



**2022**

*Laurens County*

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN  
ACT GRANT APPLICATION**

**Applications must be received by 4/1/2022**

**“Late Applications shall not be considered.”**

**Return applications to:** *Laurens County*  
*Attn: Administration*  
*100 Hillcrest Square*  
*Laurens, SC 29360*

**Or email to:** [ARPA@co.laurens.sc.us](mailto:ARPA@co.laurens.sc.us)

Amount you are requesting:	\$ 75,000
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**SECTION I: ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

Name of Organization:	University of South Carolina Union - Laurens Location	
Contact Name and Title:	Randy Lowell - Campus Dean	
Mailing Address:	PO Box 729, Union, SC 29379	
Street Address (if different)		
Phone Number:		
City, State and Zip Code	Laurens, SC	
Fax Number:		
Email Address:	lowell@mailbox.sc.edu	
Website:	uscunion.sc.edu	
How long has your organization been in existence?	57 years	

**NOTE: Attach a list of your organization's governance body: Board of Directors, Chief Officers and Executive Director.**

**Tax Status (check one)**

- Tax-exempt charitable organization (501(c)(3))       Governmental unit
- Other Tax-exempt (specify status)                     Federal     State     Local
- Church/Religious organization                           Unincorporated association
- Other (specify) Higher Education Institution

**Please attach a copy of your organization's IRS tax status determination letter (not applicable to government agencies or religious congregations). A tax exempt identification number is not sufficient.**

Federal Employer Identification Number:	57-6001153
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**FOCUS AREA: (check one)**

- Arts
- Community Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Public Safety
- Human Needs
- Youth Development

**PROGRAM SERVICES (check one)**

- Children     Families     Youth                     Senior Citizens
- Other (Specify) College Students

<b>Geographic area served:</b>	Union and Laurens Counties and surrounding areas
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<b>Percentage of service delivered to the Citizens of Laurens County</b>	*90-95 %
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*\*Estimated that 90-95% of this project will service citizens of Laurens County*

**SECTION II FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Applicant's overall operating budget: \$11,548,341 Fiscal Year 07/01/21 to 06/30/22  
M/D/YY M/D/YY

**Please list the history of funding to your agency from the Laurens County:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>2018</b>	\$ 22,596
<b>2019</b>	\$ 19,835
<b>2020</b>	\$ 22,028

**GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF NEED FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS.**

This section is limited to 2900 characters including spaces, which is approximately 400 words.

The University of South Carolina Union Laurens Location is requesting ARPA funds to be used specifically for the benefit of the citizens of Laurens County. These funds would be earmarked for the installation of a virtual reality science lab classroom that would offer in person laboratory courses. By having designated funding exclusively for this purpose, this project could be implemented fairly quickly, which would directly enhance educational opportunities offered at the Laurens campus. Prior COVID related funding has been focused on expanding and improving remote instruction. This ARPA funding would focus on enhancing in person opportunities and allow the Laurens campus to provide in person lab courses, which it has not previously been able to do. This would alleviate travel between Laurens and Union for those students who want to enroll for in person lab courses or have limited resources for commuting. The new lab space courses could be used for traditional college courses as well as courses offered through the University's high school dual credit program. By also incorporating state of the art virtual reality (VR) technology, the lab could increase course options in anatomy and physiology, which would benefit those students pursuing science and nursing degrees. The VR technology was recently implemented at the Union Campus through a grant from a local corporate donation. Being able to also provide these types of educational opportunities in Laurens would be a great benefit to the students of Laurens County and build upon the programs offered at the Laurens location of the University of South Carolina Union.

**PLEASE LIST OTHER CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) / PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) AND OR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING YOUR ORGANIZATION RECEIVED (INCLUDING FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS), THE AMOUNTS AND WHAT IT IS WAS USED FOR:**

TYPE OF FUNDS RECEIVED CARES ACT/PPP AND OR ARPA	YEAR RECEIVED	DESCRIPTION OF WHAT FUNDS WERE USED FOR	AMOUNT
Federal Cares Act/HEERF I	2020	Emergency aid grants to	\$ 500,000
		students, COVID mitigation	\$
		supplies, remote instructional	\$
		equipment	\$
			\$
SC CARES - Phase I	2020	Public health expense and	\$ 106,017
		COVID related payroll expenses	\$
SC CARES - Phase II	2020	Public health expense and	\$ 211,060
		COVID related payroll expenses	\$
			\$
CRRSA Act - HEERF II	2020	Emergency aid grants to students,	\$ 986,520
		COVID mitigation supplies, remote	\$
		instructional equipment, lost revenue	\$
			\$
ARP Act - HEERF III	2020	Emergency aid grants to students,	\$ 1,641,313
		COVID mitigation supplies, remote	\$
		instructional equipment, lost revenue	\$
			\$
			\$

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING BUDGET BREAKDOWN SECTIONS ON THESE PAGES (NO ATTACHMENTS.) You may get these figures from your most recently submitted IRS Form 990, or you may simply use your overall operating budget.

