

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 24, 2026**

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS TO OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 28, 2026**
A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs/Research Office
2. **Introduction:** Oakland University contributes to our national agenda as a contributor to the nation's scientific and technological progress, both through the generation of new knowledge and ideas and the education and training of its students. Grants and contracts awarded to Oakland University play a critical role in the advancement of new research findings, and current research trends give emphasis to interdisciplinary, technology-driven, and product-oriented team efforts.

The Board of Trustees (Board) has authorized the President, or his or her designee, to receive and acknowledge grants and contracts to the University, but such grants and contracts must be reported to the Board not less often than quarterly for acceptance on behalf of the University.

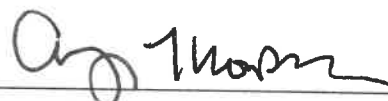
At this time, we request that the Board accept the grants and contracts reported on the attached Grants and Contracts Report, Attachment A, for the period of January 1 – February 28, 2026.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board accepts grants and contracts to Oakland University on a regular basis at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** Grants and contracts contribute to the University through the recovery of direct and indirect expenses incurred in support of research projects.
5. **Educational Implications:** Grants and contracts enhance the training and education of students.

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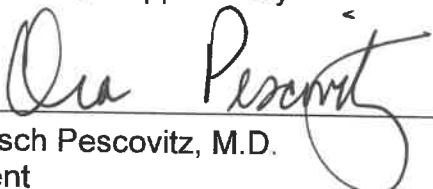
6. **Personnel Implications:** Grants and contracts awards may provide salary support for faculty, post-doctoral fellows, undergraduate and graduate students, technicians, lab managers, and other personnel, as required by the funded research project or program.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** All grants and contracts are reviewed by the Research Office prior to submission to the Board to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations and University policies and procedures, when applicable, and with assistance from the Office of Legal Affairs when requested.
8. **Recommendation:** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees accept grants and contracts to Oakland University identified in the attached Grants and Contracts Report, Attachment A, for the period of January 1 – February 28, 2026.
9. **Attachments:** A. Grants and Contracts Report.

Submitted to the President
on April 3, 2026 by



Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 4/7, 2026
to the Board for approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Grants and Contracts Report for Period: January 1 - February 28, 2026

Principal Investigator	Awarding Agency	Title and Project Abstract	Award Amount	Total Award All Years
Kwame Sakyi Public & Environmental Wellness	University of South Carolina (National Institutes of Health)	Enhancing Thermal Protection for Preterm and Low Birthweight Infants in Resource-Limited Settings: An Implementation Science Approach This project will support the recruitment and training of qualitative interviewers, Supervision of qualitative interviewers during field data collection and transcription, Lead qualitative data analysis, Participate in the analysis, presentation, and publication of findings	14,818	59,018
Luca Cucullo Foundational Medical Studies	Zippin Bio (National Institutes of Health)	Novel carriers for enhanced oligonucleotide permeability through the blood-brain barrier The work focuses on activity screening of nanoparticle drug delivery systems for receptor-mediated uptake and transport in a microfluidic cell culture model of the human blood-brain barrier (BBB). The microfluidic BBB culture model will be used to assess the permeability of the various nanoparticle formulations and mechanistically identify the transport routes across the BBB.	39,353	39,353
Adam Avery Chemistry	American Heart Association	Development of Drosophila cardiomyopathy models for testing therapeutics targeting human alpha-actinin-2 Cardiomyopathy is a form of heart disease that can result from mutations in the protein α -actinin-2. The PI showed that numerous mutations disrupt binding of α -actinin-2 to another protein called actin. Here they will develop Drosophila models for testing of drugs targeting human α -actinin-2.	77,000	77,000
Mohammad-Reza Siadat Computer Science & Engineering	Henry Ford Health System	AI-Based Analysis of Medical Images In this project, AI-based algorithms and software will be developed and optimized to register, segment, and characterize multimodality images of neurological disorders using AI-based three-dimensional (3D) methods and medical images like magnetic resonance images (MRI).	42,606	42,606

