

# Academic Affairs

## News & Reflections

### From the Provost's Desk

Colleagues:

The beginning of the fall semester is always my favorite time of year. There is a palpable excitement in the air, the campus is buzzing with activity, faculty and staff are preparing for the new academic year and our new and returning students are eager to continue their academic journeys.

I am delighted to be back as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and look forward to reconnecting with departments and units across campus during the coming year. The past 18 months, serving as your interim chancellor, has been an incredible learning experience, one that continues to inspire and humble me daily. Thank you, to all our faculty and staff, for your hard work during this period of transition – you are the reason WCU didn't miss a beat! We have so much to be proud of and so much to look forward to, as WCU continues to hit new milestones.

This academic year is especially exciting, as we welcome our new chancellor, Dr. Kelli R. Brown. I know you join me in sharing Chancellor Brown's energy and enthusiasm as we all embark together on the next amazing chapter of Western Carolina University. Welcome back, work hard, have fun and Go Cats!



# Provost on the Ground...

Staff Senate	July 18
Summer Institute for Administrative Support Professionals	July 25
Department Head's Workshop	August 7
New Faculty Orientation	August 8
New Graduate Student Orientation at Biltmore Park	August 13
New Graduate Student Social in Cullowhee	August 15
Department of Philosophy & Religion	August 21
Department of Anthropology & Sociology	August 28
Educational Outreach	August 30
Department of Human Services	August 30
Black Student Union	September 3
Levern Hamlin Allen Hall Dedication	September 5
Employee Appreciation Day	September 5
Freshman Honors Conference on Regional Engagement	September 7
School of Art and Design	September 9
Chancellor's List Event	September 10
Staff Senate	September 11
Department of World Languages	September 11
Conversation Event with Astronaut, Charlie Duke	September 11
Office of Student Transitions Advisory Board	September 12
CEAP Suite 201	September 13
COB Hospitality and Tourism Advisory Board	September 13

# 2019 Summer Institute for Administrative

The 6th annual Summer Institute for Administrative Support Professionals (SIASP) was facilitated by the Office of the Provost at the end of July, 2019. This year's event provided two full days of interactive sessions led by Western Carolina University's own incredibly talented staff and was attended by over 85 administrative support professionals from divisions across campus.



The goal of SIASP is to provide a variety of workshops, from myriad soft skills to training on the daily systems in which we work. Each summer, the institute repeats some offerings that are popular and in high demand, such as Banner 9 Basics, Student Banner, Chrome River, and Zoom. This is the first year we have offered Banner 9

Advanced, a workshop co-led by Banner experts in the budget office, providing a unique and in-depth experience. This session was very well received by staff, and will be offered at the institute each summer going forward.

This year's institute also offered new sessions on Recognizing and Assisting Distressed Individuals, Rape Aggression Defense Systems (RAD), Superstar Administrative Assistant, Events 101, Save Yourself – Have a System, Onboarding and Evaluating Student Employees, Employee Relations, and WCU Perks and Services.

We owe a very special thanks to the WCU staff that chose to time out of their busy schedules to provide these workshops to our participants: Robbin Brooks, Alison Joseph, Ann Green, Steve Marr, Jan Beagle, Tamrick Mull, Carrie Hachadurian, Chris Dahlquist, Nancy Brendell, Colby Deitz, Jonathan Agaton, Colton Brown, Aaron Plantenberg, Anita Hall, Leann Wheatley, Nancy Ford, Zach Phillips, Jacob Deal, Kellie Monteith, Steve Lillard, Jill Thompson, Bobby Hensley, Larry Hammer, Stacy MacGregor, Christy Ashe, Amber McKendrick, and Susan Fouts.

We also recognize Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for her initial and continual support, as well as participation, in the summer institute. The commitment of these individuals to their colleagues' professional growth and development is what makes WCU so special.



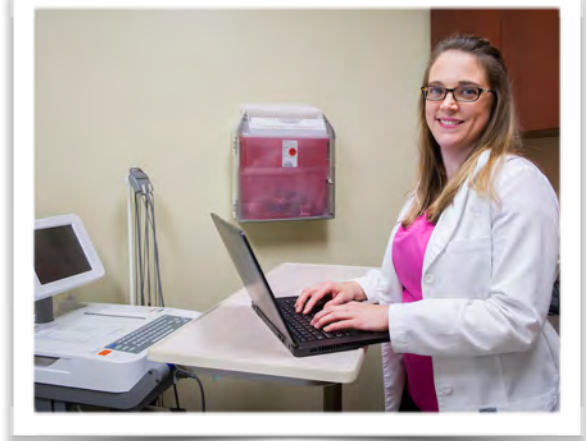
# Integrated Health Sciences Program Update

The Integrated Health Sciences program kicked off the inaugural year in August 2018. The degree has three concentrations (Health Management, Health & Wellness, Pre-professional). As of May 2019, 156 current students have declared IHS as their major.

