Focus on Funding

Greetings

Welcome to this year’s first edition of Focus on Funding, produced for the faculty and staff of St. Louis Community College.

What isn’t new is our focus: to let you know about grant projects awarded to your colleagues around the district, plus potential funding opportunities that uphold the college’s mission and that may interest and inspire you, too.

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 Reading,

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

A Perfect Fit

Sometimes, the college carries out a portion of a grant awarded to a lead institution. For example, 16 international students are currently attending Forest Park because STLCC received $405,791.62 from Iowa’s Kirkwood Community College on behalf of Community Colleges for International Development, a program hosted by Kirkwood and funded by the U.S. Department of State.

STLCC’s funding supports the 16 students from Brazil, Costa Rica, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and South Africa as they study business administration, information technology, or travel and tourism through July.

Half of the students earned a 4.0 GPA during the fall 2009 semester, and all are adjusting well to life in St. Louis. Most use campus resources available to them, seem happy with their independent living experience in an apartment complex near campus, participate in community and volunteer activities, and bring a new perspective to campus. "My students are really enjoying them," says one FP instructor.

Jim Monahan, FP, serves as the project director, with faculty and staff volunteering as mentors to the students.
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: A total of $2,222,440.67 from the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment for nine separate programs to provide staffing services, employment and/or training services, and/or workshops to specified St. Louis area populations.

- Lesley Abram, CC, Employment & Training Center: Two grants totaling $2,738,009 from the St. Louis County Department of Human Services to provide core, intensive, and training services to specified St. Louis area populations.

- Karl Steenberg, M, Continuing Education: $6,240 in additional funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to administer an Adult Education and Literacy program for seven area school districts.

- Mark Weber, W, Fine & Performing Arts: $1,900 from the Missouri Arts Council to support the Eco Art Festival and high school art exhibit to be held in April 2010 at W.

Most grants support institutional projects, yet some support individuals. The Fellowships program from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), for example, assists individuals pursuing advanced research of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

The Fellowships program accepts applications from researchers, teachers, and writers, whether they have an institutional affiliation or not. While applicants need not have advanced degrees, individuals currently enrolled in a degree-granting program are ineligible to apply.

Recipients usually produce articles, monographs, books, digital materials, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources. Fellowships support continuous full-time work for a period of six to twelve months at a stipend of $4,200 per month. Applicants should request award periods that suit their schedules and the needs of their projects, with start dates as early as Jan. 1, 2011, and as late as July 1, 2012, for the current round of applications due May 4. The Web site is http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/fellowship.s.html
**The Benefits of Membership**

Teachers with less than seven years of experience in the profession, as well as education support professionals, are encouraged to apply for grants from the National Education Association (NEA) Foundation.

The foundation’s *Learning & Leadership Grants* support individuals with $2,000 for professional development experiences such as summer institutes or action research. These grants also offer funding of $5,000 to groups to engage in collegial study such as study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

*Student Achievement Grants* seek to improve the academic achievement of students in the areas of critical thinking and problem-solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The $5,000 award must be spent primarily on materials or educational experiences for students.

Upcoming deadlines are **June 1 and Oct. 15** for either grant program. Your NEA Membership Number is requested with the application.

For more information about either grant program, refer to the NEA Foundation’s Web site at [http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs](http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs).

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**On the Science Front**

From the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) recently released *FY 2009 Performance and Financial Highlights* report come the following noteworthy items:

- 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.

Also of note, the NSF often publishes application deadlines extending several years out, allowing potential applicants time to maximize their planning efforts. See the NSF Web site at [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/).


**The Moon and More**

Full-time students in all areas of study may enter the *Life and Work on the Moon* contest sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by submitting work in three categories: two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and digital—including music and video.

Students in the arts, industrial design, architecture, computer design, and the fine arts are encouraged to collaborate with science and engineering students to help ensure that the art is valid for the moon’s harsh environment. Contestants must register first, with entries due by April 15. The Web site is [http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/](http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/).

Another NASA opportunity, the Education Associates Program, places faculty, undergraduates and others involved in education at NASA facilities for hands-on, immersive experience working with scientists, engineers, and other program managers on NASA projects.

The minimum appointment is two months to a maximum of 12 months and may be part or full time. The program operates year round, with new positions/opportunities posted constantly and starting and ending at various times. For more information, visit the Web site at [http://eap.usra.edu/about/](http://eap.usra.edu/about/).

**Jargon 4 U**

Reading funding opportunity guidelines may require an interpretation of acronyms specific to the grants world, among them:

- **ARRA**: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funding)
- **CFDA**: Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance, includes descriptions of federal programs
- **IHE**: Institution of Higher Education
- **MSI**: Minority Serving Institution
- **PI**: Principal Investigator, aka Project Director, depending on the funding agency