Focus on Funding

Community colleges are making headlines this fall. In August, STLCC announced its selection to the national Achieving the Dream initiative. In October, Chancellor Zelema Harris was one of only 20 community college CEOs invited to participate in the White House Summit on Community Colleges. Much is being asked of community colleges across the country, and STLCC is responding by seeking grant-funded support for projects to meet new and ongoing student and community needs.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, STLCC’s Institutional Development office helped faculty and staff prepare winning grants totaling more than $22 million, up from more than $15 million the previous year.

Increased grant activity is a national trend. Grant submissions to grants.gov, one of several federal online application systems, grew from 202,366 applications in fiscal year 2008 to more than 300,000 the following year. New opportunities afforded via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) explain part of the sharp growth.

If you have an idea for a grant project that fits with the college’s mission and strategic goals, talk it over with your vice president, dean, director, manager or supervisor. Then call me at x5354; we’re here to help you expand minds and change lives.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Castella Henderson

Top Story

Kudos: Three for Three

Of three separate grant applications STLCC submitted last year to the U.S. Department of Education to implement three separate Student Support Services programs at FV, FP and M, all three received funding for five-year projects that began September 1. Over the five-year project, funding totals $1,192,480 at FV; $1,100,000 at FP; and $1,098,790 at M.

Across the three campuses, approximately 460 students who meet specific eligibility criteria, demonstrate high academic need, and have the potential for success in a postsecondary institution will be selected to receive project services that include academic tutoring, intrusive academic advising and counseling, financial literacy, transfer assistance, career exploration, cultural/academic enrichment, and mentoring.

Extra staff budgeted into the grant applications are being hired to carry out the programs, with project directors Rosita Lewis at FV and Carolyn Jackson at FP already in place and the project director at M expected to be named soon.
Hats off to project directors who received funding from the following agencies to carry out current grant projects on behalf of STLCC:

- **Ashok Agrawal, FV:** $693,600 from Georgetown University on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development to support 17 deaf students from Central America and the Caribbean in a technical training program in Business and Microcomputer Applications at FV; and $10,123 from the University of Missouri-St. Louis to participate in the project, “Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Curriculum in Nanomedicine, Phase 2: Real and Virtual Lab Experiments in Nanomedicine.”

- **Gina Benesh, CC:** $49,800 from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to purchase equipment for various career and technical education programs at FV, FP and M; and $11,464 from DESE to provide fee waivers for displaced homemakers on all campuses.

- **Melissa Joy Benton-Hopper, W:** $994.99 from the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri to fund the activities of the Forensics and Debate Team at W.

- **Kathie Chambers, CC:** $38,000 from Talisen Technologies, Inc. to design and deliver Enterprise Sustainability Platform workshops to personnel from four local school districts.

- **Donna Dare, CC:** $510,337 from DESE to purchase instructional equipment in vocational programs at FV, FP and M; and $1,290,552 from DESE to support career and vocational education at FV, FP and M via the Perkins grant program.

- **Jeanne Edwards, FV:** $20,000 from DESE to help individuals receive training and apply for the Child Development Association credential.

- **Heather Ellison, M;** and **Diane Sterett, FP:** $15,000 from the MetLife Foundation to expand the newly developed Home Health Caregiver Training program piloted at M earlier this year and offered in the current semester at the new Harrison Education Center.

- **Christy Jaeger, M:** $115,236 from the Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens with Developmental Disabilities to provide clients with vocational enhancement services at M.

- **Irene Kalmer, FV:** $40,000 from DESE to improve and enhance the quality of child care offered in STLCC’s service area.

- **James Monahan, FP:** $220,480 from Kirkwood Community College on behalf of Community Colleges for International Development to support 16 international students to study Business Administration, Hospitality, and Information Technology at FP.

- **Richard Norris, FV:** $600,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide salaries, equipment and furnishings at STLCC’s new BRDG Park location, as well as provide training in biotechnology techniques to specified groups.

- **Karl Steenberg, M:** $128,428 from DESE to operate a comprehensive Adult Education and Literacy program for seven local school districts.
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According to Moody’s Investors Service, the U.S. recession is officially over even though Missouri’s recovery is not expected to begin until at least 2013. Missouri’s revenues are currently running approximately nine percent behind last year’s—not exactly a banner financial year—and the state’s community colleges received only a 5.2 percent cut, credited to the availability of federal stimulus funds and Gov. Jay Nixon’s support.

Most observers expect Missouri’s budget to “fall off the cliff” next year, and talk of 15 or 20 percent cuts in education is common. Most state officials are loathe to mention tax increases or other revenue enhancements, yet without additional federal stimulus funding or new revenue streams, Missourians will be facing their state’s largest budget lapse in history.

Still, the future promises very good news for STLCC because community colleges are increasingly being viewed by the president and the governor as critical partners in economic recovery. STLCC student enrollment is up 13 percent over last year, and thousands of other learners are enrolled in job training through Workforce and Community Development grant projects. In fact, while efforts to boost job training funding at the federal level have been stalled due to concerns over the deficit, STLCC currently is collaborating on several grant programs, among them:

- **Graduate St. Louis Consortium**, a U.S. Department of Labor Community-Based Job Training grant awarded to the city of St. Louis and from which STLCC will receive $446,986.47 during the project’s first year to train dislocated, incumbent and unemployed workers in the health care, information technology, and emerging green jobs industries;

- **Midwest Community College Health Information Technology (HIT) Consortium**, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant funded via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Cuyahoga Community College and from which STLCC will receive $406,649 in the project’s first year to develop curriculum and provide training to health information technology professionals in six work roles; and

- **Training for Tomorrow**, a Missouri Department of Economic Development grant awarded to the city of St. Louis and from which STLCC will receive $2,060,338 to expand the capacity of community colleges to retrain and re-employ individuals in middle-skill occupations in four major career clusters.

Save the Date

Workshops and conferences bring opportunities to learn more about the grants process, including available funding. At events below, faculty, staff and administrators from other local institutions are also invited to attend. For more information, call the Office of Institutional Development (OID).

On **Feb. 24-25, 2011**, STLCC will be one of several local sponsoring institutions hosting the 2011 Midwest Summit on Leadership in Interdisciplinary, Networking & Collaboration (LINC). Representatives from many federal funding agencies will be on hand, and the keynote speaker is Roger Beachy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

On **Aug. 15, 2011 (tentative)**, a representative from the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) may be able to visit STLCC to discuss opportunities within the Fulbright Scholar Program. In the meantime, check the CIES Web site at [http://www.cies.org/Webinar/](http://www.cies.org/Webinar/) for upcoming Webinars. The CIES administers the Fulbright Scholar Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of State.

**Fall 2011 (tentative)** is the earliest STLCC may be able to host a National Science Foundation (NSF) workshop that presents the NSF’s mission, priorities, grants process, and budget. If the workshop’s not held then, OID staff hopes NSF can schedule a visit later in the 2011-2012 academic year.
Focus on Funding

Microscopic View of NSF

From the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) FY 2009 Performance and Financial Highlights report come the following highlights:

- NSF evaluated more than 45,000 proposals and made 14,600 new awards, of which 4,677 were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
- NSF’s FY 2009 funding rate reached 32 percent, the highest since FY 2000.
- Nearly 239,000 proposal reviews were conducted, involving almost 46,000 external reviewers.
- NSF awards reached nearly 2,000 colleges, universities, and other public and private institutions in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico for research, education, and training projects in most fields of science and engineering.

NSF deadlines often extend several years out, allowing potential applicants time to maximize planning efforts. See the NSF Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/.

Project Director’s Perspective

Keith Sayles, project director for the American-American Male Initiative (AAMI) project at the FV and FP campuses, speaks proudly of project participants:

“The students are going the route we want them to go; they are all so very eager to be successful.”

AAMI provides support services to address retention and academic achievement for, currently, 191 African-American males who also have found what Sayles calls “a sense of belonging in the college” because of the project. New grant funding will double project capacity to 400 participants.

