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OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH

OVPR Annual Report 2021–2022

#OVPRDreamTeam

<https://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/>

A Message from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) at Rutgers University–New Brunswick focuses on building interdisciplinary, inclusive intellectual communities. As an outgrowth of the Office of the Chancellor Academic Master Plan (AMP), the OVPR has numerous signature strategic initiatives that drive forward the university’s research enterprise. Our mission is to serve as a strategic partner at Rutgers–New Brunswick, fostering, interdisciplinary collaborations, advocating for resources, supporting its cross-campus and Chancellor-led units’ research infrastructure development, providing advice, planning for university-wide research initiatives and priorities (including its centers and institutes), and fostering communication to promote a culture of faculty, student, and staff research that is innovative and inclusive.



Denise Hien, PhD, ABPP
Vice Provost for Research
NB Office of the Chancellor

Meet the Leadership and Research Development Team



Denise Hien, PhD, ABPP
Vice Provost for Research



Sheila Borges Rajguru, PhD
Director, Research
Development & Strategy



Valerie Tutwiler, PhD
Provost Leadership Research
Fellow

2021–2022 Achievements

The OVPR launched the following strategic initiatives with the goal of fostering innovative, interdisciplinary research:

- I. Scaled up the [Office of the Vice Provost for Research's infrastructure](#)
 - Convened monthly meetings for associate deans for research
 - Established the Task Force for Publicly Engaged Scholarship Metrics and Outcomes
 - Hired the Director for Research Development and Strategy, as well as a Senior Program Coordinator
 - Redesigned and launched the [Rutgers–New Brunswick/OVPR website](#)
 - Established the Provost Research Leadership Faculty Fellow mentorship—Valerie Tutwiler, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering
 - “My experience as a Provost Leadership Research Fellow thus far has been a wonderful learning experience. I have been exposed to the workings of research administration at the university level through attending research deans and related meetings, organizing an ideation forum, and meeting regularly with the VPR. Working on these initiatives and others has given me the opportunity to better understand research planning strategies and directions at the university and across research units.”—Valerie Tutwiler
- II. Conducted strategic planning for the OVPR
 - Led and coordinated AMP Research Innovation Pillar Executive Team
- III. Developed vehicles for promoting/supporting interdisciplinary research at Rutgers–New Brunswick
 - a. Coordinated Center/Institute Review process
 - b. Established a timeline for external review of Chancellor-reporting institutes
 - Conducted Waksman Institute of Microbiology external review
 - c. Conducted 1st Research Ideation Forum
 - Gun Violence
 1. Seventy-five in-person attendees across Chancellor-led units
 2. Ten presenters across Chancellor-led units and the University of Texas
 3. Gun Violence Seed Grant request for proposal was crafted and posted on InfoReady
 - d. Establish Provost Strategic Task Forces
 - Task Force on Climate Change Initiative (CCI): Phase I completed on June 30, 2022
 - The CCI has eight advisory members and faculty members from various departments and institutes in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the School of Arts and Sciences.
 - Participants were tasked with:
 - Developing a proposal to re-envision all existing Rutgers–New Brunswick climate/environmental systems/energy centers, programs, and faculty into a new framework.
 - Proposing working mission and vision statements, as well as a set of initial strategic plan goals, key objectives, and results that span domains of research, education, and policy.
 - Determining possible reporting structures and organizational leadership makeup and membership.
 - Envisioning a new budgetary system with a general idea of what commitments Rutgers–New Brunswick Schools/Centers/Institutes and the Chancellor-Provost's office needs to provide a core set of resources that will be mutually supported.

The OVPR has three main goals that it plans to carry out by focusing on the following strategic initiatives in FY 23 (Appendix A). The goals align with the Chancellor-Provost AMP pillars.

Goal 1: Support and increase impacts of innovative inclusive research that fosters interdisciplinary and cross-campus collaboration.