## Breakdown of data at the end of spring 2019 includes:

- Seniors = 35; Juniors = 52; Sophomores = 58; Freshmen = 11
- Concentrations breakdown:
  - Health Management concentration = 48
  - Health & Wellness concentration = 26
  - Pre-professional concentration = 77
  - Undecided concentration = 5
- Honors students = 17
- Average cumulative GPA: 3.105
- Females = 116; Males = 40. NOTE – no other gender identification options are available at this time.
- Students are from 13 states; 129 students from North Carolina
- Multiracial = 6; International = 2; Black Not of Hispanic Origin = 16; Asian or Pacific Islander = 1; American Indian/Alaskan Native = 1; White, Not Hispanic = 124; Did not Disclose = 6

Currently 59 incoming freshmen/transfer students listed as IHS majors and these numbers are changing/growing weekly.



## Incoming students have selected the following concentrations:

- Health and Wellness: 10
- Health Management: 2
- Pre-Professional: 34
- Undecided concentration: 13

## Staffing/Hiring Updates related to IHS:

- Dr. Patrick Baron is the new Program Director for IHS.
- Dr. Kathleen Brennan wrapped up a successful hire for a fixed term faculty position to teach multiple sections for one of the key IHS core courses in the major: SOC 456: Medical Sociology.
- A faculty line for an IHS fixed term faculty position will be created to cover key IHS core courses and to identify key needs for academic advising.

Overall, we are on target with our proposed timelines of student enrollment and faculty positions.

# Updates from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs

*from the Chief Diversity Officer, Ricardo Nazario-Colon*

More than 110 programs at WCU utilized the diversity calendar on 25 Live – For more diversity-related training and events, check out the diversity calendar, which can be found in the sidebars of the Diversity at WCU webpages as well as on the Diversity SharePoint site. If you would like your events to display on the calendar, you can request the calendar as a resource when reserving rooms in 25Live. Please include a detailed description and an image if possible. Private events will not be accepted as this calendar is a resource for the public. If you have any questions, please contact us at [diversity@wcu.edu](mailto:diversity@wcu.edu).

Welcome to Maddie Stagnaro, Administrative Assistant to Arthur Salido and Ricardo Nazario-Colón. The Chief Diversity Officer participated in Eaton Corporation's Inclusion and Diversity Summit along with 14 other companies from the region. Additionally, Dr. Dana Patterson and Mrs. Tacquice Davis were workshop presenters, along with Ricardo, who delivered the keynote on pluralism, diversity and democracy at North Carolina Central University's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium.

The Chief Diversity Officer and Dr. Dana Patterson worked with the leadership team of the David O. Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts, discussing diversity, inclusion, equity and strategies around faculty and staff recruitment.

# State Health Plan Clear Pricing

Earlier this year, the North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees (“State Health Plan”) announced that it was working to establish its own health care provider network along with a new approach to how providers, such as doctors and hospitals, are reimbursed for covered medical services. The State Health Plan called this new approach the “Clear Pricing Project.” These changes are effective January 1, 2020.

On August 8, 2019, the State Health Plan provided an update concerning the “Clear Pricing Project.” In 2020 the State Health Plan network will consist of both the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Options Network (the network currently used by the State Health Plan) along with the new North Carolina State Health Plan Network. The two combined networks will include more than 68,000 providers. This means that participants will continue to have access to the provider network you use today through the State Health Plan, along with some new providers that were not previously part of the Blue Options Network. This latest development appears to relieve concerns about losing in-network coverage for State employees in 2020.

The University has a significant interest in ensuring that all of our employees have access to quality and cost-effective health care and are able to choose from as many health care providers as possible in our local communities. We are glad that there is now some resolution to the provider network.

In the coming weeks, we expect the State Health Plan to announce the dates for the open enrollment for the 2020 benefit year. We will continue to keep you updated about the enrollment period and any other benefit changes that may occur for the 2020 benefit year.

The State Health Plan continues to provide updates on the Clear Pricing Project on their web site, which you can visit at <https://www.shpnc.org/state-health-plan-clear-pricing-project>. Please contact Human Resources office if you have any questions.

