

Grants at KC

Kilgore College Faculty & Staff:

Kilgore College submitted two grant applications to the U.S. Department of Education in its Title III Strengthening Institutions program recently. KC submitted applications in both the Part A group – with a maximum award of \$450,000 a year for five years – and the Part F group, which carries a \$600,000 annual award maximum.

Both applications seek funding for the establishment of a “faculty innovation center,” dedicated space where faculty members would work individually or in teams with an experienced faculty development specialist to design online courses and supplemental content, utilizing industry-recognized best practices for student success.

Among technology to be purchased, should KC be awarded a Title III grant, would be video editing, mixing and recording equipment. The grant would also support enhancements to the wireless network, both within the center and in other areas of campus.

Faculty participating in course design or redesign would be provided grant-funded stipends or release time.

Title III awards are expected to be announced in August.

Thanks are in order for the proposal development team members: Dr. Brenda Kays, Dr. Mike Turpin, Dr. Mike Jenkins, Dr. William Stowe, Dr. Ginger Dennis, John Colville and Brandon Walker.

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Featured Funder

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Established in 1999 in Austin, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation primarily supports children’s causes and particularly those related to urban childhood poverty.

The Foundation funds projects that directly serve or impact children in urban poverty, particularly in the areas of education, childhood health and family economic stability (including microfinance).

With assets of \$761,627,288, the foundation annually awards more than \$70 million in its award focus areas.

Recent Activity

- *The College learned in late April that it was not selected as a recipient of a Texas Workforce Commission Jobs and Education for Texans grant. KC had requested over \$300,000 in funding to upgrade vehicles and equipment for its automotive technology program. Another JET cycle is anticipated this summer.*

Current and Planned Pursuits

Kilgore College representatives participated in a webinar regarding a Request for Applications for the Texas School Ready! Program, which is managed by the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

The grant program will fund Comprehensive Lead Agencies to manage the program over a three-year period, delivering professional development, coaching, child progress monitoring and classroom curriculum and materials to at least 20 childcare or Head Start programs.



Kilgore College is receiving funding for Texas School Ready! and has worked with numerous childcare centers and Head Start programs throughout East Texas. The application will request funds to continue these services and expand them in various ways, including providing online training for centers who request such.

The College, on behalf of the KC Foundation, also recently submitted a grant request to Brookshire Grocery Company for \$5,000 to assist the KC student food pantry.

The College is also pursuing grant funding for:

- Texas Shakespeare Festival;
- workforce development;
- dual credit scholarships;
- improved technology;
- computer equipment;
- the student food pantry;
- nursing simulation equipment;
- physical therapy program equipment;
- the emergency medical services professions program;
- music;
- the campus police department; and
- the East Texas Oil Museum.

NIH to Restrict Funding

For the first time, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) will restrict the amount of funding that an individual scientist can hold at any one time, on the basis of a point system. The move is part of an ongoing effort to make obtaining grants easier for early- and mid-career scientists, who face tougher odds than more experienced colleagues in receiving grants.

“Because scientific discovery is inherently unpredictable, there are reasons to believe that supporting more researchers working on a diversity of biomedical problems, rather than concentrating resources in a smaller number of labs, might maximize the number of important discoveries that can emerge from the science we support,” NIH director Francis Collins wrote in a blogpost. In doing so, he added, the policy could improve “returns on taxpayers’ investments”.

According to the agency, just 10% of grant recipients win 40% of the agency's research money. Critics are concerned the move will mean that researchers will be forced to spend more time preparing grants and less time in research.