

RESEARCH @ TC NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH TODAY. IMPACT TOMORROW.

10/26/2026

ISSUE #40

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Caroline Ebanks, Ph.D.

Vice Dean for Research
Research@TC

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the best of the fall season. As we progress through this new academic year, I am taking this opportunity to reflect on our mission and vision as we work together to support the TC research community. We are excited to share our overarching vision for research at TC, including a statement from President Bailey regarding the value and impact of TC as a research institution. We look forward to listening to you and learning from you to ensure that we incorporate your vision for research at TC into the work we will do together to build a strong research community. We are sharing highlights from

AY25-26, including information about faculty and student award recipients and the FY2026 portfolio of grant awards and submissions.

I have always loved a good origin story. In FY24, I created a blog series, "*From Roots to Research*," designed to highlight the origin stories, scholarly journeys, and impressive accomplishments of TC faculty researchers. I encourage you to read the origin stories from previous interviews and reflect on how the lived experiences of your colleagues have shaped their teaching, research, and scholarship. I hope you will consider sharing your own origin story and scholarly journey with us. You can access the blog series [here](#).

In this issue, you will find information about external funding opportunities with upcoming deadlines, internal funding for TC faculty, and announcements and updates from offices that support research at the College. The Office of Sponsored Programs is hosting training sessions to support implementation of the Cayuse grants management system. Members of the Teachers College Information Technology (TCIT) Information Security team developed the [Secure My Research](#) website to provide guidance and resources related to data and research security.

We look forward to engaging with you and collaborating with you to strengthen the system of support that we provide to the TC research community.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, ideas, or suggestions you may have. I welcome your input and appreciate your feedback.

Warm regards,
Caroline

THE VISION FOR RESEARCH @ TC

The vision for Research at Teachers College is to foster and maintain a collaborative research environment that equips and empowers faculty and student researchers and staff to engage in impactful research and practice. Our goals and priorities include:

- 1) Strengthening the research infrastructure at TC by transitioning from siloed, manual processes to a cohesive and fully integrated research administration system;
- 2) Broadening faculty participation in grant making and building capacity to support interdisciplinary research collaborations and sustainable research-practice partnerships; and
- 3) Developing and executing a strategic communication plan to translate, celebrate, and share the local and global impact of research and scholarship of TC faculty members.

From Research to Real-World Impact: President Bailey's Vision for Research at TC

Strengthening TC's role as an international research leader has been a top priority for President Bailey since 2018. We asked President Bailey to share his vision for research at Teachers College. Here is what he had to say:

“Securing TC's strength as a research institution with international impact has been my priority since I became president in 2018. From enhancing the way community colleges support positive economic outcomes for their students, to understanding how nutrition impacts learning, to analysis of school funding models, and so much more, our faculty and students have engaged with communities and applied research to provide data-driven solutions that improve lives. That is what sets TC apart. Bringing together our faculty across disciplines and enabling them to address critical challenges in digital innovation, literacy, mental health, sustainability, teaching, and other areas is the vital work of the day.”

YEAR IN REVIEW: HIGHLIGHTS FROM AY25-26

DEAN'S GRANTS FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS (AY2025-2026):

We awarded funding to fourteen TC students to support research projects that were completed during AY25-26. You can find the list of awardees [here](#).

PROVOST'S DISSERTATION RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS (AY2026-2027):

In summer 2026, we awarded funding to ten doctoral students from six academic departments. The students will conduct their research projects during the 2026 to 2027 academic year. You can find the list of awardees [here](#).

Thank you to the sixteen faculty members who reviewed student applications for the

Dean's Grant for Student Research and the Provost's Dissertation Research Award. We appreciate your time and effort and your willingness to serve and support TC students.

FACULTY DIVERSITY AWARD RECIPIENTS (AY2026-2027):

Congratulations to the recipients of the AY2026-2027 Faculty Diversity Awards:

- **Dean's Faculty Diversity Research Awardees:**
 - [Davinia Gregory](#), Assistant Professor, Arts & Humanities
 - [Tran Templeton](#), Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Teaching
- **Dean's Fellowship for Teaching and Diversity Awardees:**
 - [Mykelle Coleman](#), Assistant Professor of Teaching, HSAEP
 - [Srikala Narain](#), Professor of Education, Curriculum & Teaching

Thank you to the members of the RCD Subcommittee, Professors Mark Gooden, Olga Hubard, and Beth Rubin, who reviewed the applications for the Faculty Diversity Awards. We appreciate your time and your service to the TC community.

REINSTATEMENT OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

In spring 2026, the U.S. Department of Education reinstated \$7.86 million dollars in grant funding for five grants that were terminated in March 2025.

FY2026 RESEARCH AT TC GRANT AWARDS AND SUBMISSION SUMMARY (SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 TO AUGUST 31, 2026)

TC faculty PIs, with support from staff in the Office of Sponsored Programs, achieved strong performance across new awards and submissions:

- **Grant Awards:** Faculty researchers secured **\$35.98 million dollars** in funding across **111** total awards.
 - **Proposal Submissions:** Faculty researchers submitted **198** proposals requesting a total of **\$77.32** million in external funding.
-

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT POLICY

We updated the College's Research Misconduct Policy to align with new federal regulations and compliance guidelines that went into effect in January 2026. You can find the updated policy [here](#).

FROM ROOTS TO RESEARCH

In Fall 2024, the Office of the Vice Dean for Research launched a blog series to feature distinguished scholars from TC. We will relaunch the [From Roots to Research](#) blog series during AY26-27 and share the origin stories, accomplishments, and scholarly impact of TC faculty. Sharing the origin stories of our faculty helps us to understand and appreciate how their lived experiences have informed the sense of passion and purpose that they bring to their teaching, research, and scholarly work at TC.

EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: UPCOMING DEADLINES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH)

- [Collections Stewardship](#)
- **Deadline:** December 15, 2026

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

- [Unlocking Dataset Value for AI-Enabled Scientific Discovery \(AI Datasets\)](#)
 - Opportunity Number: 26-512
 - **Deadline:** November 4, 2026

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows](#)
 - **Deadline: October 30, 2026 (3 p.m. ET)**
 - Deadline for receipt of three reference letters.
- **Deadline: November 3, 2026 (3 p.m. ET):**
 - Deadline for receipt of preliminary applications.

SIMONS FOUNDATION

- [The Simons Collaboration in Mathematics and Physical Sciences \(MPS\) program](#): The Simons Foundation's Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MPS) division invites applications for the Simons Collaborations in MPS program.
 - **Deadline for Letter of Intent (LOI) submission: October 29, 2026 at 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern time.**
- [Utilizing the Full Power of Empire AI Program](#): The Simons Foundation (SF) is accepting applications for the Utilizing the Full Power of Empire AI program.
 - **Deadline for application submission: 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern time on December 1, 2026.**

EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: FEDERAL

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES (IES), U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FY2027 Grantmaking Announcement

- **August 6, 2026 Blogpost:** [Announcing IES's FY2027 Grantmaking](#) by Matthew Soldner, IES Director. In FY2027, IES will limit their grant competitions to research

in the following areas:

- **General Education:** Literacy; STEM; Strengthening Systems for Evidence-Based Practice; and Transitions from Secondary Education to the Workforce.
- **Special Education:** The Special Education Workforce and Low-Incidence Disabilities.

INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

BALL STICK BIRD AWARD

The [Ball Stick Bird Award](#) is funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and managed by the Office of the Vice Dean for Research in collaboration with Institutional Advancement at Teachers College. This funding opportunity is made possible by the Estate of Dr. Renee Fuller, the creator of the Ball Stick Bird learning method.

FACULTY DIVERSITY AWARDS

The Office of the Provost and the Faculty Executive Committee's (FEC) Subcommittee on Race, Culture and Diversity (RCD) co-sponsor **two** diversity-related awards. Both are described in the "[Internal Funding Opportunity](#)" section of the Research @ TC website. The [Dean's Faculty Diversity Research Award](#) pertains to **research** while the [Dean's Fellowship for Teaching and Diversity](#) funds an advanced Master's or Doctoral student who will collaborate with a TC faculty member, program, or department on **teaching** diversity-related issues. **Both awards provide support for a graduate student.** Please consider which award program will be most beneficial to you and your students.

RESEARCH at TC ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

■ [Human Research Protection Office \(HRPO\)](#)

Local Context Review Requirement for Human Subject Research Studies

Researchers conducting activities outside of the United States, as well as certain studies involving reliance agreements, may be required by the

■ [Office of Sponsored Programs \(OSP\)](#)

- OSP is pleased to announce the launch of Cayuse Sponsored Projects (SP) —our new grants management system designed to support proposal submission, award setup, and post-award management in one centralized platform.