# Updates from the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness

*from the Assistant Vice Chancellor for OIPE, Dr. Timothy Metz*

## Program Reviews occurring in 2019-2020

Periodic Program Review is an important aspect of WCU's continuous improvement process. Each year, several administrative units and academic programs undergo the review process, typically on a 5-7 year cycle. Reviews entail a comprehensive self-study document, an on-site review conducted by a team of four reviewers (including two reviewers from peer institutions), and a final reviewer report with recommendations for action.

This year, units and programs undergoing review include: Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, Center for Rapid Product Realization, Coulter Faculty Commons, Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, Office of Accessibility Resources, English, Health Science (MHS), Higher Education Student Affairs (M.Ed.), Human Resources (MS), Mathematics (BS), and Sociology.

For more information about WCU's program review process, visit <https://secure.my.wcu.edu/division/AcademicAffairs/IPE/programreview>

## Survey policy review

Client surveys are also an important aspect of WCU's continuous improvement process. University Policy 51 governs conducting surveys on campus. The policy was last reviewed and revised in 2003. In order to better manage the need for, and frequency of institutional surveys, a review of University Policy 51 is being conducted. The intent is to ensure WCU maintains a useful and effective survey environment, while at the same time ensuring that survey quality and frequency is acceptable to our university community. Current university policies can be viewed at: <https://www.wcu.edu/discover/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/legal-counsel-office/university-policies/>

# Updates from the Office of Undergraduate Studies

*from the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Dr. Carol Burton*

## WCU's University Participant Program Recognized as National Model by the Engagement Scholarship Consortium

30+ graduates, 225+ student volunteers annually, 25+ engaged faculty/staff annually, \$5,000,000+ in grant funding, 5 books, 9 book chapters, 26 peer reviewed articles, 145 academic presentations, and thousands of lives changed and dreams that have come true with just 1 program - the University Participant (UP) Program.



The Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) has chosen WCU as the recipient of its Excellence in Faculty Community Engagement Award for the University Participant (UP) Program.

ESC is a resource for higher education institutions and their faculty, staff, students and community partners focused on promoting excellence in the scholarship and practice of engaged scholarship locally and globally. This award recognizes a higher education institution and its exemplary contribution to engaged scholarship through faculty.

The UP Program is a fully inclusive, two-year post-secondary education program for college-age people with an intellectual disability. Its purpose is to facilitate independent, inclusive community living and working for individuals in their post-UP community. The program began in 2007. Students live in campus residence halls, attend three or four classes per semester, work at least 10 hours a week in internships or on paid jobs, and participate in a wide range of campus and community social activities. Upon the completion of two years of study, UP participants are recognized and walk at graduation with a certificate of accomplishment.

As a preparation program for life after higher education, over 90% of UP graduates are hired in competitive employment within 6 months after graduation. This means that UP graduates are working full-time with benefits (or at least 20 hours per week part-time making at or above the minimum wage). This compares to 17% of the national average employment rate for students with intellectual disabilities. The UP Program is changing lives!

In her support letter for the UP Program's award application, Provost Morrison-Shetlar stated that, "[the UP Program] is an excellent example of collaboration between community and university partners with scholarly outcomes, research-based grounding, and student engagement. I believe that the impact of the program is significant upon the participants, the community, and the university." Provost Morrison-Shetlar's sentiments ring true in the ESC's recognition of the UP Program as the exemplar model for faculty engagement with engaged research, scholarship, and practice. This perspective is further endorsed by the replication of the UP Program model at UNC-Chapel Hill, in Ireland, and in Austria.

Dr. Lane Perry  
Executive Director  
Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning



## New Staff in Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Studies is pleased to announce that new staff have joined our team to fill vacancies from staff departures. Please join us in welcoming Charlie Worsham, Operations Coordinator in the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning and Jennifer Wilson, Administrative Support Associate in the Center for Career and Professional Development, to campus!!

## Incoming Freshmen Experience Local Culture at Mini-Mountain Heritage Day

On Friday afternoon, June 28, the Mountain Heritage Center (MHC) and the Office of Mentoring and Persistence to Success (MAPS) co-sponsored a Mini-Mountain Heritage Day event to celebrate the cultural traditions of western North Carolina and introduce 250 incoming WCU freshmen to our region's rich cultural heritage and traditional crafts. Held on the Hunter Library plaza, the DegreePlus event was also open to the public.

