

Office of Sponsored Research

Maurice Mills, Ph.D., Director
Office: 114 Agricultural Research and Extension Complex
(615) 963-7631

The Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) provides leadership, information and services to encourage faculty, research associates, adjunct professors, post doctoral fellows, and staff to engage in research and creative activity. The University receives awards from federal agencies and private foundations for research, training and technical assistance. OSR seeks to provide the best environment for study and research through a creative association of faculty and students as a community of scholars in expanding the boundaries of science, education, and technology. It serves as a liaison between funding agencies, principal investigators (PIs) and administrative units of the University. The OSR staff provides the following services:

- Locates potential funding sources
- Coordinates compliance on human subjects, animal care, and safety involving chemical and biological hazards with university, state and federal regulations
- Coordinates research partnerships, collaborations and cooperative agreements
- Guides faculty and staff through the grant application process
- Routes proposals through proper administrative channels for approvals and endorsements
- Maintains university award files
- Assists in matters relating to patents, copyrights and publication agreements
- Maintains application kits, source materials, bulletins, announcements and guidelines
- Disseminates announcements and information through the OSR WEB site at www.tnstate.edu/osr/ on availability and deadlines of external funding sources
- Maintains files on time and effort certifications of PIs
- Coordinates the TSU RISE (Research, Initiation, Supplement and Enhancement) Incentive Program
- Tracks equipment purchased under federal grants and contracts

Strengthening TSU's research infrastructure is a major priority of OSR. The level of creative thinking and the compilation of sponsored research projects are reflections of the competitive grantsmanship of the faculty and staff at TSU. The University displays a broad spectrum of sponsored research programs including: basic and applied research, along with product and service deliverables. The research programs range from single PI projects at the local level to major international team collaborative. Paramount among these activities are the Centers of Excellence, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program (CARP), Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions Neuroscience Center, Center for Neural Engineering, and the Center for Health Research. Increasing TSU's capacity to conduct research at the leading edge level, while strengthening its instructional programs and expanding its research infrastructure, is a major on-going goal of the University. The long-range goals of sponsored research with special relevance to this priority are to:

- Increase the capacity of TSU to conduct scientific and technological research and promote creative activity in education,
- Strengthen the Institution's research infrastructure to improve the health status of the United States and the State of Tennessee through enhanced biomedical and biobehavioral research, and
- Improve the quality of education for all TSU students through their meaningful participation in research and special projects.

Tennessee State University conducts research in computer modeling and simulation, biomedical applications of signal processing, hazardous waste management, neural networks, robotics and machine vision, AI/expert systems, fuzzy logic, stress analysis, software engineering, microcircuit packaging and material processing, heat transfer, transportation planning and modeling, and hydraulics.

The University also conducts research in large-scale control and distributed computing systems under stochastic structural perturbations, and light scattering of cylindrically shaped objects from the ocean. On-going research programs in photocatalytic dissociation of water, topology, biostatistics, harmonic analysis, organic synthesis, theoretical chemistry, drug binding to DNA, polymer chemistry, neuroscience, plant genetics, radiation effects on mammalian cells, gene expression, biofeedback, molecular biology, nutrition, liquid crystals, economics, identification of new germ plasm, plant protection and production, and animal physiology are well established research areas at the University.

New advances in research on family violence, statistical AIDS research and computational epidemiology, basic skills research in science education, and international affairs are currently being made. TSU in addition, provides creativity in the arts, foreign languages, journalism, public policy, and multicultural education.