**1. CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS & OTHER SIMILAR AMOUNTS**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>Government Grants</b>			
Municipal	\$	\$	\$
County <i>Local Grants</i>	\$ 68,488	\$ 13,843	\$ 18,000
State <i>Includes State Appropriations</i>	\$ 4,068,034	\$ 1,697,104	\$ 1,569,565
Federal other than COVID-19 Funds	\$ 1,253,906	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,300,000
<b>Foundation Grants</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Contributions/Federated Campaigns</b>	\$ 78,450	\$ 2,496,874	\$ 2,510,774
<b>Membership dues</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Fundraising events</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTED INCOME</b>	\$ 5,468,878	\$ 5,507,821	\$ 5,398,339

**2. PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUE**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>Fees / Sold Services</b>			
Services	\$ 49,345	\$ 80,550	\$ 57,150
Tuition / Fees	\$ 3,952,409	\$ 4,364,575	\$ 4,472,395
Workshops, Seminars, Lectures, etc.	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES REVENUE</b>	\$ 4,001,754	\$ 4,445,125	\$ 4,529,545

**3. OTHER REVENUE**

SOURCE	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>Publications (Newsletters, etc.)</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Concessions and/or Merchandise</b>	\$ 160,000	\$ 207,315	\$ 200,000
<b>Advertising</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Space Rental Fees</b>	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
Other (specify)	\$	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL EARNED INCOME</b>	\$ 160,000	\$ 207,315	\$ 200,000

<b>TOTAL COMBINED INCOME (1+2+3)</b>	\$ 9,630,632	\$ 10,160,261	\$ 10,127,884
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**4. EXPENSES**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Program Services	\$ 4,902,625	\$ 5,061,008	\$ 4,570,544
Fundraising	\$	\$	\$
Administration, Management, General	\$ 1,061,640	\$ 1,277,848	\$ 1,726,943
Other (Specify) Scholarships	\$ 3,336,519	\$ 3,803,485	\$ 3,794,397
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 9,300,784</b>	<b>\$ 10,142,341</b>	<b>\$ 10,091,884</b>

If your organization receives "in-kind" support, please list below:

SOURCE	TYPE OF IN-KIND SUPPORT

List funds already committed for the project for FY 2022 and the sources of these funds.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
General Campus Operating Funds	\$ 15,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>

Who in your organization is responsible for fundraising?

- Staff     
  Board of Directors     
  Consultants     
  Members/Volunteers

**5. Will your organization's 2022 budget be significantly different than 2021 and prior years?**

- Yes (if yes, explain in the box below)     
  No

This box is limited to 880 characters including spaces, which is approximately 125 words

**6. FUNDING REQUEST FOR BUDGET YEAR 2022**

Please provide breakdown by categories:

CATEGORY	PROGRAM SERVICES FY 2022	ADMINISTRATIVE/ GENERAL FY 2022
<b>Supplies</b> Student Desks & Instructional Supplies	\$ 20,000.00	\$
<b>Equipment (specify)</b> Computers & VR sets	\$ 50,000.00	\$
<b>Travel/Training</b>	\$	\$
<b>Personnel</b>	\$	\$
<del>Marketing/Professional</del> Contingency	\$ 10,000.00	\$
<b>Other (specify)</b> VR Software Subscription	\$ 10,000.00	\$
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>	\$ **90,000.00	\$

*\*\* Total project budget estimated at \$90,000 with \$15,000 being provided directly from the campus operating budget and \$75,000 requested through the ARPA grant.*

**SECTION III: ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. Briefly state the history and purpose of your organization.

