Kathy Cataneo: A Legacy for Research

The UNH community is invited to an online retirement celebration for Kathy Cataneo, Friday, Oct. 9, 3 – 5pm on Zoom (passcode: 536912). More information is here.

When director of research development Kathy Cataneo retires in mid-October, she’ll leave a long legacy of advancing UNH research — and a university vastly changed from the one she started at.

Arriving at UNH as assistant registrar in 1975, Kathy worked for seven chief research officers and eight UNH presidents through her remarkable 45-year career here. When she became assistant director of research in 1982, the dollar value of awards UNH received that year was $8.4 million. “In FY20, UNH recorded its largest award volume at $129.8 million,” she says, adding that UNH has also gained R1 Carnegie Classification status.

Her ascent from the basement of T Hall to her most recent top-floor office there took Kathy through many
positions in support of UNH’s research enterprise. She was the founding director of the office of research development, and it was in this role, coaching faculty through the proposal process, that she found great fulfillment. “I get particularly excited when UNH faculty win an NSF, Department of Energy or NIH CAREER award because I invested myself heavily in programming to support those wins,” she says.

“In our brief time together, Kathy has been an incredible resource to me,” says Marian McCord, senior vice provost for research, economic engagement and outreach. “I’m happy for her, but I’m sorry I won’t have the opportunity to learn from her and tap into her rich historical perspective on the research office at UNH.”

“Kathy selflessly served the university and all the other vice provosts/vice presidents of research,” says professor of education Jan Nisbet, who served as senior vice provost for research from 2009 – 2019. “She knew how to support both the novices and the senior faculty tackling complicated multi-institutional proposals. I am sure we could not have reached Carnegie R1 status without her.” (Read more of Jan’s reflections on her long professional relationship with Kathy.)

Kathy’s dedication to and expertise in research development extends beyond UNH. She’s been active in the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP), where she founded the New England chapter, served as a board member and led the organization to grow to 1,000 members. She received the organization’s highest service award earlier this year and was recently named to the inaugural class of NORDP Fellows.

If Kathy’s career has been laser-focused on helping researchers find funding success, her retirement plans are expansive. She will set up a woodworking and furniture refinishing shop in her garage, reviving a long-standing passion. Bike touring with her husband, teaching piano to beginner students and singing in a chorus at Carnegie Hall (when super-spreading risks abate) are also on her list, and she hopes to keep her hand in research development through NORDP and possible consulting. She says her goals have their limits, though: “I do not plan to take up sky-diving nor will I seek a pilot’s license.”

UNH IRB to Close for Two Weeks

To facilitate implementation of Cayuse, UNH’s new comprehensive grants management and research compliance cloud-based software, the IRB office will be closed from Monday, November 2 through Friday, November 13, 2020. Information about the closure, the possible implications for researchers’ current studies approved by the IRB, and the Cayuse IRB training schedule is available here. With Cayuse IRB, researchers will be able to streamline IRB submissions and have online access to their IRB protocol records.

Office Hours

The operations team of the Office of Research, Economic Engagement and Outreach will be available to answer questions or get acquainted during Zoom office hours in the coming months:
Environmental Health & Safety
Monday, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 11a.m.-12p.m.
https://unh.zoom.us/j/97032282796
COVID Funding Opportunities and Resources

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities, Research Priorities, and Resources and the Quick Guide - Resources Supporting COVID-19 Research are still being updated as new opportunities and resources become available.

Upcoming Deadlines

Deadlines are approaching for two ongoing internal preproposal competitions:

FY2021 NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) NEW PROPOSALS and RESUBMISSIONS
Deadline: Oct. 14, 5 p.m.

National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Program 2021
Deadline: Oct. 16, 5 p.m.

**New England National Lab Day Webinar Series**

UNH, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories, will host four virtual workshops in fall 2020 and winter 2021. UNH researchers can join representatives from various DOE national labs along with researchers, officials and industry leaders from around the region to share insights for accessing DOE’s world-class scientific facilities and partnering to address society’s most pressing energy, environmental and national security challenges. Registration is open for the first webinar, on Transformative Manufacturing on Oct. 15.

**Spark Distribution**

After a six-month delay due to COVID-19, copies of the 2020 issue of SPARK, UNH's annual research review, are being distributed around campus and beyond. All faculty will receive hard copies at their UNH offices, but because so many staff are working remotely, we will not be sending hard copies to staff as we have in the past. Contact Beth Potier with questions or to have a copy mailed to your home address.

**Good News**

Harish Vashisth, associate professor of chemical engineering, has received a prestigious NIH MIRA award. A new CARES Act grant, led by UNH health and human services librarian Eugenia Opuda, will expand the open and interactive online empathy training module include its target audience of library and museum leaders and workers across the nation. UNH has received sustainability accolades from The Princeton Review and the Sierra Club. Please send research news — high-impact results, new grants, awards and more — to Beth Potier.