IRB to complete a Local Context Review Form. Researchers planning international research or a study involving reliance on another IRB should review the HRPO's local context requirements early in the planning process. For additional information and access to the Local Context Review Form, please visit the HRPO website: [Local Context Review | 2026 | IRB Blog | Institutional Review Board | Teachers College, Columbia University](#).

TC IRB Committee Chair: Dr. Kevin Heffernan is the new TC IRB Committee Chair for the 2026-2027 academic year. Dr. Heffernan is an Associate Professor of Movement Science at Teachers College, Columbia University, and Director of the [Applied Physiology Program and the Applied Neurovascular Physiology Lab](#). His research focuses on the intersection of exercise, vascular aging, and brain health, examining how vascular stiffness, blood pressure, and exercise influence cerebral vascular function, brain structure, cognition, and risk for age-related neurodegenerative disease. His work also addresses health disparities and the role of cardiovascular health in neurocognitive aging. Before joining TC, Kevin was a faculty member at Syracuse University, where he served on its IRB for 9 years (3 as co-chair).

- **What this means for you:** Cayuse SP will be the system used to initiate and route all proposals for institutional review and approval. It will also give you greater visibility into your awards, including status tracking, subawards, and project updates—all in one place. The system is integrated with the Cayuse dashboard, which many of you already use for COI (Outside/Conflict of Interests).
- **Why this matters:** This transition will streamline administrative processes for your grant applications, approvals, and grant monitoring, reduce back-and-forth, and provide clearer insight into your funding activity.
- **Support and Training:** We will provide live demo training, step-by-step videos guides, along with 1:1 support to ensure a smooth transition with minimal disruption to your work.
- **Training Dates:**
 - **Department Chairs:** October 28th (10am) & November 17th (10am)
 - **Centers & Institutes:** October 28th (12pm / noon)
 - **PI's & Project Directors:** November 9th (10am)
- If you have any questions, contact sponsoredprograms@tc.columbia.edu.

■ [Teachers College Information Technology \(TCIT\):](#)

Secure My Research Resource for the TC Research Community

TC researchers finally have a dedicated home for data security guidance on the TC website. The TCIT Information Security team has launched a suite of resources designed specifically for faculty, student researchers, and research affiliates.

What's available:

- [Secure My Research](#)— your starting point for research security at TC. Tailored guidance by role: new faculty, new research projects, and student researchers.
- [Researcher Pathway](#) — a step-by-step guide to navigating InfoSec, the IRB, and OGC in the right order for your specific situation.
- [Securing Research That Utilizes AI](#)— guidance on using AI tools responsibly in your research, including what to disclose in your IRB protocol and what to do if something goes wrong.
- [Research Security Templates](#) — ready-to-download templates including data security plans, IRB confidentiality language, confidentiality agreements, and more.
- [Research Security FAQ](#)— answers to the most common research security questions, from data storage and AI tools to incident reporting and temporary research affiliates.

Still have questions or want a one-on-one consultation?

[Schedule time with the InfoSec team.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT (IA) Open House on October 28, 2026

Save the Date! The Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) is pleased to invite all TC faculty to join IA staff for our next IA+Faculty Open House. Join us for a drop-in meet-and-greet to meet members of our team, learn more about our roles, and how we partner with faculty to amplify research impact and advance the mission of TC together.

 **Where: IA Suite, Grace Dodge Hall 197** |  **When: Wednesday, October 28 | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

PROPOSAL PREPARATION SUPPORT

Office of the Vice Dean for Research (VDR)

The Office of the Vice Dean for Research offers grant writing support to increase the number of successful grant proposals submitted by TC faculty. You can find more information [here](#).

Grant Writing Coach Award (\$1,500)

Any pre-tenure or tenured faculty member may apply for **one** grant writing coach award (up to \$1,500) **per academic year**.

Grant Reviewer Award (\$750)

Any pre-tenure or tenured faculty member who is submitting a grant application to a federal agency or a foundation may apply

Funding can be used for one-on-one coaching from an experienced coach, such as a senior faculty member at or outside of TC. The funding can also be used to pay for fees to attend a grant writing workshop.

Please contact
vice deanforresearch@tc.columbia.edu
for more information.

for funds (up to \$750) to pay for a grant reviewer. Please contact
vice deanforresearch@tc.columbia.edu
for more information.

www.tc.edu/research

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