

Title III article for City Currents

Headline: Title III is underway

The CCSF Title III grant, titled “Delivering on the Promise of Student Success,” brings \$1.7 million to the College over the next five years to improve student achievement, persistence and retention.

The grant consists of two major activity areas. The first is “Increasing Persistence and Retention by Developing Enrollment Systems.” Its components include a computerized assessment system to replace our current paper-and-pencil credit placement testing, an electronic educational planning system for new and continuing credit students, and a computerized system to monitor student progress. These new systems will apply to all credit students, but the students who are expected to benefit the most from them are the students who enter the College with the lowest levels of preparation.

A site for computerized testing has recently been designated in Conlan Hall, and Dean of Matriculation Nick Chang, who is the Director for Activity One, has been working with the Facilities and Planning Office and architectural consultants on the plans and design of the center. He is also working with faculty in ESL, English, and Math to select or develop appropriate tests. Remodeling is slated to begin in mid-December and the first computerized testing is scheduled for the first of April, 2003. Additionally, workgroups have been formed to explore the available options for instituting an electronic educational planning system.

The second major activity is “Increasing Student Achievement through Developmental Program Reform.” The Director for Activity Two is Nadine Rosenthal, chairperson of the Learning Assistance department. This activity institutes computerized instructional labs to increase the achievement of underprepared students in English, Math, and ESL. The first of these labs, for ESL, commenced operation in August. Title III is providing funds for computers, for software, and for coordination of the lab. The coordinator of the ESL lab is Elma Cabahug. Another component of this activity is to develop learning strategies that integrate lab activities with classroom instruction; this component is beginning to take form.

Chancellor Day has assumed overall responsibility for the leadership of the Title III project, an initiative which he sees as a unique opportunity to catapult the institution forward and achieve critical goals and objectives related to student success. The overall coordinator for the Title III project is Larry Klein, who will report directly to the Chancellor on the achievement of Title III objectives. Larry will work with a Steering Committee which includes administrators, department chairs, and faculty, classified, and student representatives. The Activity One Director, Nick Chang, and the Activity Two Director, Nadine Rosenthal, work with representative Task Forces and are assembling work groups to develop specific components.

Additional components will be started in later years, with the English lab slated for 2003 and the Math lab getting underway in 2004. Electronic assessment of career interests will be instituted in 2004. All systems will be piloted at the Ocean campus in the year they are introduced and expanded to the other campuses the following year. Some components, like computerized assessment, will be expanded to all campuses; other components will be expanded to those campuses that offer credit courses.

As we continue our work on the project we will provide periodic updates on our progress in City Currents and via a web site currently under development. Over the next five years we hope to engage many faculty and staff across the institution in the initiative – and deliver on the promise of increased student success.