As enrollment grows and budgets shrink, the work of the Office of Institutional Development also increases. We are hard at work assisting faculty and staff who are seeking grant funding for projects that align with the college’s mission and three strategic directions of growing enrollment, improving student outcomes and responding to workforce needs.

The Office of Institutional Development team works in tandem with faculty and staff to identify funding sources at the federal, state and local level; plan, develop and coordinate proposals for submission to funding agencies; as well as assist project managers throughout the grant period once awards are made. We help you with every step of the process.

St. Louis Community College has much to celebrate thanks to the hard work of many faculty, staff and administrators who have developed successful proposals. Approximately $17.8 million in grant awards have already been received for the current fiscal year.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are considering pursuing a grant or just want to learn more about the college’s process. I would love to hear your ideas. This year marks my 30th year of service at St. Louis Community College, yet I still feel the rush of excitement and anticipation when we discover grant opportunities that support our daily mission of expanding minds and changing lives.

Best regards,

Castella Henderson

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**Welcome, Claudia**

Claudia Shugert has joined the OID staff as an academic grant writer. In this capacity, Claudia is responsible for designing and writing grant proposals in collaboration with faculty, staff and administrators and carrying out myriad other grant-related duties.

Claudia has spent her professional career primarily within the fields of not-for-profit administration and development. Her background includes serving as executive director, Director of Community Giving and Publications, and associate director of a variety of organizations and institutions of higher learning.

An enthusiastic supporter of our region’s vibrant fine arts opportunities, Claudia enjoys attending the performances of our local theatre troupes. She is a painter and is particularly delighted when funding becomes available to support college visual arts programs. Any additional time available is dedicated to family, including a much-loved menagerie of dogs and cats. Claudia can be reached by telephone at x5328 or by e-mail at cshugert@stlcc.edu.
Kudos to Project Directors

Hats off to project directors who received funding from the agencies below to carry out current grant projects on behalf of STLCC:

- **Ashok Agrawal, FV**: $604,800 from Georgetown University on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development to support 18 students from Central America and the Caribbean in a two-year technical training program in Quality Control from 8/1/11-7/31/13.

- **Lesley English-Abram, CC**: $99,722.52 from the St. Louis Agency on Employment and Training (SLATE) to provide Workforce Investment Act (WIA) staffing services at the Re-Entry One Stop through 6/30/11; and $1,587,529.82 to provide WIA employment and training services to eligible Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth clients through 6/30/11.

- **Lesley English-Abram, CC**: $1,398,208 from the St. Louis Co. Dept. of Human Services to operate a WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker, Transitioning to the Next Generation Career Center Model program; $384,590 to provide WIA Title I services to Dislocated Workers from the Federal Records Center due to Base Realignment and Closure through a National Emergency Grant (NEG); $290,697 to provide WIA services to Dislocated Workers from Chrysler via an NEG; and $20,000 to provide employment services for spouses of active duty National Guard members and assist returning National Guard troops with finding work. All programs funded through 6/30/11.

- **Irene Kalmer, FV**: $175,646 from Youth in Need (YIN) to provide mentor-coaching and early learning staff development for YIN staff in a project funded by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through 2/28/12.

- **Craig Klimczak, CC**: $752,120 from the Mo. Dept. of Higher Education to participate in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), a project funded by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce via the ARRA and that will expand a network of public computer centers at seven community colleges across Missouri, including STLCC, through 8/31/13.

- **Mary Krogmeier, FV**: $20,000 from the Mo. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for FV's Child Development Center to participate in the Early Childhood Child Care Development Fund Grant program, with approved capital improvements taking place through 6/30/11.

- **Steve Long, CC**: $406,649 and $410,545 from Cuyahoga Community College on behalf of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to participate in the Midwest Community College Health Information Technology (HIT) consortium project to educate information technology professionals in health care. These awards represent Year 1 and Year 2 funding, respectively, of a two-year grant taking place through 4/1/12.

- **Steve Long, CC**: $164,052 from the U.S. Dept. of Energy to participate, with Ameren, in the Line Worker Pre-Employment Training program funded by the ARRA through 7/31/13; and $301,031 from the Univ. of Missouri-Columbia to participate in ARRA: Mo. Energy Sector Partnership & Training Program funded by the Mo. Dept. of Economic Development through 1/28/13.

- **Keith Sayles, FV & FP**: $1,177,088 from the U.S. Dept. of Education for FV and FP to participate in the Predominantly Black Institutions Program to strengthen STLCC’s capacity to improve educational outcomes for African-American males through 9/30/11.

- **Patricia Suess, FV**: $572,050 from the National Science Foundation to participate in the Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program supporting financially needy students in six STEM disciplines through 1/31/16.
Legislators in Washington D.C. as well as Jefferson City continue to grapple with budgets. Recently, federal legislators reached a compromise on a “continuing resolution” (CR) to keep the government running until Sept. 30. Many programs of interest to community colleges were reduced in the CR:

- Perkins Career and Educational by $138 million, eliminating Tech Prep funding and cutting Basic State Grants by $35 million;
- Adult Education by $31 million;
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants by $20 million;
- TRIO by $25 million;
- GEAR UP by $20 million; and
- International Education and Foreign Language by $50 million.

One bright spot is that the current Pell Grant maximum will stay at $5,500 even though the summer Pell authorization has been eliminated. Job training funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, however, was cut, and funding for Workforce Investment Act formula programs was cut by $307 million.

At the state level, Gov. Nixon’s budget recommendation of a 7.2 percent cut for all higher education institutions was maintained in the House, but the House Budget committee added a $12 million item to the higher education budget to fund a “Preparing to Care” grant program.

In the Senate, the committee deleted the grant program but added $20 million to the higher education core budget, which would have reduced cuts to higher education to 4.8 percent. This discrepancy was resolved in conference, a contentious process that lasted several days.

The bill that both the House and Senate agreed to provides some $12 million over the governor’s recommendations for a cut from last year of 5.68 percent. Gov. Nixon will review the entire budget before signing the bills. His office has already announced that some $30 million will need to be cut to keep Missouri’s budget in balance.

Project Director’s Perspective

A collaborative pre-employment training project piloted by STLCC and primary partners Boeing and GKN Aerospace became the basis of a winning grant proposal funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

“These relationships, along with the belief that aerospace was a regional industry sector that we needed to support, was the impetus to seek funding for an Aerospace Institute (A.I.),” says Lorna Finch, who assists A.I. project director Becky Epps.

“Industry has been instrumental in curriculum development and donated items and given much of their time to offer industry insight,” says Becky, who further credits other A.I. partners with project sustainability. “Community partners assist with recruitment and marketing; one has even offered scholarship opportunities. Our K-12 partners are already exposing high school students to the exciting world of aerospace/aviation.”

Even with strong planning and partnering, project variables can shift. “Grant writing is more of an art than a science,” Lorna says. “Sometimes, we have no control over circumstances, and these may impact one’s grant. For example, we could not foresee that the economic downturn would affect the employment projections we incorporated into the A.I.’s training outcomes.” For the quarter ending Mar. 31, 2011, 294 participants had been served by the A.I. project, and 79 graduates had entered training-related employment. At least 432 St. Louis area residents are expected to be served by Feb. 14, 2012, when the project ends.
Focus on Funding

Speaking of Education…

The U.S. Department of Education offers discretionary grants to organizations, agencies, and individuals. Awarded using a competitive process, discretionary grants are what people usually have in mind when thinking about applying for a grant from this department.

The department’s Forecast of Funding Opportunities, found online at http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html, is a useful tool for finding discretionary grants. Updated periodically and most recently on May 12, 2011, this document lists virtually all programs and competitions under which the department has invited or expects to invite applications for new awards, including actual or estimated deadline dates.

The lists are in the form of charts – organized according to the department’s eight principal program offices – and include previously announced programs and competitions, as well as those upcoming.

While Grants.gov is another place to search for federal grants, it has indeed become the submission option of choice: “The Department of Education has been actively working with Grants.gov for over two years,” says Danny Harris, Deputy CFO with the department. “We are pleased to see how far Grants.gov has come in a short time toward reaching the goal of having one common place for applicants to find and apply for federal grants.”

Speaking of Grants…

Like most worthy endeavors, a grant begins with an idea that holds potential, needs shape and takes hard work. First, the idea must speak to an organization’s mission and, at the college, to any of its three strategic directions: growing enrollment; improving student outcomes; and responding to workforce needs. If so, it’s time to talk it over with your vice president, dean, director, manager, or supervisor.

If your proposed project fits with the college’s mission, give the director of the Office of Institutional Development (OID) a call to further discuss the proposal development process at STLCC.

OID staff can assist you with the hard work that awaits you should a funding opportunity become available. For example, you will want to identify any college resources needed for the proposed project; faculty or staff members who will be involved; and possible external partners collaborating on the project.

The hard work will continue when it comes time to write the grant narrative, create a budget and gather required documents. Meeting the deadline is a given, and many agencies recommend that proposals be submitted early. If the project is funded, there’s more hard work ahead in managing grant funds and personnel, writing reports, and fulfilling other particulars set by the funding agency. The OID staff is available during the entire time, no matter where you are in the process.

The competition can be extremely tough given the ever-widening pool of applicants resulting, in part, from greater access. “In an era of economic downturns, deficits and reductions in funding available through state budget dollars, resources such as Grants.gov become even more critical in helping our community to maintain our quality of life without having to raise taxes,” says Daniel P. Breazeale, mayor of the Town of Lexington, S.C.

At STLCC, funded grants have resulted in curriculum development, student support services, workforce development projects, art exhibits, service-learning programs, professional development, training for preschool teachers, purchase of instructional equipment and software, campus recycling and beautification, and other worthy endeavors.
# Upcoming Opportunities

Programs with upcoming deadlines, some of which are included in *Federal Funding Opportunities 2010-2011*, published by the Office of Institutional Development and available online:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Provides Support for</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Grant Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of the Treasury</td>
<td>To promote and support free tax preparation service for underserved, low-income populations.</td>
<td>June 30, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Harwood Training Grant Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Labor</td>
<td>Workplace issues addressed via Targeted Topic Training grants or Capacity Building grants.</td>
<td>July 2011 (estimated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulbright Scholar Program: 2012-2013 Opportunities for Community College (Russia)</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of State, administered by the Council for Int'l. Exchange of Scholars</td>
<td>Faculty Award to teach courses in area of specialization; Administrators Seminar to focus on the role of community colleges in higher education and the local community.</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 2011, for either faculty award or administrators seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for Arts Projects: Art Works</td>
<td>Nat'l. Endowment for the Arts</td>
<td>To support outcome-based projects in creation, engagement, learning, or livability.</td>
<td>Aug. 11, 2011, for school-based projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Stipends</td>
<td>Natl. Endowment for the Humanities</td>
<td>Awarded to individual scholars pursuing advanced research of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tournees Festival</td>
<td>French American Cultural Exchange/ Cultural Srvcs., French Embassy</td>
<td>To bring contemporary French cinema to American college and university campuses.</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning &amp; Leadership Grants (LLG); Student Achievement Grants (SAG)</td>
<td>Natl. Education Assoc. (NEA) Foundation</td>
<td>LLG funds professional development for individuals or collegial study for groups. SAG aims to improve academic achievement of students in any subject area.</td>
<td>Oct. 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Technological Education</td>
<td>Natl. Science Foundation</td>
<td>Partnerships between academic institutions and employers to promote education of science and engineering technicians.</td>
<td>Oct. 20, 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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