

College of Science and Health 2020-2021 Annual Report

Summary

At the end of spring semester 2020 the College leapt forward into a summer of research activities and preparations for continued remote teaching during the 2020-2021 academic year as a result of COVID-19. Recognizing the challenges of teaching in a remote format, 84 faculty received CSH grants to revise 41 laboratory and field courses for online activities. Research productivity remained at high levels with the award of \$921,401 in new external grants from 19 proposals. Eighteen students were awarded Dean's Distinguished Fellowships for summer 2020 and a large number of students continued with faculty-mentored independent projects during the academic year. The new Mayo-UWL Research Collaborative awarded seed grants to two teams of investigators for health-related projects. The College led UWL's participation in the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin, a UW System initiative to increase funding for aquatic programs and research. Faculty and staff spent an extensive amount of time and energy in collaborative design of Phase 2 of the Prairie Springs Science Center, which will provide critical facilities for collaborative learning and laboratories not currently provided in Phase 1. Capitalizing on existing strengths within CSH, several new programs were initiated including: Computer Science Major: Cybersecurity; Radiologic Science Major: Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Radiologic Science Major: Radiologic Technology; Exercise & Sports Science Major: Physical, Adapted and School Health Education (K-12); and collaborative graduate certificates in Senior Living and Services Leadership, and Data Science. The College celebrated the presentation of the UW Regents Teaching Excellence Award to Renee Redman in Biology whose commitment to student success is emblematic of all instructors within the College. Despite the challenges of remote instruction, the First Year Research Exposure (FYRE) program continue to excel at improving academic achievement of undergraduate students; program participants' grades in introductory biology, chemistry, and mathematics exceeded the institutional average for students of color. The academic year was completed with near-unanimous approval by faculty and staff of the new CSH Strategic Plan.