



## Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research

### Overview

The offices of Graduate Studies, Sponsored Programs, and Institutional Research and Planning report to the Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Kevin Kearns serves as the associate vice president responsible for the supervision of these offices. The Office of Graduate Studies focuses on graduate student admissions, enrollment and recruitment, and the development and approval of new graduate courses and programs. The Sponsored Programs office coordinates the application, development and administration of all sponsored programs on campus. The staff also assists faculty with identifying funding opportunities, proposal writing and grant related budgeting. The Institutional Research and Planning office compiles all institutional data, completes all survey requests and performs various institutional analyses.

### Highlights

Accomplishments of the Graduate Studies and Research area include the following:

- Graduate enrollments have significantly increased and new graduate programs and certificates were approved in several areas. For example, the newly approved Master of Arts in Teaching Science, a collaborative effort of the science and education faculty, addresses a critical need for science teachers and leads to recommendations for initial and professional teaching certification in adolescence science education for grades 7 to 12.
- The office completed the successful implementation of an online graduate application process. The user-friendly system allows applicants to apply to graduate programs online and track the progress of their application. Letters of recommendation can be submitted in a convenient and secure online environment. In addition, a newly-created online applicant review process allows the office to

post departmental admission decisions in an efficient and confidential manner. Over 300 application accounts have been created since the application was introduced.

- The Office of Graduate Studies and Research is proud of its efforts to support and enhance student research, scholarship and creative activity on campus through the Office of Student Creative Activity and Research (OSCAR). The purpose of this office is to promote and support student scholarly and creative works across the campus. The Student Research and Creativity Exposition showcased a diverse range and high quality of student creativity and scholarship at SUNY Fredonia. The impressive display of intellectual and creative achievement provided tangible evidence of the depth and variety of learning opportunities and close faculty-student collaboration available across campus.
- The Office of Sponsored Programs has been instrumental in the development and administration of external support for faculty research, scholarship and creative activities. The professional staff oversees and manages a broad range of regulatory and compliance issues including those associated with the use of human subjects in research. Sponsored awards exceeded \$3 million in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.
- The groundbreaking for the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator in Dunkirk was an exciting milestone in the university's efforts to serve as a catalyst for regional economic development. Upon completion, the incubator will house over 20 technology start-up companies that will contribute to the growth of the local economy. The SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator building is the result of tremendous support and cooperation between the university and federal, state, county and city government agencies.



**Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research  
Kevin Kearns.**



## Operating Budget

Funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year will bolster efforts to offer an increasingly diverse range of graduate programs that will enhance the area's ability to better serve the expanding graduate student population. Continued support will allow the area to expand its outreach to new students and enhance the university's reputation in the region and beyond. In addition, the offices of Sponsored Programs and Institutional Research and Planning will continue to support faculty and student research and creative activities and will solidify burgeoning relationships with surrounding communities. The Graduate Studies and Research unit looks forward to completion of the new SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator building and expansion of its efforts to support local and regional communities.

***The Office of Graduate Studies focuses on graduate student admissions, enrollment and recruitment, and the development and approval of new graduate courses and programs.***

## Planning Assumptions

Planning assumptions used to develop the 2009-2010 Graduate Studies and Research office budget include:

- Full funding for all existing positions.
- Continuing funding for the online graduate software for admissions, recruitment and communication services.
- An increase in the number of graduate students enrolled next year.
- An increase in the number of external grants submitted and awarded during next academic year.