


A TITLE III NEWSLETTER

CAMPUS MATTERS

WELCOME!!!!

The Title III Office welcomes Dr. **Allen L. Sessoms**, President, **Graeme Baxter, JD.**, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and other new administrators at the University.

FY2009 Funding Cycle



The FY2009 priorities reflect institutional proposals that received Title III funding consideration. In all, forty-five (45) proposals were submitted, representing nearly all areas of the campus community.

The Administration sought to prioritize spending in an effort to eliminate a sizeable carryover amount and to address critical one-time unmet needs.

All of the proposals submitted were given due consideration, and 78% were funded, all within the guidelines of allowable expenses under Title III. Currently, the University is authorized to conduct seven activities: Administration, Student Retention, Enhancements to Technology, Faculty/Staff Development, Advancement, Academic Programs, and Fund and Administrative Management.

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TITLE III ACTIVITIES

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CCRAA Passes in Congress

For the first time, eligible Title III institutions have received temporary increased support along with the annual allocation. Congressional passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) has resulted in the distribution of a one-time \$85 million add-on for eligible HBCU institutions. The University of the District of Columbia's first-year allocation is \$1,104,684.

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS (OSP) AT A GLANCE

UDC has a growing number of faculty members who desire to engage in research and sponsored program activity. The Office of Sponsored Programs began its reorganization the fall of this year. Jovita Wells, J.D., formerly Associate Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at Tennessee State University, and a charter member and past president of the National Association of Sponsored Programs Administrators at HBUCs was tapped to lead the Office. Shortly, thereafter, in a show of full commitment, the position of Dean of Graduate Studies and Research was created, and Beverly K. Hartline, Ph.D., was appointed to serve in that capacity. Dr. Hartline is an accomplished researcher and has authored numerous scholarly articles and papers.

The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs is to provide effective leadership through the promotion and support of quality research and sponsored programs both within the University and through collaborative efforts with other universities, industries, and businesses. The major priorities of OSP include increasing the capacity of UDC to conduct scientific and technological research and promote creative activity in education.

Location of the Office of Sponsored Programs:

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Retention Summit: A Success

The Twelfth Annual HBCU Summit on Retention which had as its theme: "Improving Retention at HBCUs: Everybody's Business: Assessment, Accountability, and Retention" was held in Ocean City, MD on March 12-14, 2009. This event brought together faculty, staff, administrators and students to share strategies for retaining our students since attrition is a serious problem at the nation's HBCUs. Dr. Ernesta Williams represented the University as a member of the Summit Steering Committee. This year's Summit, hosted by Bowie State University, featured Dr. Manning Marable (Professor, Columbia University) who spoke on "Diversity and Democracy in America Education: Making Multiculturalism Work". This was a challenge to mentor our students by sharing with them the possibilities of where their talents and abilities can take them.

Also in attendance from UDC were Drs. Khatri (Physics), Hajiani (Chemistry), Nottingham (Chemistry), and Professor Brenda Brown (Mathematics). Among the UDC students in attendance were Dionne Stafford (Senior, Mortuary Science), and LaChanda Wooten (Senior, Business Management). Other institutions represented included Delaware State University, Morgan State University, Ohio State University, Norfolk State University, Bowie State University, Howard University, Virginia State University, and the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore.

Workshop presentations by UDC staff included 1) Dr. Elsie Williams' "Effecting the Academic Success and Retention of the First-Year College Student Through Collaborative Learning", 2) "Low-cost. Common Sense Strategies for Achieving High Retention" by a University of the District of Columbia Faculty Team 3) a student-led discussion entitled "Perspectives on Retention" and 4) Dr. Ernesta Williams' panel presentation, "Administrator's Perspective on Retention."

ADMINISTRATION



The goal of this activity is to provide an infrastructure for the proper management and administration of Title III funding and resources and for the monitoring and evaluation of Title III activities.

The overall goal of Title III Programs is to strengthen the institution in four areas: academic

quality, student service and outcomes, fiscal stability, and institutional management. Title III funding is determined by a formula based on the number of students we graduate and the number of alumni who go on to pursue graduate and professional-level studies.



The Title III office has moved; we are now located in Building 39, Room 301-H.

Dr. Ernesta Williams is the Title III Officer and the Title III staff assistant is Mrs. LaChanda Wooten. Two new staff have joined the Title III office. Mrs. Dionne Stafford is the Project Assistant responsible for record keeping and clerical assistance. Mr. Leander Brown is the Program Manager responsible for monitoring and evaluation of grant activities.

TECHNOLOGY

The Title III Technology activity is under the direction of Mr. Hakeem Fahm,

Acting Chief Information Officer. Several areas were identified for needed upgrades and services in fiscal '08 to improve general office effectiveness: the Writing Center, the Center for Students with Disabilities, the Registrar's Office, the 4.0 Lounge, and the Graphic Arts and Communications Department. The School of Engineering and



Allied Sciences, which has an impending ABET accreditation visit, and the School of Business and Public Management have received new computers and other equipment.

Central to this activity is the desire to expand access to computer technologies for students, faculty, and staff. Title III has focused on acquisition of Cogent Communications High Speed/High Volume Internet Service, purchase of Dell desktop computers and iMACS, and establishment of electronic message boards to facilitate campus communications. In addition, specialized

printers and scanners have been procured for Learning Resources, Admissions, Disabilities Services, the Graphics and Communications Department, and other sites.

One beloved faculty member, Professor Raja Helou, complained for years about the fact that campus clocks had not worked in 10-15 years! Upon his passing, there was a desire and effort to fix the classroom clocks in his memory. This project is underway. Our students deserve to have working clocks in the classroom as the very least of accommodations.

