FY 2016 Research Highlights

FY 2016 marks the eighth time in the past decade that Virginia Commonwealth University has achieved record levels of external funding. VCU's research excellence has been buoyed by a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches, the strength of our faculty, and the University's investment in our research infrastructure.

- Combined awards for sponsored programs and gifts directed towards research activity totaled more than $271 million in FY 2016, an all-time institutional high. Even with the economic downturn of 2008, VCU’s strong research environment did not diminish, but grew by more than 20%.

- VCU is ranked as a top 100 research university based on federal research expenditures by the National Science Foundation (NSF). We were ranked 97th nationally in total R&D expenditures and 81st in federal R&D expenditures in FY 2015, the latest year that data were available from NSF.

- The Carnegie Foundation has designated VCU as a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity, the highest ranking afforded by the Foundation. Carnegie also placed the University in the status category of Community Engaged, making it among just 28 public research institutions that enjoy both accolades.

- VCU has 33 research-related institutes and centers, including the highly-regarded Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics. VCU is also among a limited group of universities holding both a National Institutes of Health (NIH) core grant to support its National Cancer Center (the Massey Cancer Center) and a NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award to support pan-university translational research through VCU's Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research.

- The majority of VCU’s extramural funding in FY 2016 came from federal sources ($144 million), including the National Institutes of Health ($86 million), the Department of Defense ($7.1 million), Department of Education ($4.6 million), the National Science Foundation ($4 million). Private awards to VCU totaled more than $65 million.

- VCU’s research excellence is buoyed by a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches, with particular strengths in the areas of neuroscience; cancer; substance abuse and addiction, the human microbiome; nanoscience, and pharmaceutical engineering.

- VCU holds four active NIH-funded research training grants aimed at promoting the careers of scientists from underrepresented groups.

- In FY 2016 VCU researchers filed 157 patents, with 13 issued. VCU also received $2.3 million in licensing revenues. This is due to VCU's Innovation Gateway, which builds strategic industry collaborations and regional partnerships, and supports entrepreneurship and new venture creation.