MCC Grants Luncheon 2007

“Expand Our Reach”

Speaker’s Notes – Bradley W. Davis

- Welcome to the fourth annual Grants Recognition Celebration.
- This is a busy time of year with 50th Anniversary celebrations, the spring semester drawing to a close, and planning for the honors convocation and graduation.
- It is still important to take a moment to reflect on all of the great projects you have worked on …
- So, thank you for taking time out of your schedules to join us today.
- As you know, Dr. Pappas has been very supportive of all of our grant projects. So, at this time I would like to invite Dr. Pappas to share a few comments.

(MCC President Dr. Sarah Pappas delivers her remarks)

Thank you, Dr. Pappas, for providing the funds for this luncheon and for supporting our faculty and staff as they seek grant funding and implement their projects.

To the honorees:

- And thanks to everyone’s efforts, we have established new programs and services while enhancing, expanding and improving the ones that we already offer.
- Many of these efforts benefit from grant funding, which helps speed up the development and implementation of these initiatives.
- The program lists the grants and contracts developed or continued during 2006, whether they were awarded or not.
- Even proposals that are not funded the first time around may be submitted to other funding agencies. Their program designs also provide strategies for implementing the initiative through alternative sources of funding.
- So, today we are gathered to celebrate everyone’s hard work during the 2006 calendar year.
- This is our fourth annual celebration, and each year we have had a different theme.
- In 2004 we acknowledged the unsung heroes supporting the grant-funded efforts as well as those leaders who were developing and implementing the projects. The next year we emphasized the expanding number of faculty involved in the proposal-writing. And last year we established a “Community of Grant Developers.”
- The theme this year is to celebrate our successes and to Expand Our Reach.
- As Dr. Pappas mentioned, there were 22 projects – new or continued - that came through our office last year. Some are the traditional, annual applications. But there has been new state funding to support nursing and teacher alternative certification. We were also included in grant projects submitted by other groups and institutions.
We had two proposals from the Music Department: one to the Duckwall Foundation to support the musical, *YBOR* – and the other to the FL Dept. of State for the upcoming guitar concert.

The Transportation Safety Institute competed to operate a misdemeanor probation program.

A collaborative MCC group developed a diversity focus group project for the EDC of Sarasota County.

And MCC has a program through the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County for credit and non-credit courses for child care providers.

Submissions continue to emerge from Student Services as well as the A.A. and A.S. programs, with major participation including the Career and Technical Education department, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Education, Music and Technology departments. Corporate and Community Development oversees the SBDC and Adult Education Programs. Kristen Anderson has been very influential in the increase in the funding percentage of MCC’s CROP program. And there have been a number of efforts that cross departments and divisions, such as the Governor’s Summer Program and the Title III initiative.

**SO WHY APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING?**

- For faculty and staff, it’s a valuable professional and personal growth experience. Grant projects can bring together colleagues who might not otherwise have a chance or a reason to collaborate.
- Grants can motivate us to reach out to potential partners around the region, the state and beyond.
- They can provide dollars for professional development, equipment, software, patient simulators, curriculum revisions, Web enhancements, marketing, supplemental instruction, student services and personnel to support program initiatives.
- Grants can encourage calculated risk-taking and creative problem-solving as well as cross-functional dialogues.

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

- Expand participation and partnership concentrating on:
  1. Distance Learning
  2. Strategies to improve student retention and success in math
  3. SPIRIT Grant – if funded – helps make high school students more college-ready
  4. SUCCEED grants
  5. Summer Bridge expansion
  6. Increasing retention and success in high-risk courses (math, A&P, etc.)
7. Concentrating in high-priority areas
8. Short grant-development training modules

➤ These are just some of the fundamental priorities for this year.
➤ With your help we have come a long way.
➤ Many of you are encouraging a new wave of faculty leaders to get involved in the world of grants.
➤ We look forward to working with you and our expanding circle of colleagues.
➤ Thanks to all of you for your leadership, collegiality and contributions to MCC. Your efforts make a difference.