



College of Sciences & Mathematics Newsletter
February 2022

CoSM Faculty Spotlight
**Shields Secures
R03 Grant from
Federal NIH**

Dr. Robert Shields, assistant professor of microbiology, has [secured a two-year research R03 grant](#) of \$270,393 from the National Institutes of Health. In this project he will investigate an essential gene that regulates expression of a mobile genetic element that helps transfer DNA from one bacteria to another. Essential genes represent the most critical components of a bacterial genome and are required for survival.





CoSM News

Support Reaches \$575,000 for Red Wolf Conservation & Research Center

Progress toward development of the [American Red Wolf Conservation & Research Center](#) (ARWCRC) at Craighead Forest Park in Jonesboro continues with investments of \$575,000 to support the collaborative project led by Arkansas State University.

CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Boyd Giving Support for Rural STEM Students

Dr. Lynn Boyd, dean, Sciences and Mathematics, serves on the board of the Foundation for Archuleta County Education (FACE), a non-profit that financially supports activities to enhance K-12 education in Archuleta County, Colorado. She provides advice regarding science education to the board, which makes grants to teachers in the county and runs a summer STEM camp for children. They are helping students to set higher career goals.





CoSM Faculty Spotlight

Gustafson Studies Impacts on Wildlife Genetics

Dr. Kyle Gustafson, assistant professor of biological sciences, is corresponding author for an article recently published in *Evolutionary Applications*. In a conservation study which notes the negative impact of urbanization on wildlife movements, Gustafson and colleagues highlight the value of information that can be gained from population genomic studies. The studies can provide guidance for conservation of fragmented populations. The open access article is [available online](#).

CoSM Student News

Student Abstracts Accepted for NCUR Presentation

Abstracts submitted by 14 Arkansas State University students have been [accepted for presentation](#) to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April.



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