

# WSSU receives \$600,000 Mellon Foundation grant for humanities

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) a \$600,000 grant to strengthen its programs in the humanities. WSSU is one of the few public HBCUs – and one of only five University of North Carolina System institutions – to receive a grant over the Mellon Foundation's 50-year history.

The three-year grant will provide the infrastructure to support faculty development and curriculum redesign for courses in art and visual studies, English, history, and music.

"We are thrilled that the Mellon Foundation recog-

comes and introduce high-impact practices such as undergraduate scholarship, internships and creative endeavors.

Graham said WSSU will serve as a model for other minority-serving institutions, with faculty sharing what they've learned through presentations and publications.

The redesign also aims to:

- Develop strong and relevant programs that attract faculty who are scholars in their fields.
- Increase the number of WSSU students who major in humanities.
- Develop a sustainable faculty leadership structure that supports a "teacher-scholar model" that brings curiosity and discovery into the classroom.
- Create support structures to increase

tional humanities courses in philosophy, world languages and African American culture also will be engaged as part of the curriculum redesign.

WSSU has had recent success instituting curriculum reform in existing courses. In 2017, through a grant from the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), faculty began infusing an undergraduate research experience into its introductory biological science and chemistry courses.

This is WSSU's first Mellon Foundation grant. The university becomes the first public North Carolina-based historically black college and university (HBCU) to receive a prestigious Mellon Foundation grant in more than 40 years. The announcement comes just three months after WSSU reported a record \$2.3 million in new

"We are honored to be among the few schools to receive a significant award from an organization as prestigious as the Mellon Foundation."

-Elwood L. Robinson-  
WSSU chancellor

nizes the incredible work being done here at WSSU and the potential for us to deliver transformative change," said WSSU Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson. "We are honored to be among the few schools to receive a significant award from an organization as prestigious as the Mellon Foundation."

Over the next three years, WSSU faculty will restructure at least 54 humanities courses – from introductory courses to the senior capstone course – to support student success.

"Our strategic plan calls for a high-touch approach to bridge the gaps between students and their abilities to engage their education," said Anthony Graham, provost and chief academic officer. "This grant will provide us with the resources to introduce these equitable practices throughout our humanities offerings. Research has found that this high-impact approach fosters student success and ensures that students obtain the essential skills they need to thrive in an ever-changing economy."

The redesigned curriculum will focus on learning out-

the number of students who pursue graduate studies in the humanities.

"The generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will reach beyond the College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education (CASBE)," said Darryl Scriven, CASBE dean. "It will elevate the level of humanities scholarship campus wide for both students and faculty."

According to the proposal, three cross-disciplinary faculty learning communities (FTC) will be created to redesign courses based on established best practices. The project will be overseen by a leadership team consisting of administrators from the Provost's Office, the Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction (CITI), CASBE Dean's Office, and Institutional Assessment and Research; and a faculty member in humanities.

The curriculum redesign will begin in the summer with the first of three faculty institutes and nine faculty members. Faculty will receive a stipend for participating in the institutes.

According to the proposal, faculty teaching founda-

national Science Foundation (NSF) research grants.

WSSU ranks no. 9 in the nation on CollegeNET's Social Mobility Index (SMI), which evaluates colleges and universities on how well they enroll students from low-income backgrounds and graduate them into promising careers.



**WINSTON-SALEM**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## MLK DAY 2019

19th Annual

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  
KEYNOTE SPEECH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

**ANGELA RYE**

CNN Political Commentator and  
NPR Political Analyst

ON COMMON GROUND:

*Embracing Our Voices*

**January 21**

**7 p.m.**

**K.R. Williams Auditorium**

on the campus of Winston-Salem State University

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY



WINSTON-SALEM  
STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information, 336-750-3350

## UPCOMING WSSU ATHLETICS



AT THE C.E. GAINES CENTER

**WSSU BASKETBALL**

**VS. SHAW (PINK GAME)**

Jan. 23 @ 5:30 p.m. Women's  
7:30 p.m. Men's

**WSSU BASKETBALL VS.**

**LIVINGSTONE**

Feb. 2 @ 2 p.m. Women's  
4 p.m. Men's

**WSSU TRACK & FIELD**

Jan. 19 & 20 @ 10 a.m.

Wake Forest Invitational  
Winston-Salem, NC

Get Your  
Tickets!

February 26 to  
March 2  
Charlotte, NC

**CIAA TICKETS:**  
[www.wssu.edu/tickets](http://www.wssu.edu/tickets)

## WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER.

Attend a virtual information session to learn more about  
WSSU's graduate programs in nursing.

**6-7 P.M. | WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23, 2019**  
[www.wssu.edu/msn](http://www.wssu.edu/msn)



**WINSTON-SALEM**  
STATE UNIVERSITY