**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

- **$11,984,258** in sponsored program funding*
- **31.3%** success rate of submitted proposals*
- **3.33** peer-reviewed/juried outputs per tenure/tenure track faculty each year*
- **36** Ph.D. and DNP students graduated each year*

*Three-Year Average

In 2022 we had three new faculty inductees into our campus $1 Million Club for sponsored program and one faculty inducted into the $5 Million club.

**INSPIRING STUDENTS**

UCCS plays a unique and pivotal role in exposing students to hands-on research and creative work experience with our faculty experts. Research experience is a high impact practice that improves retention and graduation and we are proud of the close research apprenticeship model we offer to our UCCS students.

**CENTER FOR STUDENT RESEARCH**

Established in 2019 as a hub to network, share socially just resources, and offer activities that build an engaged pathway for diverse student researchers. A robust digital footprint, evidence-based activities, small seed-grants for apprenticeship training, and the annual Mountain Lion Research Day are part of our local strategy. To date, there are 352 student members and 107 faculty affiliates.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ACADEMY**

Established in 2008 to support student education through research/creative projects directly mentored by faculty. Funds ~15 pairs of students/faculty each year and provides structured summer programming, responsible conduct of research trainings, and community building activities throughout the year. To improve access, there is no GPA requirement to apply, they are awarded on the merits of the project.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

Aja Zamundo, Psychology, is an Undergraduate Research Academy Member, 2023 Student Achievement Awardee and the 2022 Mountain Lion Research Day Top Scholar. Aja is a nontraditional married mother of three children who had a successful career as a musician before transferring. Her research, mentored by Dr. Heather Littleton, investigated the dual pandemics of COVID and systemic racism on college campuses. She dedicated over 200 hours to the project. Aja’s will be entering graduate school here at UCCS in August, after she graduates in May with a 4.0 GPA.

**GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

Joseph Day is a graduate student in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. His paper, “Tip Shape, Height, and Thickness Influences on Nonlinear Acoustic Damping from Baffle Blades” recently won the national American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics’ Graduate Award for Distinguished Achievement. Joseph also did his undergraduate degree at UCCS and graduated with his B.S. in 2021. He enjoys working on both experimental and simulation research to study and predict the nonlinear damping that exists in liquid rocket engines. His faculty mentor is Dr. Matt Quinlan.

**URA students are almost 2X likely to pursue graduate studies compared to other UCCS students**

**URA students graduate with a 25% higher GPA (3.88) than other undergraduate UCCS students (3.10)**

**Students participating in the URA have a 35% increase in graduation rates compared to other UCCS students**
**INNOVATIVE FACULTY**

UCCS faculty are extraordinary experts in their field, who participate in knowledge production, dissemination, and engage in extensive knowledge sharing with students in and outside the classroom. Faculty typically teach 5 courses in the academic year while also maintaining active research programs and engaging in institution building. Our faculty are literally transforming the world with their innovation, discover, and creative work.

**RESEARCH CENTER SHOWCASE**

*Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience*: Founded in 2020, the Institute conducts cutting-edge, technology-focused research to understand human adaptation following traumatic stress and implements innovative and resilience-based therapies for trauma survivors.

- **51** faculty research affiliates locally, nationally, and internationally
- **$4.6M** in funding in the past 3 years
- **370** peer reviewed publications in the past 3 years

**FOUR SYNERGISTIC RESEARCH THEMES AT UCCS**

- **Understanding Human Health, Performance, Wellness, and Aging**
- **Cybersecurity, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and the Space Domain**
- **Diversity, Equity, Just and Inclusive Transformation Research**
- **Understanding the Human Impact on the Environment and Addressing Issues of Economic and Environmental Justice**

**IMAGINE. WHAT’S NEXT?**

The UCCS Office of Research is actively realizing an inclusive research culture, streamlining processes, and reorganizing infrastructure.

**AN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH CULTURE**

The recipient of a prestigious NSF ADVANCE grant, UCCS Project CREST focuses on systemic reform efforts that will change the landscape of UCCS today and for the next generation of scholars with two initiatives:

1. **Building a Responsive and Inclusive Research Infrastructure**

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- New Rising Star Diversity (Faculty Recruitment) Grant
- Campus conversations on the meaning of mission-driven scholarship
- Soft-funded Research Development Coordinator who provides wrap-around support for faculty’s research needs
- Soft-funded part time Institutional Grant Writer to focus on larger university grants, DEI funding, and interdisciplinary research
- Soft-funded Contract Specialist to support subcontracts, industry partnerships, fee for service, and unique contracting needs of our researchers

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- With campus and CU System funding, UCCS has, for the first time, entered into a contract to acquire a cloud-based sponsored program software solution
- A new campus policy is under way on differentiated workload in response to strategic planning goals to address research workload
- Reexaming research related RPT unit criteria for inclusion, equity, and transparency
- Launching the new UCCS Center for Research Frontiers in the Digital Humanities
- The community-wide Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum will be hosted by UCCS in 2024

**GOAL SETTING**

The campus goals are for an annual 10% increase in number of grant submissions, number of faculty submitted proposals, and number of students engaging in research.