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

The Union regional Palmetto College campus, is a branch campus of the University of South Carolina Columbia. Union has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for its service area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service, and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. UofSC Union offers a varied curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and focused on preparing students to continue their education in the University and throughout life. UofSC Union was established to encourage higher education in the counties of Chester, Cherokee, Fairfield, Laurens, Union, and York. The original design of the institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demands of constituents. Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, the institution awards the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other University of South Carolina System institutions. UofSC Union also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide.

**2. Describe in detail how the pandemic has affected your organization.**

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, the University was most definitely caught off guard as were most higher education institutions across the United States. The days were long and difficult, and the process to continue providing all educational services was unknown. However, with swift planning and a network of resources, the Union and Laurens campuses (along with the entire UofSC system) were able to pivot quickly and develop instructional strategies to get through the toughest times of the pandemic. The campuses were fortunate to have a solid remote learning infrastructure in place as a basis to move students to online learning without delays. To enhance remote learning resources, state and federal COVID funding was utilized, which was crucial to the continuation of operations. The campuses were also presented with the task and expense of ensuring that a healthy and safe environment awaited students once they returned to in person instruction. Again, through the use of the federal and state COVID funding, PPE, additional cleaning and sanitation services, training, and general COVID mitigation initiatives were put into place. Student enrollments throughout the pandemic have remained steady and have increased in some areas. The faculty and staff have been resilient in adapting as necessary, and have been a catalyst for ensuring that students had and continue to have the full services offered by a university. While USC Union and the USC Union at Laurens location are emerging from the pandemic in a positive position, there is still so much more that can be done. Allocating funding to expand science lab space for the Laurens student population, would greatly enhance educational opportunities for the citizens of Laurens county.

**3. How will any funding awarded be utilized?**

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

These funds will be used to create a Virtual Reality (VR) science lab at the Laurens location. The lab would consist of 18 computer stations with 2 setup for VR and 16 standard desktops. This type of lab was established on the Union Campus several years ago, but adding another lab of this type to the Laurens location would allow the citizens of Laurens to take these lab science courses locally, without the need to travel to Union. By offering these lab science courses locally, the campus would alleviate one hurdle in expanding general education offerings as well as moving towards nursing courses in the future. VR labs are an excellent resource and opportunity, not only because of the cutting edge technology, but also because of the cost and flexibility. VR labs are easily setup and moved if needed. They cost a fraction of a traditional lab space and many college and universities are moving toward this type of technology. The ability to offer both in person classes as well as state of the art technology is an excellent opportunity for Laurens students to learn while they stay connected locally.



4. State your organization's ability to continue operations (i.e. current staffing levels, staff qualifications, prior experience, etc.)

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

USC Union began operations in 1965 and has continually tried to improve and expand its services year after year. The institution maintains a sound financial position and strives to ensure that funding resources are allocated strategically to provide the most benefits to its students. Faculty and staff are highly qualified, capable, and productive. The turnover rate for employees is very low on the campuses, so there is a wealth of knowledge, education, and experience within the organization. USC Union and USC Union Laurens Location also have the resources and knowledge base of the main campus of the University of South Carolina, along with the support of the local Union and Laurens communities, the Union/Laurens Commission for Higher Education, and the USC Union Partnership Board.

5. Discuss your organization's relationship with other programs in the community designed to meet the same or similar needs, especially those that provide services/assistance to those most impacted by the pandemic. Describe collaborative partnerships that may result.

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

The University of South Carolina Union - Laurens Location has established long-term relationships with the Laurens County Community. The University currently offers dual enrollment courses in partnership with Laurens District 55 and District 56 High schools, as well as Laurens Academy. The campus is active in other community organizations such as the Laurens Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Laurens County, Laurens Future Scholarship Committee, Main St. Laurens, Rotary Club of Laurens, SBDC Advisory Committee and participates in a variety of other community fundraisers. This lab will allow the campus to further partner with local schools by expanding dual enrollment courses, as well as offering science lab courses that have not been possible to offer in the past. Traditional and adult students would also have the opportunity to have these specialized courses locally, as some cannot travel at traditional class times or are uncomfortable enrolling in these courses online. The long term goal is to be able to expand offerings for nursing courses which could lead to a partnership with local area hospitals and medical facilities.

6. What is your plan for continuing your program(s) in the future, including funding sources?

This box is limited to 1400 characters including spaces, which is approximately 200 words.