AMP Pillar II, Innovative Research

To strengthen Rutgers–New Brunswick’s capacity to solve grand challenges in our community, state, country, and the world to reflect our commitment to the public good. This OVPR goal will lead efforts for innovative, interdisciplinary research across all Chancellor-led units.

Objectives: In Fall 2022/Spring 2023, we will continue our efforts to enhance an interdisciplinary research ecosystem by launching:

- Two **Research Ideation Forums** (Artificial Intelligence in the fall and Health Disparities in the spring) that will continue building cross-campus collaborations fostering innovative, interdisciplinary research.
- **Gun Violence Seed Funding** for Rutgers–New Brunswick faculty: Areas of this seed funding include but are not limited to healthcare, policy, suicide, mental health, violent crime prevention, educational impacts across the schooling lifespan, and community engagement. This seed funding came as a direct output of the 1st Research Ideation Forum.
- **Research Deans Leadership Retreat:** In collaboration with the Center for Organizational Leadership, the OVPR will focus on Higher Education leadership competencies. This will also serve to get research deans discussing their schools’ work and how they plan to strategize interdisciplinary research funding.
- Nominations for the **Provost Research Leadership Fellows:** We will select two to three fellows at the Associate level or above to assist with research strategic planning and the implementation of the OVPR’s strategic priorities by working closely with the VPR and office staff.
- Provost Strategic Task Forces on **Climate Change** and **Cyberinfrastructure and Data Science Research:** As an outgrowth of the AMP, Provost Strategic Task Forces will be convened to develop guidance in areas that the Chancellor-Provost and her leadership team have deemed as critical to supporting and growing the vision of the Rutgers–New Brunswick academic enterprise, as well as its relationship to the three other chancellor-led units.
- **Center and Institute Review Processes** to facilitate the ability for schools to evaluate the health and longevity of their resources and how they can support their own centers and institutes. Additionally, this process will facilitate their ability to conduct external reviews and re-envision select institutes that report to the Chancellor-Provost.
- **Rutgers–New Brunswick Centers and Institutes Conference for Center/Institute Directors,** faculty, and staff by January 2023; this will also involve establishing a listserv for regular communications.
- **Chancellor-Provost Rutgers–New Brunswick Research Representation:**
 - Chancellor-Provost cabinet
 - EVPAA/SVPR research strategy advisory board
 - Climate Action Taskforce representative for New Brunswick Chancellor-Provost
 - Misconduct issues, New Brunswick representative
 - Big 10 Academic Alliance Research: Peer group for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Integrity Subgroup, New Brunswick representative

- Research Development Microcredential Program, Office for Research
- Advisory Boards:
 - Office for Research budget advisory group
 - Combined OIT/OFR budget advisory group
 - RWJ advisory board for the REACH project (Denise Rodgers, Anna Branch, Henry Turner)
 - Newark–New Brunswick Environmental advisory board
 - SEBS NJ Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health executive advisory board

Goal 2: Increase diversity in research faculty and staff to reflect our community, State, and students, provide research professional advancement programming, and build capacity for publicly engaged research.

AMP Pillar II, Innovation Research, Objective II

Describes the critical need to expand Rutgers–New Brunswick’s efforts to recruit diverse, talented faculty across a wide range of fields. By reflecting on the diversity of our community, state, and students, it is critical to commit to continuous professional development.

Objectives:

- **Launch an NIH R01 Writing Academy** to provide professional advancement to diverse research faculty and staff. This fifteen-week academy is designed to guide investigators from Rutgers–New Brunswick in applying for NIH R01 funding. Participants will receive support from successful investigators and research development leaders in curating an application for submission. The academy will include support on the Specific Aims page, the Research Strategy section, their Biosketch, the Human Subjects disclosure, budgeting, figure use, and other information (e.g., how to contact a program officer, best practices for community-based participatory research, etc.). In addition, all participants will receive editing services, reviewer services, one-on-one consultation, a course release (must be approved by the School Dean), and an NIH workbook. The Academy will culminate with a trip to the NIH, organized by Lewis-Burke, LLC, to meet program officers. Founded by the Director for Research Development & Strategy.
- **Curate New Brunswick’s Research Website** to highlight diverse research.
- **Develop an OVPR Newsletter** to feature diverse New Brunswick research (to be added to the website).