Representatives from the Appalachian Women's Museum, Dogwood Crafters, and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian joined MHC staff in presenting demonstrations and activities—students made cornshuck dolls, heard Cherokee music, examined vintage quilts, and learned about WCU's history.

Broom maker Mickey Sizemore, vintage firearm expert Luther Jones, weaver Mattie Davenport from the WCU

Writing Commons, and natural dyer Erin Tapley from the WCU Art Department all shared skills used in the



mountains over the years. An outdoor performance stage featured Cherokee musician and cultural ambassador Jarrett Wildcat along with the old time string band Cullowheezer, featuring WCU faculty and staff members Brett and Pan Riggs and fiddler Jenny Monfore.

The new exhibit at the Mountain Heritage Center, *Unearthing Our Forgotten Past: Fort San Juan* was open, with WCU archaeologist Ben Steere on hand to help interpret the exhibit and its significant story of interactions between Spanish explorers and the native Catawba and Cherokee people whose land the Spanish encroached upon. Tours of Hunter Library's Virtual



Reality Room and Scholar Studio were also offered to the new students.

# Faculty Spotlight

## Katie Zejdlik

*Assistant Professor and Forensic Anthropology Facilities Director, Anthropology & Sociology*



Katie and daughter, Penny, at the Papdomb dig site in Transylvania, Romania. Ruins of a 12-16th century medieval church.

Dr. Katie Zejdlik is an assistant professor and Director of the Anthropology Facilities.

Katie earned her Doctorate and Master of Arts in Anthropology from Indiana University, a Master of Science in Anthropology and a graduate certificate in museum studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of North Dakota.

"When people ask what I do when I am not being an academic I laugh; it is a hard question. My life is mostly revolved around my independent and fabulous 2 year old daughter. When I can sneak a free uninterrupted hour I love taking naps, quilting, or watching old TV shows like Colombo or Perry Mason. I love to travel and go to Transylvania, Romania every year to direct an archaeological project. I went pregnant and then took my daughter the next two years. I love the people, the culture, and food over there."

Katie's favorite quote is the last portion of Longfellow's "Psalm of Life," "Let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait." Katie says, "it sums up the secret to success. It reminds me to be open minded and to embrace whatever comes but also that things come through hard work and patience. Sometimes life isn't what you planned, but if you work hard and look forward with acceptance, something will change."



### Faculty Appreciation Day

Dr. John Williams, Dr. Katie Zejdlik, and Dr. Nick Passalacqua

# Updates from Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry

The 2018 – 2019 academic year was a year worth celebrating in undergraduate research at WCU! Our undergraduate students, from all disciplines and colleges across campus, engaged in a variety of on and off-campus projects and presented at regional and national conferences. Most notably, WCU was 4th in the nation for overall accepted abstracts to the 2019 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). The Chancellor's Office, the Office of the Provost, and the Honors College were able to support over 65 of those accepted students to attend the conference, which was held at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. In addition, 10 students were accepted and participated in the 2019 Summer Undergraduate Research program, which awarded these students a total of \$32,000 in honorarium stipends to advance research with a faculty sponsor. Throughout the academic year, over 50 students and faculty sponsors were awarded over \$18,000 in Academic Project Grants, which went to support projects, creative endeavors, and travel to disseminate original research and scholarship. These remarkable students and their faculty mentors worked hard to advance their academic goals and contribute to the progress of their discipline's research and creative scholarship. They represent the true makings of greatness that is Western Carolina University!

**As we switch gears into the 2019 fall semester, there are several opportunities for students to gain support for research, scholarship, and creative inquiry at WCU. Some dates and deadlines to keep in mind:**

Academic Project Grants support student efforts through supplies and materials needs as well as travel to disciplinary conferences. Deadlines for student or faculty submissions are September 11, 2019, October 9, 2019, November 6, 2019, and January 15, 2020. Grants are competitive and are awarded during each submission cycle. Updated proposal guidelines, proposal templates, and reimbursement instructions are new this year! Learn more via: <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/research/undergraduate-research/academic-project-grants.aspx>



Duke University and the NC School of Science and Math are proud to host the **2019 State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creative Symposium (SNCURCS)**. SNCURCS is an interdisciplinary conference for

undergraduate students looking to present their research and creative work. This year's conference will be held on November 23, 2019 at Duke University. All student presenters, co-presenters, faculty mentors, and other guests/ attendees must register to attend SNCURCS at a rate of \$35 per person. The conference registration fee covers your access to the entire conference, including all oral and poster presentations, performances, keynote address, lunch and learn sessions, recruiters fair, and closing remarks. This fee also covers the conference program book and food, including a continental breakfast and lunch at select campus dining venues. For more information and to register please visit: <https://sncurcs.org/>.



