



Grants Development Department Annual Report 2024-2025

Epi Services

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Annual Report Overview

The Grants Development Department at St. Petersburg College is part of the Institutional Advancement division, overseen by Vice President and Executive Director of the Foundation Jesse Turtle. The department facilitates the acquisition and management of grants from federal, state, local, and private sources.

The department advances SPC's strategic pillars - **Better Jobs, Better Lives and Better Communities** through innovation and data-driven approaches to:

- **Deliver Excellence** in Teaching & Learning to drive student achievement in programs of high value.
- **Drive Economic Advancement** to ensure SPC graduates secure high-wage and in-demand jobs.
- **Strengthen Our Community** to engage SPC students and employees as champions for community change.



FUNDERS FY24-25

Federal

- National Science Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Economic Development Administration

State

- Florida Department of Commerce
- Florida Department of Education
- Florida Education Fund
- University of Central Florida Research Foundation
- Veteran's Florida

Local

- City of St. Petersburg
- City of Clearwater
- Juvenile Welfare Board
- Pinellas County Tourist Development Council

Foundation

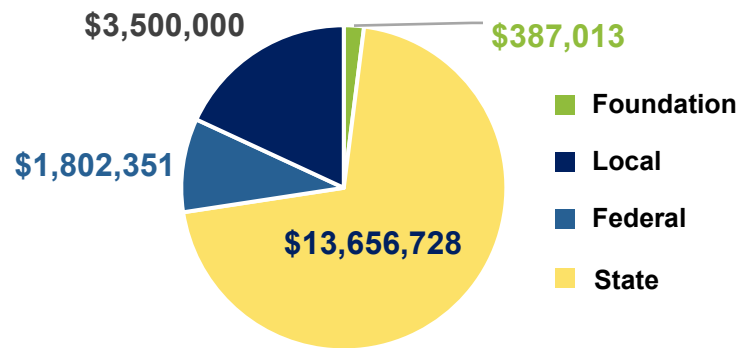
- AARP
- Bank of America
- Duke Energy Foundation
- Helios Foundation
- National Association of Community College Entrepreneurs
- SparkForce
- VentureWell

SPC New Grant Portfolio Overview FY 24-25 (21)

City of St. Petersburg - Palladium	Department of Labor - AARP
Duke Energy- Electrical Line worker program (2)	Florida Department of Commerce - Florida Job Growth
Florida Department of Education - Workforce Capitalization Grant (CAP)	Florida Department of Education - College Reach –Out Program (CROP)
Florida Department of Education - Open Door	Florida Department of Education - Linking Industry to Nursing Education
Florida Department of Education Perkins - Equipment Upgrades	Florida Department of Education - PIPELINE Nursing
Florida Department of Education - PCOG-GYO Teacher Apprenticeship	Florida Education Fund - Center of Excellence
Health Services Continuation grant Florida Department of Education - Perkins	Juvenile Welfare Board
National Science Foundation - LSAMP	Pinellas County Tourist Development Council
SparkForce	US Department of Education - History and Civics Program
US Department of Health and Human Services- Substance Abuse and Mental	Veteran's Florida - Entrepreneurship

New Grant Awards

- Win Rate: 68%
- # of New Awards: 21
- # of New Grants Vetted: 97
- # of Grants Applied For: 33
- Total of New Funding: \$19,346,092



Total: \$19,346,092

Grant Management Overview



This year, **31 grants worth \$29,859,954** were managed by the post-award teams of grant management specialists, grants accountants, deans, faculty, coordinators and directors. Administrative accomplishments include pre- and post-award risk assessment rubric development in partnership with Grants Accounting; revision of the Grants Management Handbook to align with mandatory Federal OMB guidelines; and implementation of an internal monitoring and audit calendar accompanied by a streamlined template. Standardized templates for post-award deliverables and milestone tracking were also introduced to enhance operational efficiency and interdepartmental collaboration.

Strong internal controls not only reduce the risk of mismanagement and fraud but also position SPC as a reliable steward of grant funds increasing our competitiveness in a highly selective funding environment.