AMP Pillar I, Scholarly Leadership, Objective II

Rutgers–New Brunswick must develop mechanisms to reinforce existing strategies for enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, such as recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty body, promoting inclusive teaching, and expanding university-community partnerships.

Objective: In partnership with the Senior Vice-Provost of Academic and Faculty Affairs, a working group of senior leaders on **Community Engaged Scholarship** will be tasked to review the implementation and socialization of the 2019 EVPAA policy on publicly engaged scholarship for appointments and promotions.

Goal 3: Center research opportunities for students at all levels of training from undergraduate to graduate and postdoctoral.



AMP Pillar II, Innovative Research, Objective III

We are called to enhance opportunities for student research. Rutgers–New Brunswick commits to ensure all students are aware of and have the opportunity to engage in research. The OVPR will showcase undergraduate and graduate student research opportunities on the Rutgers–New Brunswick website along with providing leading research trainings for students and postdocs.

Objective: *Provost Research Leadership Fellows* will be tasked with brainstorming and co-leading opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to postdoc trainings and benchmarking mentorship trainings for faculty that focus on best practices for student research mentorship.

Appendix A: FY 22 Strategic Initiatives Timeline

Goals	<p>Goal 1: Support and increase impacts of innovative inclusive research fostering interdisciplinary and cross camps collaboration</p>	<p>Goal 2: Increase diversity in research faculty and staff to reflect our community, State, and students; provide research professional advancement programming, and build capacity for publicly engaged research</p>	<p>Goal 3: Center research opportunities for students at all levels of training, from undergraduate to graduate and postdoctoral</p>
<p>Summer July –August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up with faculty members and meet to facilitate Gun Violence research teams; based on Research Ideation Forum on Gun Violence post-survey • Launch the Gun Violence Seed Funding RFP • Brainstorm topics and curate a list of presenters for the Research Deans Leadership Retreat • Craft a Fall 2022 OVPR newsletter • Center/Institutes reviews • Climate Change and Cyberinfrastructure Research initiatives are ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to prospective presenters for the NIH R01 Writing Academy, continue working on the schedule • Review report from Publicly Engaged Scholarship Metrics and Outcomes leaders 	
<p>Fall 2021 September–December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out the call for Provost Research Leadership Fellows nominations • Launch the Research Deans Leadership Retreat • Review LOIs from Gun Violence Seed Funding • Finalize Gun Violence Seed Funding awardees • Final selections for Provost Research Leadership Fellows completed • Launch 2nd Research Ideation Forum (Artificial Intelligence) • Launch Fall 2022 OVPR newsletter • Climate Change and Cyberinfrastructure-Data Science Research initiatives are ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene meetings with the Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs on Community-Engaged Scholarship • Oversee Diversity Plan Implementation with C-P Institutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final selections for Provost Research Leadership Fellows completed • Create three leadership seminars for Provost Research Leadership Fellows

<p>Spring 2023 January–May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Research Leadership Fellows begin their appointment; one to two fellows will work on this goal • Second Research Ideation Forum launched (theme TBD) • Climate Change and Cyberinfrastructure-Data Science Research initiatives are ongoing • Launch OVPR Spring 2023 newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH R01 Writing Academy in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Research Leadership Fellows begin their appointments; one to two will focus on co-leading the efforts for this goal • Ongoing Provost Research Leadership Fellows seminars
<p>Summer 2022 June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch 3rd Research Ideation Forum (Health Disparities) • Climate Change and Cyberinfrastructure-Data Science Research initiatives are ongoing • Launch OVPR Spring 2023 newsletter 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for Undergraduate Research Discovery Day with the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and team



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