**The Southern Conference (SoCon) Academic Exchange** is proud to announce that the fourth annual SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) will be held on November 1-3, 2019 at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. This multidisciplinary conference will host approximately 150 student presenters from all ten colleges/ universities of the SoCon for a two-day event that features projects in the arts and humanities, as well as the STEM disciplines. SURF 2019 is an awesome opportunity for all students involved in research

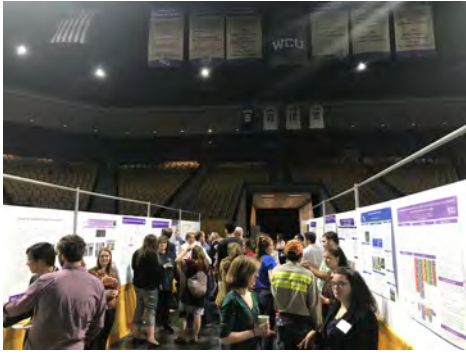
and creative activities, particularly for those involved in these activities this summer, to display their accomplishments in a variety of small, welcoming venues. Please note that there is no registration fee; expenses may be covered by the university upon acceptance, and the SoCon will provide meals for most of the conference. The application site for SURF 2019 will be available in the coming weeks on the SoCon website. Feel free to preview images from 2018 SURF via the SoCon website, under About the SoCon and the SoCon Academic Exchange. The deadline for students to submit their presentation abstracts is Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at midnight. A committee of faculty will then select their top 10-15 projects to represent Western Carolina University at SURF 2019. Students selected for the conference will be notified by Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

Please consider submitting an application for this exciting opportunity. We will be providing updates periodically throughout the summer, but if you have any questions please contact William R. Kwochka at [kwochka@wcu.edu](mailto:kwochka@wcu.edu). The 4th Annual SURF Application can also be accessed from [research.wcu.edu](http://research.wcu.edu) or at the following: <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/research/undergraduate-research/conferences.aspx>



**NCUR, the National Conference of Undergraduate Research**, is the premier national conference for undergraduate research across all disciplines. This year's conference will be held at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, March 26 – 28, 2020, and we anticipate taking a large group of students again this year. Abstract submissions for NCUR 2020 will open on September 30, 2019. Students must submit an abstract to apply by the deadline, which is December 6, 2019. Students interested in submitting an abstract and attending the conference can receive travel support and are required to apply separately for travel assistance via the NCUR Travel Funding

Support Application. If you are a faculty mentor urging your students to apply to NCUR 2020, please ensure they follow up with applying for funding through the NCUR Travel Funding Support Application, which will be open from September 30 - December 6, 2019. Students who do not complete a NCUR Travel Funding Support Application may not be eligible for travel support through the university. Have students who submit an abstract to NCUR list Kloo Hansen as the University Undergraduate Research Coordinator (URC), using the following email and phone number: [kchansen@wcu.edu](mailto:kchansen@wcu.edu) and 828-227-2010. Find out more: <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/research/undergraduate-research/ncur.aspx>.



It's not too early to start thinking about the annual **Undergraduate Exposition and the Graduate Research Symposium's** combined event through the Research and Scholarship Conference (RASC). RASC (previously known as the Research and Scholarship Celebration) is WCU's own showcase for both graduate and undergraduate work. You may be interested in building the conference into your course syllabus, as it provides students with the opportunity to present their research and scholarship and provides a forum for students to engage in peer-to-peer discussions about their academic work, without leaving Cullowhee. If you would like to know

more about how to integrate RASC into your course schedule, please email Kloo Hansen, at [kchansen@wcu.edu](mailto:kchansen@wcu.edu). RASC 2020 will be March 25 – 26, 2020. Students register by submitting abstracts From December 2, 2019 – January 31, 2020. To find out more go to the website at: <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/research/research-scholarship-celebration.aspx>

In addition, the Undergraduate Exposition will once again join the **2020 campus theme of Sustainability and Environment**, and feature a faculty panel, Keynote Address, and Featured Undergraduate Presentations that speak to how this theme is incorporated into their scholarly perspectives. Be on the lookout for a more complete listing of events and schedule as the event draws near!

