



March 22, 2021

Dear faculty colleagues,

I hope you were able to enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend. I understand that the campus restrictions that were recently extended serve as another disruption to work for many of us, and I am grateful for your ongoing compliance and flexibility.

Research really makes a difference at Bentley, and our research efforts are one of my top priorities as your provost. Over the past year, we had to pivot our focus to teaching in remote and hybrid modalities. This involved a huge allocation of our time and resources, and your dedication to instruction has been crucial in providing our students with a meaningful educational experience this year. As we prepare for wide-spread vaccine distribution and declining Covid-19 case rates, we can look to a balanced focus on teaching *and* research efforts.

There is no doubt that Covid-19 has interfered with our capacity to move forward with research, and certain disciplines and methodologies have been impacted more significantly than others. Despite the challenges we have faced with the pandemic, we can celebrate numerous research accomplishments this year. I want to take some time to spotlight just a few examples of your efforts, which serve as a testament to your focus and perseverance.

In 2020, our faculty published 447 journal articles, books, chapters, cases, or other research contributions. Additionally, in the current academic year alone, our faculty have worked with the Office of Sponsored Programs to submit \$3,806,657 in proposals to government agencies and foundations to support research. We have been awarded \$388,897 to date.

The Bentley Research Council remains an outstanding resource on campus, and I was honored to offer introductory comments at their Research Conference on Covid-19 in February. The conference was organized in collaboration with our Health Thought Leadership Network and Center for Integration of Science & Industry, and it showcased the multi-faceted and cross-disciplinary contributions of our Bentley scholars. I also look forward to the sixth annual Analytics without Borders Conference, which will take place on March 26. In partnership with Bryant, Tufts, and UMass Lowell, Bentley is hosting this conference to



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

provide a forum to discuss analytics work in corporate institutions, academia, government organizations, and other sectors.

Some of you may have seen our faculty featured on [The Academic Minute](#) during the week of January 11, 2021. This is just one of many examples where our research contributions have been highlighted, and I am delighted each day when I review our [Newsroom page](#) and see the various local, state, and national news outlets that reference Bentley faculty and the impact of our work.

In addition to our own research efforts, our faculty serve as mentors for training future generations of researchers. Our PhD Program leads in this area, and I am proud to see faculty co-authoring publications with our PhD students. As some of you know, we have 23 PhD students currently enrolled at Bentley, with another five planning to join us in the fall. Our PhD students continue to publish, and there are several exciting publications in the works with our PhD students as sole or co-authors.

I will continue to advocate for University resources that strengthen our research efforts. As you know, I recently announced that we will distribute the 2020 competitive summer grants this coming summer. In addition to the summer research grants, the Research Council awarded grants to five faculty during the Fall 2020 term to provide additional support. Of course, one of the strongest institutional commitments to research is sabbaticals. We have 12 faculty on either a semester- or year-long sabbatical this year, and four faculty who were awarded sabbatical for academic year 2021-22.

Please know that we have many resources available to all faculty to supplement our research efforts, and I urge you to take advantage of them. Faculty are able to receive support for their research proposals from consulting firm McAllister & Quinn, who sponsored a workshop this past fall entitled *Getting Started with External Grant Funding*. You can learn more about grant support and other funding options on our [Research Resources webpage](#).

I also want to remind you of our institutional memberships with several organizations that offer articles, webinars, boot camps, and other resources to assist with research, including: [the American Council on Education \(ACE\)](#), [the Association of American Colleges and Universities \(AAC&U\)](#), [the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#), and [the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity \(NCFDD\)](#).



BENTLEY
UNIVERSITY

Thank you again for all that you do. I appreciate your commitment to both our students and our institution.

Cordially,

Donna Maria Blancero, PhD

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers