



College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) Research

ReDAC Meeting
December 4, 2019



VCU

By the Numbers

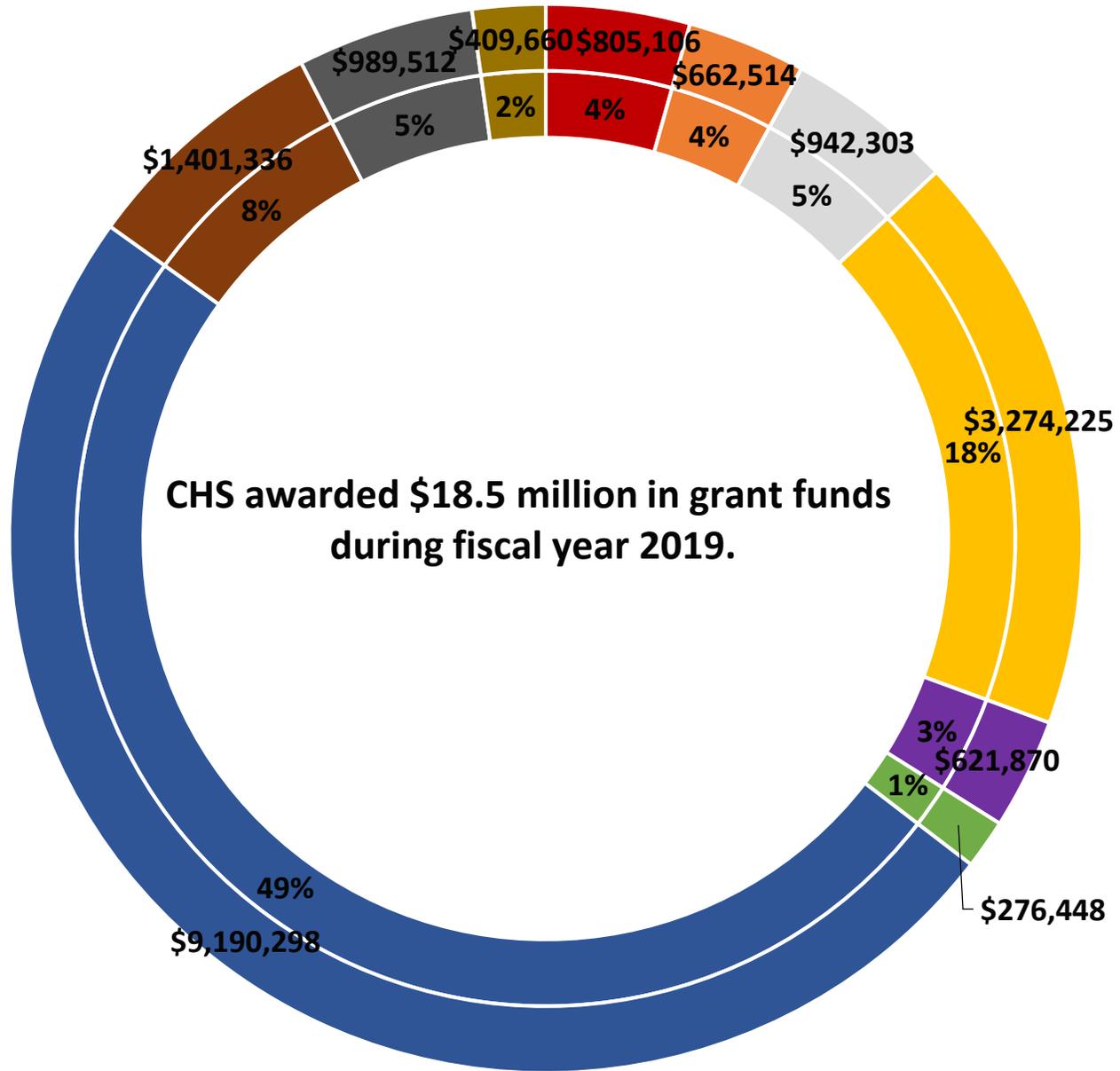
- ◆ 13,241 undergraduate students & 898 graduate students
- ◆ 2,581 undergraduate and 165 graduate degrees last year
- ◆ 450 fulltime faculty (260 TT)
- ◆ 50% of total credit hrs and 60% of undergraduate hrs at VCU
- ◆ Two schools, 15 departments, and 3 additional degree granting Largest majors = Biology (2,015), KHS (1,467), Psychology (1,511), Robertson School (1,005)
- ◆ 42% of tuition revenue & 3.5 million additional adjustment
- ◆ 6 year graduation rate 66.4% (VA state average = 67.9%)
- ◆ Retention rate 83.5% (VA state average 81%)