Grants and Contracts Report for Period: January 1 - February 28, 2026

Principal Investigator	Awarding Agency	Title and Project Abstract	Award Amount	Total Award All Years
Jiannan Tian Computer Science & Engineering	National Science Foundation	Collaborative Research: Elements: SGCC: An Efficient GPU-oriented Data Reduction Cyberinfrastructure for Scientific Data Analysis This project involved building a user-friendly end-to-end cyberinfrastructure of GPU-based data compression for scientific data workflows, by porting, extending, and optimizing multiple existing capabilities.	180,000	180,000
Serena Kuang Foundational Medical Studies	American Physiological Society	Revolutionizing the Teaching of Countercurrent Multiplication: Transforming an Award-Winning Article/Mathematical Model into Interactive Courseware This project will develop interactive teaching materials to improve how a complex kidney function, called countercurrent multiplication (CCM), is taught to medical students. CCM is essential for understanding how the kidneys concentrate urine, but it has long been difficult for students to grasp. Building on Dr. Kuang's award-winning research article, which clarifies long-standing problems in how CCM is explained, this project will create professionally designed, user-friendly courseware to make this challenging topic easier to teach and understand.	6,669	6,668
Nicole Wagner Biological Sciences	Michigan Technological University (Michigan Sea Grant)	An Ecosystem-Scale Approach to Understanding Changing Winters in the Great Lakes The overall objective is to integrate physical, chemical and biological observations with targeted experiments to understand differences in limnological function across disparate regions of the Great Lakes. Specifically, we are interested in addressing the questions laid out by the National Research Council, which remain unanswered in the Great Lakes.	1,215	7,434

Grants and Contracts Report for Period: January 1 - February 28, 2026

Principal Investigator	Awarding Agency	Title and Project Abstract	Award Amount	Total Award All Years
Geraldine Graham Project Upward Bound	Department of Education	Upward Bound Program The Project Upward Bound (PUB) College Preparatory Academy at Oakland University (OU) will serve 133 Upward-Bound-eligible participants from one target area encompassing the communities of Pontiac and Royal Oak Charter Township, Michigan, where 50% of households have incomes below U. S. Department of Education low-income guidelines and only an average 11.5% of adult citizens (7% of low-income) have a bachelor's degree.	739,409	3,668,606
Nicole Wagner Biological Sciences	US Department of Interior	2026 Columbia Environmental Research Center Contract for analyzing nitrate, nitrite, and ammonium for a nification experiment.	14,400	14,400
Sergey Golovashchenko Mechanical Engineering	Ohio State University (National Science Foundation)	IUCRC Center for Industrial Metal Forming The mission of the proposed Center for Industrial Metal Forming (CIMF) is to perform cutting-edge, pre-competitive fundamental research in metal forming science and engineering in collaboration with industrial Members.	30,000	185,000
Randal Westrick Biological Sciences	American Heart Association	Investigating the synergistic effects of Actr2 and Arl6ip5 mutations on blood coagulation These studies will precisely define the interactions of thrombosis suppressing penetrance of Actr2G and Arl6ip5+/- in both male and female mice. We expect significant synergistic effects of Actr2G and Arl6ip5-/- on platelet aggregation and blood coagulation.	76,998	76,998
Ankun Yang Mechanical Engineering	National Science Foundation	CAREER: Understanding Intermediate Sulfur Phases for Enhanced Energy Storage This CAREER proposal establishes an integrated research and education program aimed at advancing the fundamental understanding of sulfur phases and transitions in electrochemical devices.	619,838	619,838

Grants and Contracts Report for Period: January 1 - February 28, 2026

Principal Investigator	Awarding Agency	Title and Project Abstract	Award Amount	Total Award All Years
Tomoko Wakabayashi Human Development & Child Studies	State Of Michigan	2025-2026 Great Start Readiness Program Evaluation We propose an evaluation design that will expand evidence and deepen the understanding of GSRP's longitudinal impact on Michigan's children. We will capture GSRP implementation fidelity, program quality, and GSRP impact on child outcomes in PreKindergarten, Kindergarten, and third grade.	350,000	350,000
Kathleen Pfeiffer English, Creative Writing and Film	Christ Church Cranbrook (Lilly Endowment Inc.)	FAITH IN DETROIT: Building Resilience and Hope Through The Christian Practice of Storytelling The overarching goal of the project is to strengthen public understanding of Christian faith in Detroit by: 1. Telling compelling, multidimensional stories of faith in action 2. Creating accessible content and community tools 3. Supporting spiritual and civic leaders 4. Building a permanent archive and network of trust for ongoing storytelling, education, and engagement.	70,134	70,134
Chhabi Govind Biological Sciences	National Institutes of Health	Transcription regulation of recovery from stress This proposal examines the role of chromatin remodelers in recovery from the acute and prolonged stress. Towards this the cells will be starved for 7 days, and changes in chromatin structure, remodelers binding and transcription initiation will be examined after stress and during recovery.	565,800	565,800

Total \$2,828,240 \$5,962,855