

Grants at KC

Kilgore College Faculty & Staff:

Renovation of portions of the Woodfin Center for Instructional Technology has begun, thanks to grant funding from the Title III Strengthening Institutions program of the U.S. Department of Education.

The first phase of construction involves converting an interactive television classroom, Room 110, into a video recording studio. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of May.

The Title III program helps eligible institutions become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the institution's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

"This is a proud moment for the college as we continue to have a profound impact on the lives of our students and demonstrate an unwavering commitment to our strategic priority of student success," said Roland Blasini, Title III Project Director.

Instructional Design/Faculty Development

The college's Title III initiative will bring together faculty in cohorts, or "Design Teams" and engage them in collaborative work to revise instructional practices using Quality Matters. The intent of this approach is to maximize efforts and potentially impact the greatest number of students through coordinated and collaborative efforts. The initiative will target "foundations" or gateway courses. With the help of the Instructional Designer, this work will focus on deepening learning and fostering core student success skills (communication, collaboration and critical thinking) in engaging and innovative ways. Faculty will consider Quality Matters design principles and create activities designed to improve performance, participation, attention, and focus, for the success of all learners. *(Continued on Page 2) ...*

Featured Funder

U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education is a Cabinet-level department of the United States government. It began operating on May 4, 1980, having been created after the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was split into the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services by the Department of Education Organization Act (Public Law 96-88), which President Jimmy Carter signed into law on October 17, 1979.

The Department is administered by the United States Secretary of Education. It has just under 4,000 employees. The President's Budget provides \$63.2 billion in discretionary funding, a \$3.6 billion or 5 percent decrease below the 2017 enacted level. The Budget supports \$129.8 billion in new postsecondary grants, loans, and work-study assistance to help an estimated 11.5 million students and their families pay for college.

(Title III Continued)

Faculty teams will collaborate to redesign, pilot, and subsequently implement, and assess the redesigned courses.

Each of the teams will produce a course-specific guide that includes a course content summary with learning objectives, sample lessons, classroom strategies, and assignments.

This “Design Team” initiative is a purposeful and collaborative approach to changing the way instruction is provided at Kilgore College. Successful implementation of the initiative will lead to increases in achievement, retention, and engagement and student satisfaction in the “active and collaborative learning benchmark” for each cohort group, measured against established baseline data.

Rechel Fatunde Joins Project as eLearning Technician

Rechel Fatunde joined the KC Title III project as eLearning Technician on March 1. Ms. Fatunde recently moved to East Texas from Chicago, IL.



She holds a Master of Science in Economics and Policy Analysis from DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ms. Fatunde's responsibilities include: training faculty in the use of technology applications, including Blackboard; developing and piloting technical support services for faculty engaged in development and piloting of online courses; and assisting the eLearning Faculty Development Specialist in developing training workshops for faculty.

Habenicht Announcements Forthcoming

Proposals for mini-grant funding from the Habenicht Fund of the Kilgore College Foundation were received in February. The Executive Leadership Team has vetted applications and made recommendations to the Kilgore College Foundation Board of Directors, who will meet April 19 to make decisions. Announcements are expected before the end of April.

Office of the Governor Grant Funding Sought

Kilgore College has applied for two criminal justice grants with the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD).

Through the Justice Assistance Grant program, the Kilgore College Police Department has applied for \$23,000 in funding to be used for the purchase of a new squad car.

A regional criminal justice review board will conduct Regional Priority Hearings on JAG grants and one other program on Tuesday, April 18. The college should know whether it has been selected for funding within 10 days after the hearing.

The KC Police Department has also applied for funding to purchase and implement a new crime-reporting software. The National Incident-Based Reporting System grant program is assisting police agencies throughout the state in coming into compliance with the requirement for new crime reporting systems.

The KC application is for just under \$30,000 to purchase, install and receive training on the new system.