Grants Department Process Improvements



- ✓ Established pre-certification for NSF Principal and Co-Investigators process
- ✓ Developed Grants 102 Post Award Discovery Presentation
- ✓ Created new rubric tool for RFQ Committee Evaluation
- ✓ Designed new Grants Closeout Impact Statement
- ✓ Produced new Grant Onboarding Expectations Document to strengthen SPC policy awareness with Grants Accounting
- ✓ Updated Grant Management Handbook, Conflict of Interest Form, Pre and Post Risk Mitigation Templates with Grants Accounting
- ✓ Enhanced risk mitigation process developed with Grants Accounting
- ✓ Required Fraud, Waste and Abuse training of grants team
- ✓ Developed a new Internal Review Board (IRB) Checklist
- ✓ Tracked Grant-focused Professional Development (PD) for grants team



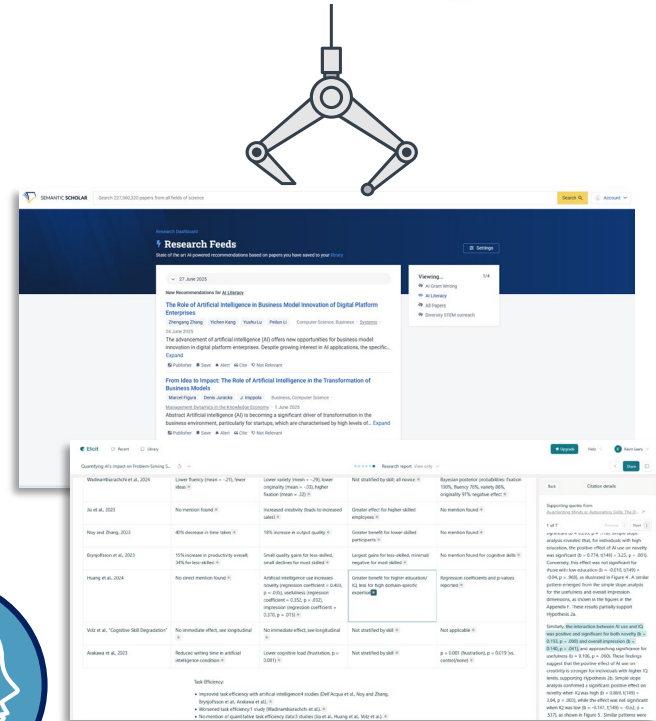
The Grant Team participated in 65+ individual PD trainings & webinars for a total of 120 hours in FY24-25.

Beyond ChatGPT

The Grants Department continues to use AI responsibly in its grant submissions and management. We now integrate AI into workflows including integration of an AI checklist for pre-award, post-award, and use AI tools: Microsoft Co-pilot, Perplexity.ai, Semantic Scholar and Elicit AI.

Some of our **key outputs and activities** include:

- AI topical grant submissions: *NSF AISL, FLDOCA Florida Job Growth, Johnson Controls Foundation, Gulf Research Program*
- Grant Writer GPA AI publication and AI Panelist at FCRD conference
- AI Professional Development training



Diversification of Portfolio

This year, we diversified our portfolio with 7 new funders/programs:

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CLEARWATER, FL**



- **US Department of Education** - History and Civics Academies
- **Florida Department of Education** - Pathways to Career Opportunities/Grow Your Own PCOG/GYO Teacher Apprenticeship
- **Florida Department of Education** - Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant (CAP)
- **Florida Department of Commerce** - Florida Job Growth (FJG)
- **AARP Department of Labor** - Workforce grant
- **Pinellas County Tourism Development Council (PCTD)** - Palladium Project
- **City of St. Petersburg** - Palladium Proposal

Grants Personnel and Indirect Recovery

Several new program managers/supervisors joined the team including Brenda Thompson, US Economic Development Administration Geospatial/AI grant; Dr. Lars Hafner, US Department of Education History and Civics grant; Dr. Heather Duncan, Florida Department of Education, Grow Your Own Teacher Apprenticeship grant; and Dr. Jean Lee, Nursing PIPELINE and LINE grants. Additionally, we welcomed Michael Brewster and Jose Rivera as the two project Subject Matter Expert faculty for the Florida Job Growth grant.



New Grants Department Personnel:

In 2025, the grants department welcomed new Grant Support Specialist – **Brittaney Hall Richards** to the department.

Indirect Cost Recovery Cost

\$590,593

Indirect cost recovery is reimbursement for overhead expenses that support grant projects such as administrative salaries, utilities and infrastructure.



52 Grant-Funded Personnel



Grow Your Own! Teacher Apprenticeship



The **Florida Department of Education Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant** awarded the college **\$322,524** to address teacher shortages by creating a robust and innovative pathway to the teaching profession within Florida's school districts.

Working with the Pinellas County school district, the College of Education created two new pathways: the Exceptional Student Education (K-12) Apprenticeship with Reading Endorsement and the Prekindergarten/Primary (age 3-grade 3) Apprenticeship with Reading Endorsement. There are 17 new apprenticeship students in the programs.



History and Civics Academies

Supported by the US Department of Education, the History and Civic Academy for Participation and Engaged Decision-making (H-CAPED) launched its Teacher Civic Academy at St. Petersburg City Hall on June 2. This program will include engaged, experiential and guided applied learning opportunities through state-wide events, conferences and resources. SPC's 3 collegiate high schools participate in the H-CAPED program.

