Focus on Funding

Greetings

Welcome to the first issue of our newly redesigned newsletter, Focus on Funding, produced for the faculty and staff of St. Louis Community College. What hasn’t changed is our focus: to let you know about grant projects awarded to your colleagues around the district and to present you with a sampling of potential funding opportunities that both uphold the college’s mission and strategic goals and that may interest and inspire you, too.

If you want to pursue an opportunity, talk it over first with your vice president, dean, director, manager or supervisor. Then call me at x5354 so we can continue the conversation and devise a plan for submitting a proposal to the funding agency.

Happy Holidays,

Castella Henderson, Director
Institutional Development, Cosand Center (CC)

Going Green with Brownfields Training

Last summer, the college landed its first competitive grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The St. Louis Area Brownfields Job Training grant, a $500,000 award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focuses on a key ARRA goal of saving and creating jobs.

Specifically, the grant targets unemployed and underemployed residents of economically depressed local communities impacted by brownfields or other environmental issues to learn how to safely clean up and restore brownfields, which are abandoned or underutilized sites where actual or perceived environmental contamination is viewed as a barrier to redevelopment.

The training will be held at Saint Louis University’s Center for Environmental Education and Training, STLCC’s partnering institution, and will qualify project graduates for work with environmental services and remediation companies. Ryan Fleischman, Workforce and Community Development, CC, directs the project.
**Teaching Success**

With “community” as our middle name, grant projects often work beyond our building’s walls. Forest Park’s Harrison Northside Education Center (HNEC) teamed up with Grace Hill Settlement House on one such project, the Head Start Hispanic/Latino Service Partnership Institutions Project (HSH/LSPI).

Funded with $749,430 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HSH/LSPI has, to date, helped 21 Grace Hill Head Start and Early Head Start teachers, teaching assistants and home visitors to earn a degree—mostly in early care and education or a related field—by providing them with scholarships and support services in STLCC credit classes. Another three students are expected to graduate at the end of this semester. At the outset in 2004, the project’s expected goal was to help at least 20 Head Start classroom employees earn a degree.

The number of students enrolled in classes each semester has also exceeded projected goals. As a result, many more students than expected have increased their knowledge of best practices, English language and mathematics skills, children’s literature, and awareness of St. Louis’ Hispanic/Latino culture. Jim Monahan, FP–HNEC, directs the project, which runs through Sept. 29, 2010.

**Kudos Continued**

Hats off to project directors who received funding from the following agencies to carry out various projects on behalf of STLCC:

- Lesley Abram, CC, Employment & Training Center: $336,258 from the League for Innovation in the Community College/Walmart Foundation to engage in the Walmart Brighter Futures national demonstration project by providing displaced workers with training and skills needed for 21st century jobs.
- David Hanlon, M, Art: $11,000 from St. Louis ArtWorks to support a teaching team of two artists and 12 youth artist apprentices in creating a ceramic mural mosaic commissioned by the Missouri Foundation for Health.
- Susan McKnight, FV, Continuing Education: $29,340 from Youth for Understanding USA, Inc. to provide an international academic exchange experience for four international students during the current academic year.
- Darlene Neil, FV, Family and Consumer Sciences: $40,000 from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to participate in the Caring for Kids Education on Wheels Program that supplies services and programs within the college’s service area to individuals who provide care to young children.
Rolling Along

Some grants don’t have specific deadlines; rather, they remain open, or “roll.” One such grant, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) on the Road Program, sends museum exhibitions across the country to venues with approximately 2,000 square feet of exhibit space.

An institution may request to host any of eight touring exhibitions, depending on availability, with two more projects to be added to the roster by the end of 2010. Each exhibition is on loan for seven weeks and features 35 to 45 original objects. The institution pays $2,000 to cover the hosting fee and the shipping of all objects, as well as panels, banners and other supporting materials. If approved to host an exhibition, the institution becomes eligible to apply for a $1,000 programming grant from the NEH.

The Mid-America Arts Alliance coordinates the program, and the Web site is http://nehontheroad.org/SiteResources/Data/Templates/t2.asp?docid=540&DocName=Hosting%20an%20Exhibition.

Opportunities for Faculty

Most grants support institutional projects, yet some support individuals. Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for Community College Faculty, for example, award full- and part-time faculty with a $1,200 stipend to attend an intensive, one-week study and discussion of important topics in American history and culture. Offered by the NEH each summer, the program supports 10 workshops, each with a different topic, located around the country. The application deadline is March 2, and the Web site is http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-college.html.

In addition, the U.S. Department of State offers the English Language Specialist Program in recruiting academics in the fields of TEFL/TESL and Applied Linguistics for short-term (two to four weeks) assignments abroad such as curriculum projects, teacher training seminars, textbook development, English for Specific Purposes, and program evaluation. Applications are accepted by sending a current C.V. to english@state.gov, and the Web site is http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/el-specialist.html.

The State department also offers longer assignments such as the 10–month English Language Fellow Program. Fellows assist U.S. Embassies throughout the world to facilitate democratic institution–building and encourage participation in the global economy. The deadline for applications is March 1, and the Web site is http://elf.georgetown.edu.

Jargon 4 U

Depending on the agency, funding opportunities go by different names though the meaning remains the same: The agency is offering a grant.

CFI: Call for Investment
FFO: Federal Funding Opportunity

FOA: Funding Opportunity Announcement
RFA: Request for Application
RFP: Request for Proposal


**Opportunities for Students**

Community college students who meet specified criteria can qualify for paid internships offered by various federal agencies, among them:

- **The Undergraduate Student Research Program** from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) promises students the ultimate workforce preparatory experience for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by placing them at 12 NASA research centers and facilities around the country. A student must be at least a sophomore before the expected commencement of the internship session, with three sessions held yearly. Applications for the summer 2010 session are due **Jan. 22**, and the Web site is [http://usrp.usra.edu](http://usrp.usra.edu).

- **The Community College Institute** from the U.S. Department of Energy assists students who have not had a chance to work in an advanced research environment and who want to explore career opportunities in science, engineering and technology. Students must have completed at least one semester of college. Applications are accepted through **Feb. 1**, and the Web site is [http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/CCI/about.html](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/CCI/about.html).

- **The National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) Fellowship Program** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps students increase their knowledge of environmental issues while refining their professional skills. Students enrolled in academic credit coursework may apply for full-time summer assignments or part-time school year assignments typically conducted at an EPA office or laboratory. The application deadline is **Feb. 5**, and the Web site is [http://www.epa.gov/education/students.html](http://www.epa.gov/education/students.html).

- **The Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups** from the U.S. Department of Transportation provides students in all majors with hands-on experience and on-the-job training while working on current transportation-related topics and issues. Undergraduates must have completed their first year of school. Applications are due **Feb. 5**, and the Web site is [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/education/stipdg.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/education/stipdg.htm).

- **The Faculty and Students Team (FaST) Program** provides hands-on research opportunities in U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories to teams comprised of one faculty member and two to three currently enrolled undergraduates who have completed at least one semester of college coursework. Also supported by the National Science Foundation, the summer program encourages faculty from institutions with limited research facilities and those institutions serving populations, women, and minorities underrepresented in the fields of science, engineering, and technology to apply. The award includes student and faculty stipends, as well as assistance with housing and travel that is more than 50 miles one way from the participant’s home or school and the appointment site. Applications are accepted through **Feb. 1**, and the Web site is [http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/fast/about.html](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/fast/about.html).