Office of Research and Innovation

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Vice Chancellor
As chief research officer, Mladen Vouk oversees all research activities at NC State. Under his leadership, units reporting to the Office of Research and Innovation manage research administration, the university’s intellectual properties, and industry and government agency alliances on the university’s award-winning research campus. Researchers at NC State had research expenditures exceeding $460 million in sponsored programs from federal, local government, industry, and nonprofit organizations in FY22. NC State’s research portfolio exceeds 5,000 invention disclosures, 1500+ US patents, 800 active commercialization agreements, and 600+ products to market. Centennial Campus hosts more than 70 corporate, government and nonprofit partners working with the university’s 75+ centers and institutes, laboratories and research departments.

Centers and Institutes
NC State’s 45 centers and institutes reflect the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary scholarly pursuit, including research, instruction and public service. They provide platforms for the sharpest minds to collaborate, investigate and discover. Research and innovation on topics ranging from climate change to textiles add value to the everyday lives of our state’s citizens, maintaining public trust and admiration and standing at the forefront in global excellence for research and discovery.

Research Operations and Communications
Research Operations and Communications drives the development, planning and implementation of the Office of Research and Innovation’s strategic plan. This unit works collaboratively across the Office of Research and Innovation to lead operations, strategic initiatives, reporting, research programs and events, research training and education, interdisciplinary research initiatives, communications, marketing, web services, and human resources.

Integrated Support Services Center
The Integrated Support Service Center (ISSC) provides general business and financial services for the Office of Research and Innovation. In addition, the center provides proposal, financial and administrative support for the Office of Research and Innovation’s centers and institutes, as well as principal investigators across the university who are not affiliated with a college research office.

Research Development Office
The Research Development Office (RDO) enhances collaborative research and lays the foundation for sustainable research growth. The office plans strategies to pursue large-scale projects, manages limited submission funding opportunities and the Office of Research and Innovation’s seed-funding programs, develops NC State’s research infrastructure, plans and oversees university core facilities and provides administrative oversight for centers and institutes.

Proposal Development Unit
The Proposal Development Unit (PDU) is a part of the RDO. They support faculty teams in the development of large-scale, interdisciplinary research proposals. These services include team facilitation, budget development, writing and editing, and administrative assistance, thereby enabling investigators to concentrate on the research-related aspects of their proposals. PDU support is available to NC State faculty planning proposals with estimated total budgets of at least $1M.

Research Administration and Compliance
Sponsored Programs and Regulatory Compliance Services (SPARCS) provides central research administration support. Sponsored Programs assists with proposal submission, agreement negotiation and administration of sponsored projects. Regulatory Compliance oversees conflicts of interest and commitment management, export controls, human and animal subjects protections, facility security matters and research integrity.

Office of Research Commercialization
The Office of Research Commercialization (ORC) protects and promotes university research discoveries and intellectual property, works with and guides industry partners and boosts the acceleration of startups. This unit connects NC State’s research community to industry and startups by strategically evaluating, protecting and licensing technology.

National Security and Special Research Initiatives
National Security and Special Research Initiatives leads the National Laboratories Initiative, the Laboratory for Analytical Sciences (LAS) and the IBM Quantum Hub. This team is also charged with strategic research development around national defense and security initiatives.