For this project, the University is requesting \$75,000 from the ARPA grant. The campus would also be contributing \$15,000 from its general operating budget towards this project. Additionally, USC Union and the USC Union Laurens location would provide for any recurring costs associated with the project. General operating funds and/or tuition fee revenue would be used for the University's share of the project as well as any future recurring costs. The addition of this lab should increase enrollment in courses offered at the Laurens Location, which in turn would result in additional tuition and fee revenue which could be reinvested into programs and services in the Laurens area.

I hereby certify that the applicant organization complies with all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, physical disability, or national origin, and that all funds that may be received by applicant organization from Laurens County will be solely used for the purposes set forth in this application and will comply with all laws and statutes. In particular, organizations receiving Community Assistance Funding will comply with state regulations requiring organizations to be registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State's Division of Public Charities.

**Randy Lowell**

Digitally signed by Randy Lowell  
Date: 2022.03.28 12:13:08 -04'00'

03/28/2022

Signature of Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director

Date

Randy Lowell, Campus Dean

Name and Title (please print)



03/28/2022

Signature of Chief Financial Officer or Board Chairperson

Date

Michele Lee, Director of Budget & Finance

Name and Title (please print)



Office of the Controller

To Whom It May Concern:

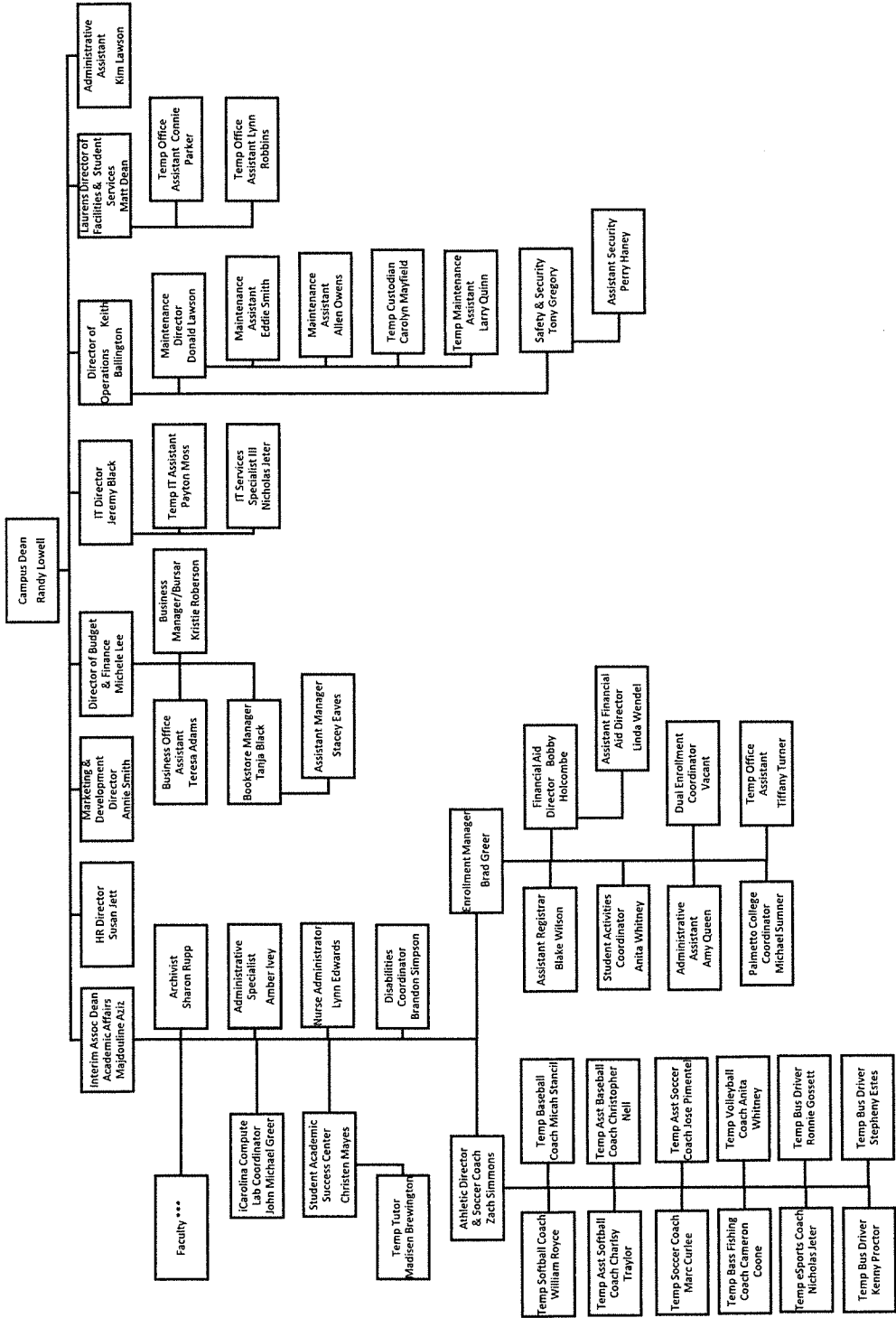
The University of South Carolina is a governmental unit of the State of South Carolina under section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code and as such is not generally subject to federal income tax. Charitable contributions to governmental units are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code if made for a public purpose.

