

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Prestigious Grant Means New Equipment, More Research Opportunities for USM Science Students *USM Awarded \$100,000 National Science Foundation Grant*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— Saint Mary science majors will benefit from new, state-of-the-art equipment and professional-level research opportunities thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant secured by USM assistant chemistry professor Jemima Ingle.

The grant, a \$100,000 NSF Faculty Development Award will go toward purchasing two pieces of science equipment, a UV-visible spectrophotometer and a high-performance liquid chromatograph—both are powerful tools for advanced scientific analysis. The money will also cover the salaries and room and board costs for three students to work over the summer. It will also cover travel expenses for the students to take advantage of opportunities to present their research.

As part of the research project, students will analyze wastewater pollutants, and, more specifically, look into how UV-visible spectroscopy, coupled with statistical analysis, may provide more efficient avenues for studying such substances. Essentially, the grant project is intended to help develop ways to save time, money, and effort in routine analyses.

Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM's academic vice president, said the grant is tremendous boon to the university.

“Primarily, this is a remarkable opportunity for our students. This can provide them with invaluable experience.” Le Beau said. For the university, he added, “success with one grant can open the door for more.”

Ingle was able to secure the funding due to her previous experience doing research work funded by the NSF.

“Any grant from the NSF is clearly prestigious,” she said. “This is also very good for our current and future students. Any time you get students excited about research, they’re more likely to stay in the sciences. And we’re getting much-needed equipment for the chemistry program.”

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) on the web for more information.*