Focus on Funding is a newsletter published by the St. Louis Community College Office of Institutional Development (OID). It features external funding opportunities available from federal, state, local and private funding sources, as well as other news. For more information about the OID and services provided by our staff, please contact Castella Henderson, Director, at 314/539-5354, or visit the OID web page at: http://www.stlcc.edu/odweb/.

Grant Opportunities

Bridges to the Baccalaureate for Underrepresented Students (National Institutes of Health)

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to establish partnerships between community colleges or other two year post secondary educational institutions granting associate degrees and colleges or universities that offer baccalaureate degrees to develop programs that prepare associate degree students with academic potential for admission and successful completion of undergraduate degree program in biomedical and/or behavioral science related subjects.

Students eligible to participate in this program are those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical science research arena of the nation (underrepresented groups) and/or populations disproportionately affected by health disparities (health disparities populations). This initiative is designed to promote effective inter-institutional partnerships to improve the quality and quantity of students from underrepresented groups and or health disparities populations being trained as the next generation of biomedical research scientists.

Bridges grants must reflect the plans and priorities of the participating institutions as well as the collective plans and priorities of the partnerships. Collaborative agreements should be designed to best fit the needs and situations of the institutions involved. The challenge for the participating partners is to create a partnership program, or to enhance an existing program, that will focus attention and adequate resources on the institution granting associate degrees and enhance competitiveness of its science graduates and science programs.

A total of $14 million will be available per year for an anticipated 6-9 grants per year nationwide.

DEADLINE: May 18, 2007

Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education Comprehensive Program (U.S. Department of Education)

The Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (commonly known as FIPSE) Comprehensive Program seeks to fund projects that are innovative as models within the national context of postsecondary education. A successful FIPSE application presents a convincing argument that the project addresses a problem of widespread significance in a new way. Projects should utilize new strategies that improve upon what others in the field are already doing, or they should translate existing strategies into different settings. Either

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way, an ideal FIPSE project, while based on current research findings, creates new knowledge and practices. But its most prominent feature is that it adds something new to the array of strategies educators can draw from to improve student access and achievement.

While matching funds are required, the Comprehensive Program does not mandate any particular rate for cost-sharing or matching funds. However, the applicant institution and any partners should significantly support the project both philosophically and financially. Because FIPSE applicants are often seeking support that will develop or strengthen their own programs or capacities, the host institution and its partners are expected to contribute substantial resources.

PROJECTED DEADLINE: May 1, 2007 (may be earlier or later) The competition will be announced in February or March.

Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement (National Science Foundation)

The Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program seeks to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for all undergraduate students. CCLI supports efforts that create new learning materials and teaching strategies, develop faculty expertise, implement educational innovations, assess learning, and evaluate innovations. The program supports three types of projects representing three different phases of development, ranging from small exploratory investigations to
The program emphasizes **student-focused projects that build on prior work and contribute to the knowledge base of undergraduate STEM education** research and practice. In addition, projects should contribute to **building a community of scholars** who work in related areas of undergraduate education. Finally, the program requires proposals to explicitly **identify a set of measurable outcomes** that will be used in the project management and evaluation.

To provide a framework for projects to maximize their effectiveness on improving undergraduate STEM education, the program identified five components of a cyclic model of knowledge production and the improvement of practice. **The program will accept proposals that may focus on one or more of the following components:**

- Creating learning materials and teaching strategies;
- Developing faculty expertise;
- Implementing educational innovations;
- Assessing student achievement;
- Conducting research on undergraduate STEM education.

The program will accept **three types of proposals** representing different phases of development:

**Phase 1**, Exploratory Projects with a total budget up to $150,000 ($200,000 when four-year colleges and universities collaborate with two-year colleges) for one to three years;

**Phase 2**, Expansion Projects with a total budget up to $500,000 for two to four years;

**Phase 3**, Comprehensive Projects with a total budget up to $2,000,000 for three to five years.

**DEADLINE:** May 8, 2007 for Phase 1 proposals; January 10, 2008 for Phase 2 and 3 proposals.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SLCC GRANT PROCESS?  
LOOKING FOR FUNDING FOR A SPECIAL PROJECT?  
-MARK YOUR CALENDAR-  
The Office of Institutional Development will hold monthly **CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS**  
In February as follows:  
**Meramec:** Wednesday, February 7  
2:30 – 4:00  
BA 123J

**Forest Park:** Thursday, February 8  
2:30 – 4:00  
Executive Dean’s Conference Room  
F-234

**Florissant Valley:** Tuesday, Feb. 20  
2:30 – 4:00  
E-151F (Engineering Offices)

If you have questions about funding opportunities or the grants process, please stop by!