If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Mandy M. Kibler  
University Controller





Organization Chart  
Spring 2022

Faculty – Full-time

Joe Anderson – Instructor of Math

Majdouline Aziz – Associate Professor of Sociology

Avery Fouts – Associate Professor of Philosophy & Religion

Randy Lowell – Professor of Psychology

Helene Maire-Afeli – Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Sandy Phillips-Long - Instructor of Biology

Andrew Pisano – Associate Professor of English

Emily Schafer – Assistant Professor of Psychology

Gale Ashmore – Instructor of Spanish

Jennifer Emswiler – Assistant Professor of Fine Arts

Randall Ivey – Senior Instructor of English

Steven Lownes – Assistant Professor of Political Science

Lee Morris – Assistant Professor of Biology

Courtney Pinnell – Instructor of Nursing

Christine Sixta-Rinehart –Professor of Political Science

Kevin Torres – Instructor of Spanish

Organization Chart  
Spring 2022

Spring 2022 Adjuncts

BAILEY, GRETA - Political Science  
BERGAN, NICHOLAS - Economics  
BOWLES, GERARD - Art History  
BRACKETT, KATHRYN - English  
BUSH, DARREN - Psychology  
CAMP, ROD - Economics  
CATALANO, FRANK  
CHARLES, ALLAN - History  
CHURCH, MICHELLE  
COON, MICHAEL - Theater  
COOPER, MARC - Psychology  
CRAIG, TRACEY - Psychology  
D'AGOSTINO, JANET - English  
DAVIS, JESSE  
FEINER, JENNIFER - Math  
FETEMIE, TARA - Biology  
GOEBEL, SUSAN  
GRAY, JENNIFER  
GREER, BRAD - Political Science  
HANCE, NEILL - Theater and Speech  
HANSEN, NATHAN - Psychology  
HAUPTMAN, SAMANTHA – Criminal Justice/Sociology  
HAYNES, AISHA  
HICKS, TASIA - Psychology  
HOLCOMBE, BOBBY - University 101  
HUDSON, DAVID - Biology/Chemistry  
HUDSON, DEBORAH - Comp. Science/Mgmt./Acct.  
HUFFMAN, TODD  
IVEY, ROBERT - History  
JAMISON, JOSIE  
JOLLY, ASHLEY - Physical Education  
JOLLY, CASIE - History  
KEITH, ROBERT - Art  
KENNEDY-COON, NANCY – Theatre and Speech  
LANG, JUDITH - Biology  
LATIMORE, CHRISSIE – Criminal Justice  
LIPSEY, DOC - Physical Education  
McINTYRE, LORI  
McJUNKINS, JOSHUA

MITRA, DAVID – Math  
MOORE, ANDREW - Speech  
MUMMAW, JARED - History  
PALMER, RONDA – Education  
PARHAM, TAMMY  
PHILLIPS, CHRIS - Political Science  
PHOENIX, GLENN – Biology  
REDDING, KERRI - Music  
REEVES, THOMAS - Biology  
RIVERS, JACOB - English  
ROYCE, WILLIAM – PCAM  
SIMPSON, BRANDON – Psychology  
SLADE, ROBERT  
SLATER, PHILIP  
SMITH, BARBARA – Criminal Justice/Psychology  
SPRATT, STEPHEN – English  
SULLIVAN, SEAN  
SURRETT, MELODY – English  
TURNER, JACK – Religion  
ULMER, CHAD – Management  
VANDEN HEUVEL, ANDREW  
VAN GUNTEN, MARK  
WHITE, ALEX - Math  
WINDSOR, KIMBERLY – English  
YOUNG, JOHN - Political Science

Organization Chart  
Spring 2022