## **Summer Undergraduate Research Program**

Also on the horizon this year is the 5th Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). SURP is an eight-week intensive opportunity for WCU students to collaborate with a faculty mentor in sponsored research and engage with a community of undergraduate research students over the summer, working full-time on a project of interest. SURP is kicked off in the fall with a call out for proposals, due in February. SURP is intentionally inter-disciplinary and seeks to support research, scholarship, and creative endeavors across the diversity of academic disciplines at the University. 2019 was the fourth year for the program. Keep an eye on your email in late fall for a call for proposals. For more information on the 2020 program, go to: <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/research/undergraduate-research/surp/index.aspx>.

For more information about 2020, contact Kloo Hansen at [kchansen@wcu.edu](mailto:kchansen@wcu.edu).

# Student Spotlight

## Alyssa Marie Westberry

*Undergraduate Student, Recreational Therapy with Psychology Minor*



Alyssa Marie Westberry is working on a BS in Recreational Therapy and a minor in Psychology.

Alyssa currently works as a Residential Living Office Assistant and serves on the following organizations: President of The Pi Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Project CARE Executive Board Member, Member of Black Student Union, and member of The Theta Pi Chapter of Order of Omega.

Her talents include mixing beats and creating flyers. A fun fact about Alyssa is that she shares the same birthday with her mom.

Alyssa says her favorite quote is, "I'd rather be happy being myself than sad trying to please everyone else." Jermaine Cole. She says, "the satisfaction that I get from making myself happy is what keeps me going. The opinions of others will always be the last thing I ever worry about."

# Updates from the Executive Director of Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation

from the Executive Director of Community and Economic Engagement and Innovation, Dr. Arthur Salido



Dr. Arthur Salido is pleased to announce that Western Carolina University's project, "Outdoor Recreation as an Economic and Community Engagement Catalyst in Western North Carolina", was selected as a finalist in the University Economic Development Association's (UEDA) 2019 Awards of Excellence program in the Innovation + Talent category. It is a partnership between WCU, namely Dr. Salido, Dr. Wes Stone, and Andy Coburn. Nominations were received from institutions across North America during this highly competitive process and were judged on replicability/scalability, originality, impact, and sustainability. Dr. Salido will present the project at the UEDA Annual Summit in Reno-Tahoe, Nevada from September 29 - October 2, 2019, where the Summit participants will vote on a category winner.

## Dr. Salido's other recent activities include:



- Working with the Land of Sky Regional Council Workforce Development Board, Biltmore Farms, Willam Sederburg, Lenoir Rhyne University, and partner higher education institutions to develop a regional approach to the MyFutureNC goals.

- Organized a televised town hall event, June 19, 2019, on the Cullowhee campus with the UNC School of Government and NC Impact. Video can be found at UNCTV.org, search Town Hall: Navigating the Outdoor Economy in Southwestern NC. Participated in a four-day Basic Economic Development training at the UNC School of Government. Participated in a four-day Basic Economic Development training at the UNC School of Government.



- Worked with the French Broad River Partnership to secure funding for an economic impact study quantifying the value of clean water to the local economy.



- Organized meetings between regional organizations and WCU programs to support student learning opportunities, faculty scholarship and consulting

Visited Graham County's Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team, to discuss WCU's updates, economic development strategy, and engagement activities.



- Planning the 2019 Outdoor Economy Conference.



# Staff Spotlight

## Amelia Bryan

*Web Content Manager*



*Amelia pictured here with her husband, Wil Bryan.*

Amelia Bryan is the Web Content Manager in University Marketing. She earned her Bachelor of Sciences in Technical Photography and in Communications, Electronic Media/Broadcasting.

Amelia is a prolific reader who, in this digital age, still prefers tangible books. She is fluent in French, an avid hiker with two very large and lovable German Shepherds. She spends far too much time gardening with her husband on their four acres at the edge of the Great Smoky Mountain National Forest.

Amelia's favorite quote is from Paulo Coelho's, *The Alchemist*, "Intuition is really a sudden immersion of the soul into the universal current of life." Ameila says, "This is a quote from my favorite book, that on its surface is a beautifully written yet simple story. If you look beyond the story there is immense meaning woven throughout. I hold on to this quote as it is a reminder that if we take a moment to look a bit deeper at what's around us, there is always more to it than what we perceive at first glance."

**Fun Fact:** Amelia is an aerialist who specializes in Cerceaux (also known as lyra or aerial hoop) with experience in aerial hammock and silks. She has been training for six years and has performed regionally.



Want to include news in the next issue?

Please send information to [cbhockman@wcu.edu](mailto:cbhockman@wcu.edu)