Scholarship 18/19

- ◆ 695 peer reviewed publications
- ◆ 33 books
- ◆ 83 book chapters
- ◆ 61 publications of other editorial scholarship
- ◆ 202 external grants submitted
- ◆ 3156 undergraduate students enrolled in experiential learning including 647 in research experiences

FY 19 CHS Grant Awards: Total \$ by Sponsor and % of Total (All Active Awards)

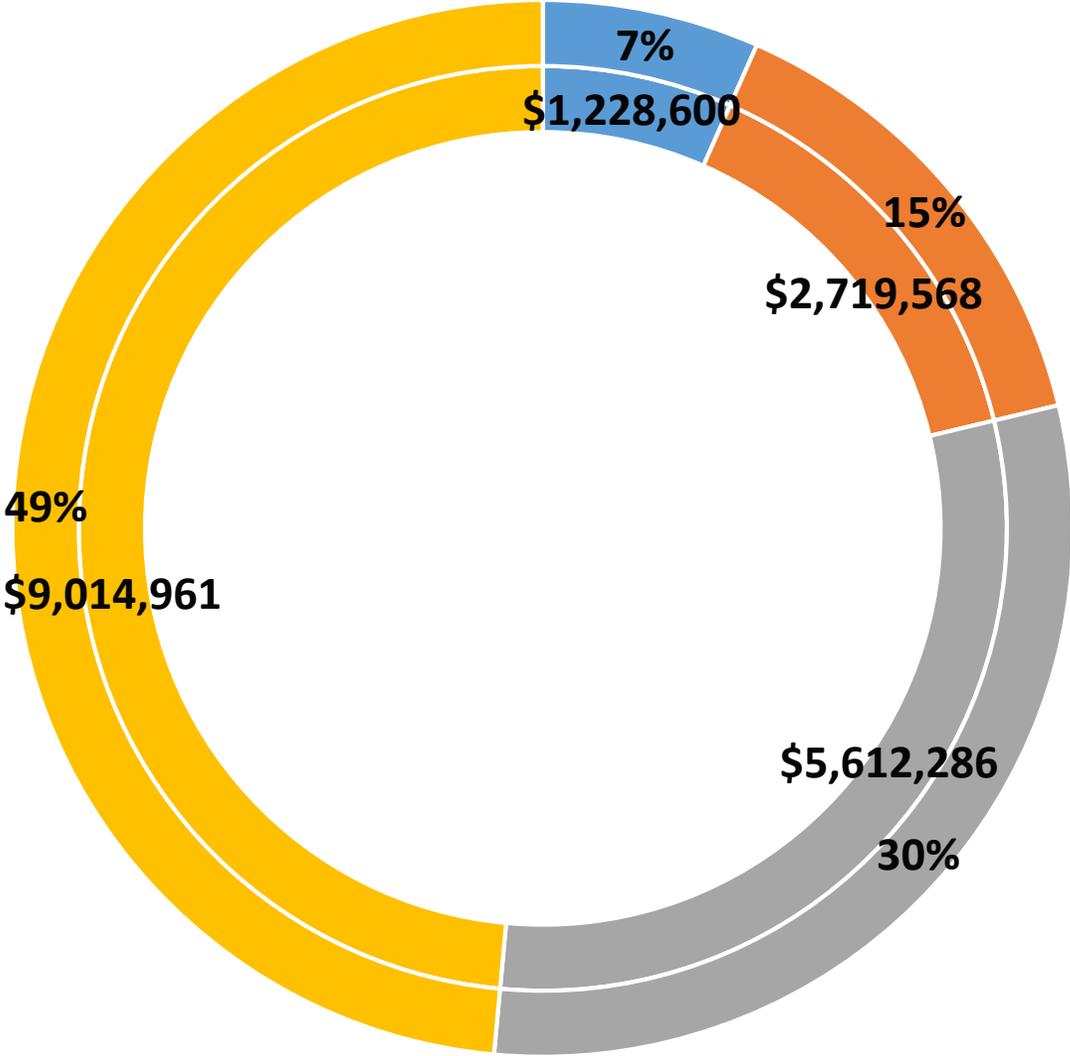
Up from 17.5 million in FY18



- Department of Defense
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Justice
- Department of State
- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation
- Non-Profit Organization
- VA State Agency

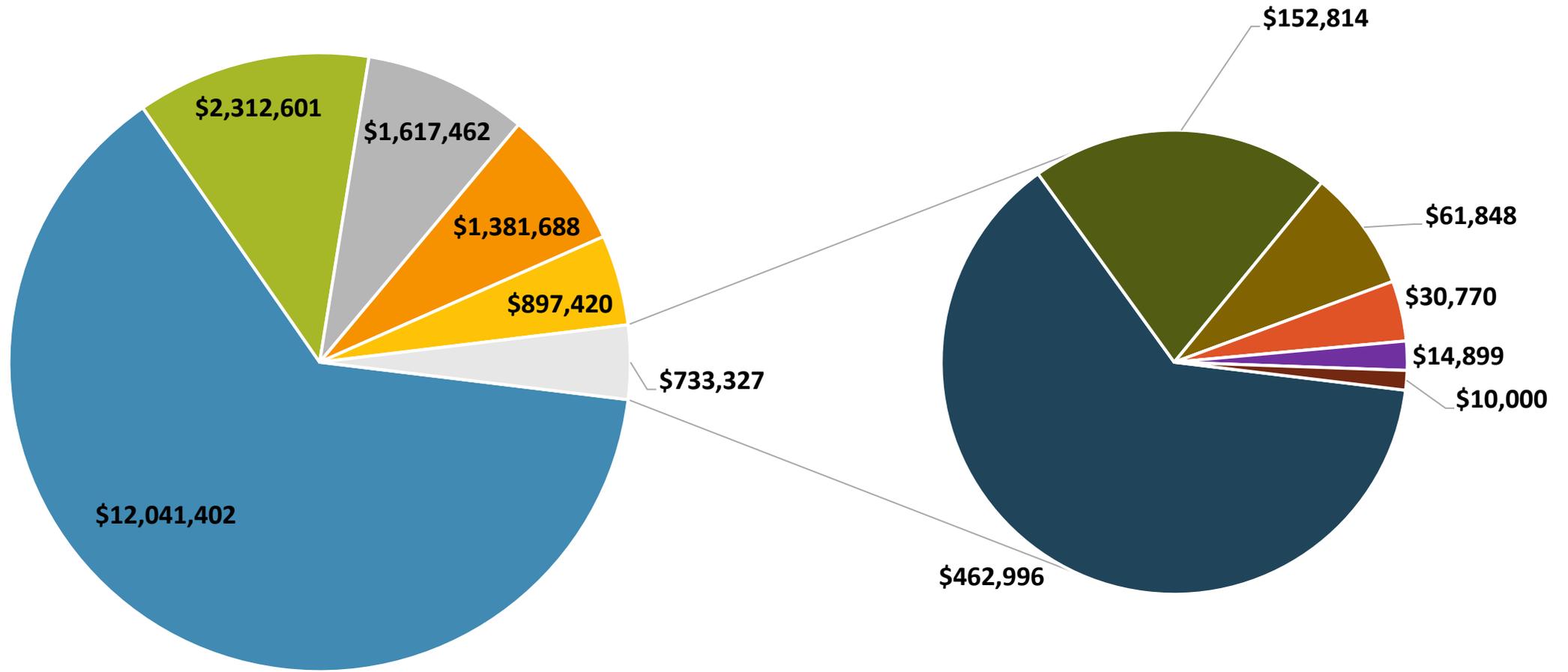
**FY 19 CHS % of all Funding by Indirect Rate
(w/ \$ amount)**

