025; FY26: \$0

Stubblefield Institute's Listen/Learn/Engage Initiative (II)

Funding supports Phase II of an interdisciplinary program to prepare Shepherd students to shape and debate public policies and fulfill community leadership roles. This phase aims to expand the program to serve students across all disciplines (beyond nursing, social work, and education) and address various topics beyond those related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project Director: Ashley Horst, Executive Director for the Stubblefield Institute.

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS): \$4,000,000 for ~3 years: March 15, 2022 - September 30, 2025: FY26: \$679,468

Critical Campus Security and Safety Infrastructure

This funding allows the Shepherd University Police Department (SUPD) to provide an integrated security camera system, vehicles that operate reliably and effectively, a communication system that will work during the most critical times to provide interoperable synchronization with all regional emergency services, a building/room locking system to assist in the event of an active shooter or similar threats, a parking enforcement system that helps SUPD become more financially solvent, and equipment to ensure officer safety. Project Director: Holly Morgan-Frye, Vice President for Student Affairs and Director, Community Relations. Co-Project Directors: Lori Maraugh, Chief of Police; and Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO.

ACTIVE GRANTS: Awarded and/or Implemented During this Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year: 2026, Month End: January

Total FY2026 projected revenue: \$12,192,042; Sum value of all current awards: \$37,860,388

CDS - Congressionally Directed Spending, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program: \$111,000 for 3 years: October 1, 2022 - November 30, 2025: FY26: \$57,847

Pathways to Postsecondary Education for Rural Students II: Dual Enrollment Distance Learning

Funding supports Phase II of the current project to create distance learning options for rural high school students through dual enrollment courses and an expansion into Morgan County. Project Director: Will Bell, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management. Co-Project Directors: Dr. Ben Martz, Dean for the College of Business, Recreation, and Education; Barbara Kandalis, Coordinator for Dual Enrollment; Joanie Raisovitch, Interim CIO/CISO; and Dr. Jeffrey Groff, Professor of Physics.

PENDING GRANTS: Submitted and Awaiting Decision on Award

Fiscal Year: 2026, Month End: January

Total of Pending Requests: \$2,903,271

NEH – National Endowment for the Humanities, Rediscovering Our Revolutionary History: \$299,561 for 2 years: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028

Shepherd University's American Loyalist Project

To mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Shepherd University requests funds to support an exciting student-focused Digital Archive initiative called the American Loyalist Project. The project will see SU work with the American Philosophical Society and the UK National Archives to digitize the complete records of the parliamentary Loyalist Claims Commission (over 200 volumes in all), a source base that documents the experiences of Loyalist refugees who fled the new United States in the midst of the American Revolution. Students will work with the Principal Investigator to create a census of the people represented in the archive and to create contextual essays explaining different facets of the Loyalist experience. Principal Investigator: Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst, Director for the Center of Appalachian Studies.

NEA – National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest Big Read: \$19,250 for ~1 year: September 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Common Read: Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life

Funding would support the purchase of Frederick Douglass's book, "Narrative of the Life", and a range of events for the 2026 Common Read program. Programming is available to students, the broader campus community and residents. The project team has engaged 10 community partners to hold events like a film screening, book discussions, and artistic demonstrations. Project Director: Hannah Williams-McNamee, Director of Student Support and Transfer Pathways. Co-Project Director: Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, Professor of English.

USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture: \$170,985 for 1 year: July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Soil Health and Building Soil Organic Matter at Shepherd University's Agricultural Innovation Center

This project would focus specifically on education around soil health practices to be implemented at small to medium scale diversified farms, primarily vegetable production and rotational livestock grazing through the development of a soil health workshop series and one-on-one farmer mentorship. Project Lead: Dr. Brooke Comer, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science.

HF - Heritage Foundation, Innovation Prizes: \$100,000 for 1 year: September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2027

Restoring the American Family: Photobiomodulation as a Community-Based Support for Opioid Recovery

This proposal represents Phase I of a larger applied research initiative evaluating photobiomodulation (PBM), a non-invasive light therapy, as a supportive intervention for individuals in recovery from opioid use disorder. The proposed work builds directly on preliminary findings generated by the Shepherd University Center of Excellence for Photobiomodulation demonstrating significant reductions in craving and symptoms of depression among individuals with opioid use disorder. These findings have been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, establishing feasibility and early evidence of effectiveness. Phase I will expand upon this prior work by enrolling adult participants engaged in opioid recovery and systematically evaluating PBM's impact on craving, depressive symptoms, pain, and

PENDING GRANTS: Submitted and Awaiting Decision on Award

Fiscal Year: 2026, Month End: January

Total of Pending Requests: \$2,903,271

sleep quality using standardized outcome measures. Principal Investigator: Dr. Jennifer Flora, Executive Director, Wellness Center and Entrepreneurial Initiatives.

NIH - National Institutes of Health, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH): \$2,313,475 for 5 years: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2031

Shepherd University - R61/R33 Photobiomodulation of the Gut-Microbiome Axis to Improve Emotional Well-Being and Whole Person Health Index

Funding would support R61 and R33 research phases to validate whether microbiome change facilitated by photobiomodulation (PBM) predicts changes in emotional well-being and whole-person health. Principal Investigator: Dr. Jennifer Flora, Executive Director, Wellness Center and Entrepreneurial Initiatives.