

Report from the Vice President for Research - September 2019

Dear Colleagues -

Welcome to the new academic year! Whether you're a new member of our SLU Research community or you've been at the university for decades, it is truly an exciting time for research at Saint Louis University. I'm excited to see what more we will accomplish together this year.

I'd also like to welcome you to our new SLU Research Weekly Update. It is my hope that these updates will give you a glimpse into the many outstanding things happening in our research community. During the first week of every month, I will be sharing a detailed report with the community here. This is the first of these reports.

The start of a new academic year is an opportune time to reflect on our successes in growing SLU into a preeminent Jesuit research university. It has been very gratifying to see our momentum continuing to build, and we have much to celebrate.

Over the past months, our faculty received an impressive array of highly prestigious and competitive awards. For example, we received an astounding two new NSF Major Research Instrumentation grants, numerous new NIH RO1s, and scholarly fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study, Cornell University, and Harvard University. Five of our faculty entrepreneurs were elected as senior members in the National Academy of Inventors. And our annual research expenditures are growing as well – almost 9% in the past year, and over 16% since 2016.

[The Research Institute](#) enabled departments to recruit [the first class of Research Institute Fellows](#), a group of seven exceptional researchers in fields as diverse as computer science, occupational therapy, education policy, and chemistry.

As you know, this wonderful work has been accelerated by [the creation of the SLU Research Institute](#). Last week marked one year since Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield gave their historic \$50 million gift to found the Research Institute. This first year has been extraordinary, and we're just getting started.

Finally, earlier this year we launched a joint initiative with Washington University called [COLLAB](#), a new space for research, teaching, and innovation located in the heart of Cortex. I hope this space will inspire faculty and students alike to connect and collaborate with each other, with our Wash U colleagues, and with the vibrant industry and entrepreneurial ecosystem that is Cortex. I encourage you to go see the space and think creatively about how you might make use of it. Please contact Anne Miller, Director of Research Commercialization, anne.miller@slu.edu, to arrange a tour.

Thank you for your impactful work and I wish you the best as you begin this new year.

In gratitude,

Ken

Kenneth A. Olliff
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