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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust continues investment in science education,
research with grant for new Whitworth professor in Chemistry**

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has approved \$180,000 from its New Faculty Start-up Grants program to help fund six new science faculty positions at five universities in Oregon and Washington – including \$30,000 for a new chemistry professor at Whitworth University.

“We are so pleased by the outstanding scientific research and education that we have seen in our many years of partnership with Whitworth University,” said Dr. Moses Lee, Senior Director for Scientific Research and Enrichment Programs, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. “This grant will help faculty and administrators at Whitworth University strengthen their science education curriculum and give students the opportunity to conduct publishable scientific research and learn from the best faculty possible. We are honored to support student learning at Whitworth and other universities throughout the Northwest.”

“With support from the Murdock Trust, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Davis to our department and to purchase the materials and equipment he needs to continue his analytical chemistry research. Dr. Davis’ research has a wide range of public health uses, including helping to detect precursors used in the synthesis of illicit drugs,” said Deanna Ojennus, chair of the Whitworth chemistry department. “His enthusiasm for undergraduate research and his teaching experience will greatly enhance our departmental offerings.”

Dr. Davis comes to Whitworth from Azusa Pacific University, where he was an associate professor of chemistry. His expertise is in instrument and method design for Ion Mobility Spectrometry. He begins July 1.

This is the third award the Murdock Trust has made to Whitworth to support science faculty.

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About the New Science Faculty grants

Trustees of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust approved the Research Start-up Grants for New Science Faculty program in 2005. This program provides grant support to augment start-up research packages offered to new tenure-track faculty in the natural sciences at private institutions.

"Our benefactor, Jack Murdock, believed strongly in the value and power of scientific research, exploration and inspiration," said Steve Moore, Executive Director, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. "We are grateful to be able to partner with institutions that are investing tirelessly in the work of growing our scientific knowledge and inspiring the next generation of scientific researchers and educators."

It is anticipated that, with these grants, these institutions will become more competitive for the best young faculty nationwide; that new hires will have a better environment in which to initiate their research and a greater likelihood of success; and that the institutions will be encouraged to give faculty/student research even more serious attention than they have in the past.

Reviews of this program in 2010 and 2014 show remarkable success. External consultants are used to help with the hiring process, and reports show that they have done well and are often awarded tenure. Several have also secured major federal research grants. To date, the Trust has awarded 99 grants under this program, for a total of nearly \$3 million.

About M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, provides grants to organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington – that seek to strengthen the region's educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. Since its inception in 1975, the Trust has awarded more than 6,500 grants totaling more than \$975 million. For more information, find the Murdock Trust on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [on our website](#).

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