■ 0% ■ 1 to 25% ■ 26 to 54% ■ 55%



\$18.5 million total, average indirect rate of 29.51%

CHS FY19 Grant Awards by Department



- Psychology
- Physics
- Forensic Science
- Statistical Sciences and Operations Research
- Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
- History

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Kinesiology
- School of World Studies
- Robertson School

CHS Centers and Institutes

- Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development and Violence Prevention
- Center for Cultural Experiences and Prevention
- Center for the Study of Tobacco Products
- College Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute
- Humanities Research Center



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Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

- **Director:** Al Farrell; established in 2005
- Faculty from CHS, Social Work, Education, School of Medicine
- Mission: To develop and evaluate evidence-based practices to empower youth, schools, families, and communities to promote the healthy, safe, and positive development.
 - Particular expertise in schools, the period of adolescence, protective factors, longitudinal methods and analyses, disruptive behavior problems
- One of five National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention Funded by CDC
 - CDC Center funding continuously for over 15 years; current CDC Center PI is Terri Sullivan
 - *Healthy Communities for Youth Project*: Implementing and evaluating community-based interventions to reduce youth violence in public housing communities in Richmond.
- Ongoing collection and reporting of data on community-level violence-related indicators.
 - Maps geographically display youth violence rates and provide a visual representation of the spatial relationship between violence, neighborhoods, and zip codes (e.g., ambulance pick-ups and emergency department visits for intentional injury and homicide, assault and sexual assault data).



Center for Cultural Experiences and Prevention

- **Director:** Faye Belgrave; founded in 2001
- Faculty representing CHS, Wilder School, Social Work, School of Medicine, Allied Health, and Community, consisting primarily of faculty of color and women
- Reducing health disparities and increasing health equities, among African Americans in particular
- Main areas of research focus include: HIV/AIDS prevention, prevention of risky sexual behaviors and drug use, addressing cultural, psychosocial and behavioral contributions to health outcomes (e.g., cancer, cardiovascular disease), and providing training in conducting culturally informed and community-engaged research
- Dr. Belgrave has been consistently funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to evaluate HIV and substance abuse prevention among African Americans
 - Current project funded by SAMSHA is titled *“Building Capacity for Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention among African American Young Adults”*
- Nao Hagiwara also in center focuses on the role of race and bias in influencing health outcomes.
 - Current project is R01 from NIDDK titled *“Uveiling the role of physician implicit bias and communication behaviors in dissatisfaction, mistrust, and nonadherence in Black patients with Type 2 diabetes.”*

Center for the Study of Tobacco Products (CSTP)

- **Director** = Thomas Eissenberg
- FDA/NIH (NIDA) – CSTP 1.0 (9/2013-8/2018): \$18.3M + \$1.1M supplements.
Mission: To inform tobacco regulation by demonstrating a transdisciplinary model for evaluating novel tobacco products that uses analytic lab, human lab, randomized control trial, and quantitative and qualitative methods.
- FDA/NIH (NIDA) – CSTP 2.0 (9/2018-8/2023): \$19.7M.
Mission: To provide FDA with a suite of laboratory tools that can be used to predict the effects of a potential regulation prior to its implementation and thus inform subsequent regulation development.
- Expertise in vape/electronic cigarettes, user behavior, ECIG flavors and nicotine concentrations, and abuse potential
- Transdisciplinary team:
 - Chemists, Engineers, Physicians, Psychologists, Public health science, etc.
 - WHO Collaborating Centre (Virginia's only).

College Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute

Mission: (1) to grow collaborative and interdisciplinary research in the area of behavioral and emotional health, and (2) to apply this knowledge to support student success and community wellbeing, through innovative coursework, programming, and collaborations



Director: Danielle Dick

Undergraduate Research Director: Amy Adkins

- Substance use and emotional health outcomes in college students
 - **Spit for Science Research Project/Registry:** university-wide research initiative, only one of its kind with >12,000 students enrolled, 5 cohorts, ~70% participation, longitudinal surveys, DNA
 - 76 faculty, 65 trainees from 27 departments and 7 schools working with the data
- Focus on how genetic and environmental influences contribute to the development of patterns of substance use and related behaviors
- Longitudinal behavior genetics/twin studies
- Integrating basic research knowledge into prevention/intervention programs
- Current NIH projects include – *Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism and Gene-Environment Interplay in the Development of Alcohol Use Problems*

Humanities Research Center (HRC)

- ◆ Interim Director – Brook Newman – History
- ◆ Associate Director – Vivian Dzokoto – African American Studies
- ◆ Speaker series
 - Race, discrimination, LGBTQ+, e.g., The N-Word: History, Race and the College Classroom – Elizabeth Pryor, Smith College
 - Bob Woodward, Billie Jean King, Pulitzer Prize winners
- ◆ Meet VCU's Authors collaboration with public libraries
- ◆ Residential fellowships
- ◆ Research grants – e.g., travel to archives
- ◆ Workshops – e.g., writing an op-ed, writing the first book

Nurturing a culture of research excellence - The VCU Pipeline



- 20 UROP awards to CHS students (~35% working with MCV campus mentors)
- Baldacci Scholars Program – \$2 Mil gift to support experiential learning (study abroad)
- Molecular Lab Skills Bootcamp (OVPR, Biology, CoHD) - ~220 students since 2010
- VCU Bridges to Baccalaureate R25 - 2013-2023 – Community college summer research experiences and institution transfer support (Kester and Golding) – Sarah Golding (Biology) is also on IMSD
- VCU GREAT Guided Research Experiences & Applied Training - 2019-2023 - NIH-NIAAA, 8 undergraduate students per year summer program (Danielle Dick and Amy Adkins)
- VCU NSF-REU Practices and Perspectives in Nanoscience and Chemical Biology - 2019-2021- 8 undergraduate students per year from national pool (Indika Arachchige and Suzanne Ruder)

Humanities and Social Sciences

- Tressie McMillian Cottom (Sociology) – “top 200 scholars in U.S. who had biggest influence on educational practice and policy”. Featured on NPR, Atlantic, New York Times, Daily Show.
 - Books – *Thick: And Other Essays* and *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*
- Kathleen Graber (English) – contemporary poet who has won numerous prestigious awards, including Guggenheim Fellowship and National Endowment for Arts Fellowship. American Academy of Poets calls her - “one of the two or three finest poets working in America today.”
 - Princeton University Press – *The River Twice* (2019) and *the Eternal City* (2010)
- Gregory Smithers (History) – histories of racial groups that have been displaced or enslaved, particularly Cherokee people. Published 5 single author books, 2 co-author books, 16 peer-reviewed publications. Books have won awards such as the Gold Medal in Multicultural Non-Fiction and he has published in the New York Times, the Atlantic, and Politico.

Opportunities and Strengths

- ◆ Biology – 3 hires starting this year with K or Kangaroo funding and recent NSF Career Award (Prosser)
- ◆ Forensic Science – awarded 2.28 million across 4 grants this past NIJ cycle. Start in January. Represents 10% of all funds awarded by NIJ this year. More funding than any other school in U.S.
- ◆ KHS – 4 hires in last two years – expertise in cardiovascular functioning – three with American Heart Association grants
- ◆ Areas of strength - race/ethnicity, discrimination, culture, sleep, cardiovascular function, integrated care, sustainable energy and global change, LGBTQIA+, & community- and school-based

Challenges

- ◆ Infrastructure/staff
- ◆ FACR model
- ◆ Balance of research and teaching mission
- ◆ Undergraduate enrollment
- ◆ Undergraduate involvement in research
- ◆ Graduate student funding
- ◆ Tuition dollar return
- ◆ Fostering cross-disciplinary research

Questions?