The US Department of Education, History and Civics Academies grant supports the creation of Academies for teachers and high school students to deepen their understanding of American history and civics. This three-year grant was awarded \$677,351 and will serve 450 students by the end of the grant period.



Duke Energy Foundation

St. Petersburg College continues its rich partnership with **Duke Energy** in the implementation of SPC's workforce development Electrical Line worker program. With a concentrated focus on high value, job placement into good employment, the program supports **120 students** in achieving completion success with an average entry-level line worker earning \$48,220 after completing a 14-week Apprenticeship program. Students earn CDL Class A, OSHA 10, CPR, AED & First Aid, Bucket Truck Rescue and Pole Top Rescue certifications from the program.

This year, Duke Energy awarded SPC two grants totally \$100,000 and covered the cost of new safety equipment, tools, supplies, scholarships, rodeo competition attendance, marketing and outreach. The program includes a partnership with Utility Lines Construction Services (ULCS).



Renovating our Treasured Theater

The Palladium Theater is a historic performing arts venue located in downtown St. Petersburg, just blocks from the waterfront. Constructed in 1925 in the Romanesque Revival Style and listed on the National Register of Historic places, the venue consists of two main entertainment spaces.

Grants from the **Florida Department of Education Equipment Upgrade and Modernization initiative**, the **City of St. Petersburg**, and the **Pinellas County Tourism Development Council** (PCTD) have provided a state-of-the-art sound system and forthcoming renovations. Both Music Industry Recording Arts students and the public alike are enthusiastic about the planned renovations.

The renovation project will include:

- **Acoustic Improvements**
- **New Seating**
- **Improved Sightlines**
- **Improved Lighting**
- **Improved Balcony Seating**
- **New Pipe Organ**

Construction is projected to begin in July of 2026



New Midtown SMART Lab

The College received **\$7.2 million** in state funding—\$4 million from the **Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant** and \$3.2 million from the **Florida Job Growth grant fund** to advance workforce training and education at its Midtown Center. This investment will support short-term training programs in **semiconductor, mechatronics, automation and robotics technologies (SMART)**.

Additionally, the college will introduce a semiconductor manufacturing subplan within the 60-credit AS in Engineering Technology and establish a six course **Cleanroom Operator** program in the Manufacturing career cluster. These initiatives are designed to extend career pathways for the STEM-focused College High School at the SPC DTC into the Midtown Center.



Grant Titan Award 2024-2025 Awardees



- **November 2024 - Jess Sager**, Grant Associate of the Grants' Department
- **February 2025 - Fawzi Al Nassir**, Executive Director of Data Strategy and Analytics, Institutional Research & Effectiveness; and **Crystal Clisby**, Senior Accountant for Collegiate High Schools
- **May 2025 - Tamica Green**, Grant Project Manager for US Department of Education, TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) program



SPC Grants Development maintains relationships with Federal, State, and local agencies and organizations as grant collaborators, partners, and supporters:



Grant Student Success



18,290 participants directly served by our student and community impact focused grants.



782+ Mental Health First Aid Training completed.



2,640 graduates placed into internships and jobs through Bank of America grant.



1,527 students were impacted by our Clearwater Project GAIN through new STEM programming.



41 students have participated in our new Geospatial Drone AI program preparing them for the workforce.

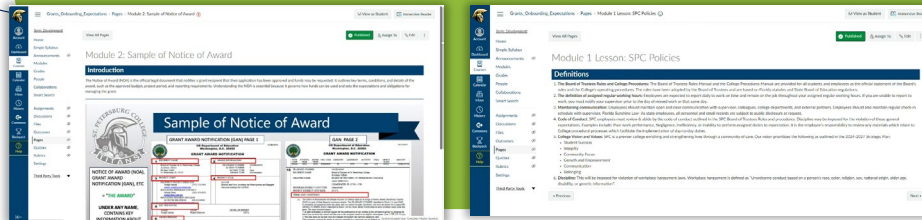


21 veterans have participated in our entrepreneur Program with ideas and plans for new businesses



Grants Onboarding Course

- The Grant's Department created an online Canvas course for onboarding support.
- Estimated length of course: 60 minutes
- Modules include: *Risk Management, Compliance, TRV, STER, NOA* & more!
- Need more onboarding support? contact your grant manager/supervisor or meet us during our virtual Open Office Hour, the last Wednesday of each month 2-3pm.
- Join us: [Join the Open Office Hour now](#)





Grants Development Staff

- **Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki:** Grants Executive Director
- **Kevin Leary:** Grant Writer
- **Jess Sager:** Grants Associate
- **Kristina Renaud:** Grants Management Specialist
- **Brittaney Hall Richards:** Grant Support Specialist



THANK YOU THANK YOU



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