One of the principle goals of MCC’s Resource Development Department (RDD) is to promote a collegial atmosphere that fosters “a community of grant developers.” This endeavor takes a great deal of collaboration among the faculty members, staff and administrators who develop and implement grant-funded initiatives to expand and enhance our programs and services. In addition, it requires the involvement of many people not directly involved in grant coordination. And this process is enhanced when communications are improved. Hence, MCC Grants News was born.

This newsletter will provide information to the MCC community about grant submissions and awards, illustrating the impact of external funding on our programs, students and other constituents. We will share proposal deadlines, writing tips, initiatives at other institutions and best practices. The purpose of the newsletter is to nurture our community of grant developers so that we can celebrate MCC’s accomplishments and raise the bar even higher for future achievements.

MCC learned in October that it has been awarded more than $500,000 in grants this year from the Succeed Florida: Crucial Professionals program. The Alternative Certification Program (ACP) has received $248,885 to increase its annual enrollment, enhance program infrastructure and provide scholarships for a new, seven-week summer cycle. The grant will fund salaries to support coordination, test preparation and program development activities. The project will also fund instructional technology, including laptops and laptop carts for mobile ACP laboratories.

With a $263,699 grant, MCC’s nursing program will increase baseline nursing student enrollments by 18 as well as enhance successful program completion and licensure via appropriate personnel, assessment, mentoring, supplies and equipment. Personnel will include a learning specialist for a retention initiative, a manager for the human patient simulator laboratory and supplemental pay for the development and piloting of a new mentoring program for at-risk students. Grant funds will be used to acquire an adult human patient simulator and two birthing simulators. The project’s budget will also support the purchase of a teacher workstation for one of the nursing classrooms.
In 2004 the Florida Legislature authorized postsecondary institutions to establish Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs) to help supply the 200,000 additional teachers that Florida needs over the next ten years. Since then the Florida Community College System’s unique, collaborative approach to EPIs has resulted in national, state and local recognition. One of the top priorities of an EPI is to prepare those with four-year degrees (outside the field of education) for the state’s teacher certification examinations through competency-based alternative certification programs (ACP).

In 2005, under the direction of academic dean Darlene Wedler-Johnson, MCC responded rapidly to the critical need for teachers and applied to the state to become designated as an EPI. Once MCC was approved as an EPI, state and federal grants allowed the MCC ACP to get started quickly.

Dr. Susan Sheffield was hired as director of MCC’s EPI with one of her key duties being to oversee the ACP.

(Continued Pg.3)
MCC’s ACP Hits its Stride continued

Sheffield said that so far the MCC program has received more than $800,000 in state and federal grants which have provided funds for instructors, participant scholarships, curriculum development, equipment and the creation of critical infrastructure for the growing program. In addition, the 2007-08 Succeed Florida grant will provide a number of scholarships for those participating in the program’s first intensive summer cycle. MCC’s two-year-old ACP has produced 113 new teachers for schools in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Completed by most students in just seven months, the program gives those with at least a bachelor’s degree a convenient and affordable way to prepare for state teacher certification tests. It is anticipated that the MCC program will admit on average 125 new participants per year.

How Resource Development can help

MCC’s Resource Development Department (RDD) team is eager to facilitate grant project development and proposal writing in a number of ways, including:

- Maintaining current research on potential funding sources
- Interpreting the Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Helping to identify potential partners
- Coordinating grant-writing teams and guiding the proposal planning, writing and submission process
- Assisting with budget development
- Providing writing, editing and proofing assistance as needed
- Gathering industry or governmental data to support the proposal
- Consulting with the grant project director and other MCC staff as needed regarding grant administration, follow-up with the funding agency and program report preparation.

THANKS SO MUCH!

Since I first joined MCC in 2002, there has been a solid core of faculty, staff and administrators who have been very dedicated to procuring external funding and implementing projects. Each year there is a new set of colleagues that join this group. I would like to use the newsletter to recognize some of the newest members of our community of grant developers.

This issue recognizes the contributions of three nursing faculty members, Ruth M. Anderson, Susie Hutchins and Deborah Klinger, for providing research, data and project design detail for the Succeed Florida Nursing proposal. Thank you for your dedication to developing the project.

- Brad Davis, Director, Resource Development
In December, Mike Mears, Dean of Instruction for Mathematics, Science, Technology and Business, gathered a group of faculty for a mini-retreat to discuss potential grant projects. (Pictured, from left to right are: Amy Santos, Douglas Scott, Bradley Davis, Stephanie Cook, Mike Mears, Louis Okonkwo, George Cleaver and Dennis Runde.) Others who attended include David Nezelek, Brad Sarchet, Stacie Williams, Jim Carraway, Ena Salter, Altay Ozgener, Judy Bodenweiser and Jane Pfeilsticker.)

Have an idea? – Let us know

Have an idea that would help MCC meet the educational and training needs of the communities it serves? Know of a program elsewhere that we might replicate? Heard of a funding source that might support a special project? While grant development ultimately requires buy-in from College leaders, the Resource Development Department can help you to assess the potential connection of your idea to MCC’s current priorities and guide you in the abstract development and topic approval process.

About MCC’s Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee (RDC) meets monthly and is made up of MCC’s four vice presidents, three academic deans and the directors of several key MCC administrative areas as well as designated departmental staff and the resource development team. Collectively, the RDC reviews proposed grant projects and makes recommendations to pursue or not pursue the project based on its fit within the college mission and the amount of institutional resources required. In addition, the committee provides valuable insight regarding policy development, shares information about current grant endeavors and generates ideas with potential for external funding.