RETENTION

The Retention activity continues to garner a great deal of financial support from Title III. Activity Director and Associate Provost Dr. Bertha Minus is the initiator of the University's Retention Plan, entitled "Creating Connections for Student Success". Title III's primary approaches to retaining our students have been



centered around staffing the Counseling Center, providing support for the Office of Disabilities Services, and providing peer tutoring support

for the Writing Center, the Accounting Lab, the Physics/Chemistry Lab, the Engineering program, and various campus offices.

Our overall goal is to achieve a 5% increase in first-time, full-time freshman students who continue through the sophomore year and, ultimately, to increase our graduation rates. Key to

this effort has been the hiring of Mr. Esteban Olivares, Director of the First year Experience and Latonya Wallace, professional aca-

ademic advisor who forms the core of our new Center for Academic Advising.

In addition, there is a campus-wide Retention Committee, chaired by Dr. Sandra Yates, which meets regularly to address such concerns as advising and customer service.

Realizing that retention is everybody's business, several mini projects are underway to support this initiative as well: Summer Bridge, Gateway Algebra, Team 100, Pi Day, English Fellows Program, and the 4.0 Lounge, to name a few.



FACULTY/STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Faculty/Staff Development Title III activity being directed by Dr. Rachel Petty.



This activity has focused on projects to inspire, motivate and support the UDC faculty and staff by providing various training opportunities. Projects have included the Student/Faculty Poster Session, the Myrtilla Miner Professional Development Academy, and Travel Grants for research and participation in local and national conferences.

The following faculty and staff have received recent Title III support: Prof. Tarak Bhar (Honolulu, HI); Clayton McLaughlin (Beijing, China); Suzan Harkness (Chicago, IL); Dr.

Bertha Minus and Dr. Helene Krauthamer (Santa Ana Pueblo, NM); Felicia Brant and Okolo Toure (Los Angeles, CA); Dr. Daryao Khatri, Brenda Brown, LaChanda Wooten, Dr. Ernesta Williams, Twyla Jones, Dr. Bertha Minus and Dr. Winston Nottingham (Ocean City, MD); Dr. Dierdre Evans-Pritchard (Philadelphia, PA); Dr. Cherie Turpin (San Francisco, CA); Dr. Arlene King-Berry (London, England); Dr. Marie Racine, Dr. Bertha Minus and Dr. Janice Borlandoe (Seattle, WA); Dr. Esther Ososanya (Honolulu, HI); Dr. Isadora Posey (Chicago, IL), and Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness (Detroit, MI). One faculty member, Professor Gloria Green-Ridley, was as-

sisted with two tuition grants toward completion of her doctoral studies at Walden University. Continued opportunities for training and/or certification will be available such as Customer Service Workshops, Blackboard instructional applications, and computer service training in networking systems such as Microsoft and CISCO. The Learning Resources Division has also been responsive to the need for faculty training in library services such as the e-brary. For example, a workshop featuring Google-scholar versus Ebsco's Academic Search Premier database was held to compare research results on academic questions.

ADVANCEMENT

The Title III Advancement activity is led by Jackie Boynton, Assistant Vice President for Marketing, Communications and Alumni Relations. Projects are designed to build capacity within the University to reposition the institution via a strategic promotions campaign and improvement of the development infrastructure. Key to this effort is the University's cable TV station which accommodates various marketing strategies and branding opportunities. A new brand, website, and television programming are being generated to promote positive stories

of what is happening at the institution.

There will be a new focus on the visibility of UDC throughout the community, nation and abroad through a film series and other activities. These films will then become the property of Learning Resources and will be catalogued, housed and made available for classroom use.

For the second time, the Calvin Jones Big Band Jazz Festival will be captured on tape for distribu-

tion and production. The goal is to produce a high quality video and audio production of this event on its 23rd anniversary. Our nationally recognized jazz ensemble is being joined by Howard University and the University of Maryland's jazz ensembles. The April 27, 2009 event will be produced for broadcast at a later date, thereby branding our cable channel with a distinctive UDC sound.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dean Albert Casciero is the Title III director for this activity which has as one of its goals to support the continued services of the Learning Resources Division (LRD) by enhancing library database subscriptions and other media materials and offerings. Our goal is to keep library services at state-of-the-art readiness in support of faculty and student needs.



Title III is all about meeting unmet needs on the campus. Another goal of this activity is to provide support for programs undergoing continuing certification and accreditation stan-

dards. Title III funds the hiring of faculty in areas of critical need and provides educational supplies and materials as well.



What is Title III?

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The Pathway to Excellence

Title III is a grant to institutions authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 and subsequent Congressionally-approved authorizations. The U.S. Department of Education awarded UDC a Title III grant in 1999 which means that we have completed two five -year grant cycles. You've heard of Title IX which focuses on parity in women's sports: you've also heard of Title IV which includes Pell Grant allocations to students. The Title III grants provide monies to developing institutions (with particular emphasis on HBCUs) to assist in the realization of each institution's Strategic Plan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Association of Title III
Administrator's Technical
Assistance Conference
June 22-24, 2009
Memphis, Tennessee



Title III Proposals are
due now.

Deadline April 17, 2009.

Interested UDC faculty and staff are invited to submit proposals to the Title III Office. To be considered, projects should address a Title III activity, should meet a critical institutional need, should have upper level approval, and should demonstrate how they will be sustained beyond the life of the funding.

The University of the District of
Columbia 2009 Commencement
Walter E. Washington Convention
Center
May 9, 2009 at 10:00am

23rd Annual Calvin Jones Big
Band Jazz Festival
April 27, 2009

White House Initiative on HBCU's
April 26-28, 2009
Norfolk State University



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