

Fri 09/18/2009

Dear Colleagues,

We are well into our Fall semester and the parking lots and classrooms remained filled to capacity – thank you for all you are doing to keep our students here! I continue to hear from faculty how engaged the students are and how appreciative they are to have a seat in critical classes for their success and goal achievement. As the college strives to keep this access open, we are actively pursuing many diversified funding sources and our Grants Office along with key faculty and staff have been extremely dedicated to creating proposals and partnerships.

This week we received official notice of a 2 million dollar National Science Foundation award to our Biotechnology program and a \$350,000 award to support our childcare activities at South City Campus – **bravo and kudos to all who were part of these two major successes!** Additionally, folks in our Health Sciences school, our division of Workforce, Professional, and Literacy Development, and our Science, Math and Engineering school are working towards three more major proposals to the US Depts. of Education and Labor. These efforts are part of the sustainability strategies that will carry SLCC forward in spite of the economic turbulence around us.

Adjacent to these activities internally, I am pleased to report that President Obama's American Graduation Initiative (AGI) supporting 12 billion dollars dedicated to community colleges over the next 10 years, has passed through the US Congress this week as HB3221. This bill now moves onto the US Senate and will need our grass roots support as it tries to survive numerous amendments and changes. This initiative is placing community colleges front and center nationally and assists in broadening the understanding of our important role in higher education and economic recovery.

Several employees have asked for an extension to the application deadline for the President's Leadership Institute, scheduled to begin its first Friday meeting on October 9. Given the crush of activities and students we have all been attending to, the deadline for the application is moved to next Wednesday, Sept. 23. For your convenience, I have attached the application and description to this message as well.

Finally, our own Marianne McKnight, Associate Professor in History has received BlackBoard's national 2009 Exemplary Course for on-line instruction with her American Civilization course! Congratulations Marianne – your light and greatness reflects on all of us here at SLCC!!!!!!

Sincerely,

President Bioteau