

**Alfred University professor named SUNY Empire Innovation Professor for ground-breaking work in optics**  
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Yiquan Wu

[Yiquan Wu](#), a professor of materials science at the [Inamori School of Engineering](#) at Alfred University, has been named a State University of New York (SUNY) Empire Innovation Professor for his ground-breaking work on optical ceramics and digital processing of photonic materials.

A member of the Alfred University faculty since 2011, Wu last year lead a multidisciplinary research project with a nearly \$3 million award from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to study and develop laser materials from high-thermal conductivity ceramics through casting and additive manufacturing techniques.

His research contributions have been recognized with numerous other awards, including a National Science Foundation CAREER award; a U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research Young Investigator Program award; and American Ceramic Society Gold Star award.

Wu received his Ph.D. in materials science from the Imperial College of London.

The SUNY Empire Innovation Award is a state-funded grant program dedicated to “recruiting and retaining

world-class faculty” in the SUNY system.

The materials-based engineering programs in the Inamori School of Engineering are part of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, one of only five statutory units in SUNY. The other four are at Cornell University. The statutory units predate the formation of SUNY. The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, which includes a top-10 rated art school, as well as top-rated materials science programs, was established by an act of the State Legislature in 1900. SUNY was created in 1948.