Before current project funding became available from the U.S. Department of Education, Sayles already had begun to address the needs of this particular student population so that applying for funding became the next, natural step. “You must get input and buy-in from everyone at all levels, and you must pay close attention to what the funding agency is asking for,” Sayles advises. “You must also work closely with the Office of Institutional Development.”

Partnerships have served the project well, too, in teaching students about health care, job placement and domestic violence. One partner, 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis, leads training for AAMI’s peer mentors who, in turn, assist AAMI participants. Currently, 40 peer mentors work in the project, and recruitment is taking place now for peer mentors to begin working in January.

Photo above:  AAMI participants, staff and chaperones on the Memphis Heritage Tour.

Food for Thought

Addressing students and educators at the national Future Farmers of America annual convention in October, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan heralded agriculture as the biggest employer in the nation. “Approximately 21 million Americans, or 20 percent of the U.S. workforce, work in the agricultural sector,” according to a recent report from the department’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

“At the postsecondary level, more than 500 community colleges, technical schools, and four-year universities also have two-year instructional programs in agriculture, food and natural resources,” Secretary Duncan told his audience. “We want to support states and districts seeking to expand and replicate successful rural educator and grow-your-own teacher preparation programs in partnership with community colleges and schools of education.”
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Upcoming Opportunities

Before the semester ends, the Office of Institutional Development plans to issues a publication titled Federal Funding Opportunities 2010-2011, to be available online. Below is a sampling of programs highlighted in the booklet, with upcoming estimated or actual deadlines:

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<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Provides Support for</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty &amp; Student Teams (FaST) Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE)</td>
<td>A team comprised of one faculty member &amp; two or three undergraduates for hands-on research in DOE national laboratories during the summer.</td>
<td>Now through Jan. 2011</td>
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<td>Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of Education</td>
<td>Consortia consisting of at least two academic institutions from U.S., Mexico &amp; Canada to support education &amp; training for students in various disciplines.</td>
<td>Early 2011 (estimated)</td>
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<td>Learn and Serve America Higher Education Programs</td>
<td>Corp. for National &amp; Community Service</td>
<td>Supports higher education institutions using innovative service-learning programming to benefit communities &amp; promote civic engagement for students.</td>
<td>Early 2011 (estimated)</td>
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<td>Global Climate Change Education Project</td>
<td>National Aeronautics &amp; Space Administration (NASA)</td>
<td>To enhance students’ academic experiences or improve educators’ abilities to engage students in STEM disciplines using NASA resources.</td>
<td>Early 2011 (estimated) for submitting Notice of Intent.</td>
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<td>Landmarks of American History &amp; Culture: Workshops for Community College Faculty</td>
<td>National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)</td>
<td>An institution may submit a proposal to host a one-week, residence-based workshop to take place at or near sites important to American history &amp; culture.</td>
<td>Mar. 1, 2011; submit draft proposal at least four weeks before deadline.</td>
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<td>Summer Seminars &amp; Institutes</td>
<td>NEH</td>
<td>An institution may submit a proposal to host a two- to six-week seminar or institute supporting faculty development programs in the humanities.</td>
<td>Mar. 2011 (estimated); submit draft proposal at least four weeks before deadline.</td>
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<td>NEA Literature Fellowships FY 2012</td>
<td>National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)</td>
<td>Individuals may apply in prose (fiction or creative nonfiction).</td>
<td>Mar. 3, 2011</td>
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<td>Help America Vote College Program</td>
<td>U.S. Election Assistance Commission</td>
<td>Encourages student participation as poll workers or assistants.</td>
<td>Spring 2011 (estimated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Technological Education</td>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>Supports partnerships between academic institutions &amp; employers to promote improvement in educating science &amp; engineering technicians.</td>
<td>Preliminary proposal, Apr. 21, 2011; full proposal, Oct. 20, 2011.</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language Specialist Program</td>
<td>U.S. Dept. of State</td>
<td>Recruits U.S. academics in TEFL/TESL for two- to four-week assignments abroad.</td>
<td>Ongoing (submit anytime)</td>
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