

Announcing the 2018–19 Collaborative Publicly Engaged Scholarship (CPES) Fund awardees!

Seven proposals were selected through the Office of Research's recent CPES Fund solicitation, which provides small grants to support faculty in conducting publicly engaged scholarship through meaningful, mutually beneficial community partnerships. The CPES program, now in its second and last year, is funded through the UWT Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF). Proposals were reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee of faculty, staff, and students.

This year's recipients are:



Yan Bai and D.C. Grant, School of Engineering and Technology
Collaborative Design of Cybersecurity Curricula for K-12 Classrooms

Professors Bai and Grant and a team of UWT students will expand their current work with Franklin Pierce School District middle and high school teachers to co-design curriculum aimed at teaching core concepts of cybersecurity, with the ultimate goal of inspiring young people from backgrounds underrepresented in STEM fields to pursue cybersecurity training and careers.



Chris Beasley, SIAS/Social, Behavioral and Human Sciences
Self-Transformation through Humanities in Prison: Collaborative Scholarship between Incarcerated and UWT Students

Professor Beasley will collaborate with the Education Justice Project to co-develop, with incarcerated students and a UWT research assistant, a model of self-transformation through humanities education. The project provides a rare opportunity for incarcerated individuals to engage directly with scholarly production by integrating their lived experiences into the model.



Margo Bergman, Milgard School of Business
Tacoma Tideflats

Professor Bergman, along with students in the UWT Center for Business Analytics and community partner Manufacturing Industrial Council, will lead a survey of businesses in the Tacoma Tideflats to produce a comprehensive register of the area's economic landscape. The project team will integrate results from this survey with economic multiplier data to complete an economic analysis of the Tideflats.



Rachel Hershberg, SIAS/Social, Behavioral and Human Sciences and
Vanessa deVeritch Woodside, SIAS/Culture, Arts and Communication

Displacement, Detention, and Integration of Immigrants and the South Sound

Professors Hershberg and deVeritch Woodside will continue their partnership with the Tacoma Community House, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, World Relief, and Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest to document the experiences of immigrants and refugees who are integrating into South Sound communities after being detained at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC). This phase of the project will expand data collection with more recently arriving refugees who have been detained at the NWDC, as well as family members of detainees, and engage UWT students in publicizing results of this work.



Itziri Moreno Villamar, SIAS/Culture, Arts and Communication

The P'urhépecha Language Workshop

Dr. Moreno Villamar will work with Ireta P'urhépecha, a community group comprised of migrants from the indigenous P'urhépecha culture of central Mexico, to develop language education curriculum and materials. This work will culminate in a spring workshop aimed at preserving this endangered language spoken by the descendants of this prehispanic culture located primarily in the Michoacan region.



David Reyes, Nursing and Healthcare Leadership

Changing Community Food Environments through an Academic-Public Health Practice Partnership

Professor Reyes and UWT undergraduate nursing students will collaborate with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to improve the food environment in Eastside Tacoma by engaging community residents through community-based participatory approaches. In particular, students and partners initially will work to develop a community-focused food system and food policy education module. This will be followed by convening and facilitating a Community Advisory Board that will guide and prioritize strategies to address food inequity and security in their community, as well as to evaluate their effectiveness and measures of success.



Chris Schell, SIAS/Sciences and Mathematics

Lights, Cameras, Action: Using wildlife cameras to assess how artificial light at night (ALAN) influences mammalian communities in cities

Professor Schell and his partners in the Grit City Carnivore Project (Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek, and Metro Parks Tacoma) will expand their work examining the effects of nighttime light pollution on wildlife community structure and resulting impacts on human and environmental health. The team, including UWT undergraduate research assistants, will work to replicate data at additional sites across Pierce County and establish baseline analysis for a longer-term longitudinal study.