



Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to share that we are awarded an NSF S-STEM grant for 5 years totaling a **Million dollars** in support of Mathematics and Computer Science scholars through financial support and culturally responsive mentoring. I have great hopes that this highly competitive grant will be transformative!

This project will contribute to the national need for well-educated scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technicians by supporting the retention and graduation of high-achieving, low-income students with demonstrated financial need at WPU. The project will: a) enroll three cohorts of low-income, academically talented students as WPU's Mathematics and Computer Science (MaCS) scholars and support them with scholarships, b) improve year-over-year retention rates for MaCS Scholars who are first-time, full-time, first-year or transfer students, c) improve graduation rates for all MaCS Scholars, and d) perform a research study that investigates the relationship between college retention for low-income students and strength-based, culturally responsive mentoring. The proposed project will also refine the recruitment pipeline of females into the target STEM majors.

The Team:

- **Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. J. Champanerkar**, Professor of Mathematics
- **Co-PI Dr. P. von Dohlen**, Professor of Mathematics
- **Co-PI Dr. C. Ku**, Professor of Computer Science
- **Co-PI Dr. W. Liu**, Assistant Professor of Computer Science.
- **Co-PI Dr. D. Hill**, Chairperson of the Department of Community and Social Justice Studies and Professor of Teacher Education
- **Dr. V. Sharma**, Dean, College of Science and Health, will serve as the leadership team's STEM administrator.

The MaCS Scholars program will help WPU meet the measurable enrollment, retention, and graduation goals identified in the College's strategic plan.

I applaud all our colleagues for their hard work, in particular, Jyoti and Paul for working diligently since 2018 on this proposal. Please join me in congratulating our colleagues and we will celebrate in person when circumstances allow us.

Next week we will be welcoming a new academic year and I wish you all the very best during these trying times.

Be well and safe,

Venkat Sharma

Dean and Professor of Biology

From the desk of Dean

Office of the Dean | 973.720.2194 | COSHdean@wpunj.edu

WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY