The Child Development Center: Forty Years of Service

Forty years ago, a group of Kingsborough students met to solve a common problem: how do we stay in school and take care of our young children at the same time? Refusing to accept the idea that being a parent and being a student were mutually exclusive choices, they laid the groundwork for a comprehensive, on-campus childcare center that would serve the needs of their children while they attended to their studies nearby.

Today, the KCC Child Development Center (CDC) thrives – offering high quality early care and educational opportunities for children of KCC students (ages 18 months – 9 years), as well as parenting education and academic support for student-parents. The Center’s flexible hours and six-day a week schedule help students manage their priorities without having to worry about finding care for their children.

None of this would have been possible, however, without an aggressive and forward-thinking campaign by the college to ensure the Center’s continued growth and improvement. Grant funding is a key component of this campaign and has played a significant role in the Center’s recent advancements.

Over the past few years, the Kingsborough Community College Foundation has secured several grants that have allowed the CDC to offer the highest level of care and education for the children of student-parents. In 2009, the CDC was awarded a Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grant, which allowed the center to expand its services in three crucial ways. First, the grant helped to extend enrollment to additional age groups of children, expanding care to include toddlers as young as eighteen months and school-age children up to nine years of age. Second, it allowed our Center to offer evening programs to accommodate student-parents who work during the day and take their classes at night. Lastly, the CCAMPIS grant has made it possible for the Center to provide additional enrichment opportunities for children, including music and movement and yoga for both our toddler and preschool populations.

In 2011, the college launched a one-year fundraising campaign to raise funds for the Child Development Center to support three objectives: addressing the on-going needs of the center; the building of a toddler playground; and the replenishment of the Muriel Langsam Award, given each year to recognize a graduating student who overcame obstacles, contributed to the Center, and achieved academic success. Through generous grants from the New York Community Bank Foundation and the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the college has secured funds to build a state-of-the-art toddler playground. In addition, the CDC received a $2,000 grant from Target to create a lending library, which will encourage Kingsborough student-parents to cultivate a reading-friendly environment for their children at home.

In August, 2011, the college received a grant from IBM to support the installation of and training for teachers in the use of four new Young Explorer computers. Equipped with award-winning educational software, these computers help children learn important concepts in math, science and language, as well as crucial socialization skills, such as sharing and working together. The college next turns its attention to attracting individual donors by appealing to alumni, faculty, and staff. The Center is hosting a 40th anniversary celebration on November 1st, 2012 which all will be invited to attend.

All of these efforts ensure that the Child Development Center will continue to provide an essential service for KCC student-parents and their children for years to come. For Heather Brown, the director of the CDC, the most telling evidence of
the Center’s success comes from the parents themselves: “Each year, I receive an outpouring of praise and gratitude from Kingsborough student-parents, who tell me that they cannot imagine getting through college any other way. They also tell me how happy their children are to attend the Center, and that they are coming home every day not only with smiles on their faces, but with new skills and ideas. The grants we have received in recent years have made a real difference in the lives of Kingsborough students and their children.”

National Science Foundation: Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI)  
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5518
Deadline: Various, depending on area of study

The Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) activity supports research by faculty members of predominantly undergraduate institutions through the funding of (1) individual and collaborative research projects, (2) the purchase of shared-use research instrumentation, and (3) Research Opportunity Awards for work with NSF-supported investigators at other institutions. All NSF directorates participate in the RUI activity. RUI proposals are evaluated and funded by the NSF programs in the disciplinary areas of the proposed research. Eligible “predominantly undergraduate” institutions include U.S. two-year, four-year, masters-level, and small doctoral colleges and universities that (1) grant baccalaureate degrees in NSF-supported fields, or provide programs of instruction for students pursuing such degrees with institutional transfers (e.g., two-year schools), (2) have undergraduate enrollment exceeding graduate enrollment, and (3) award an average of no more than 10 Ph.D. or D.Sc. degrees per year in all NSF-supportable disciplines. Autonomous campuses in a system are considered independently, although they may be submitting their proposals through a central office. A Research Opportunity Award is usually funded as a supplement to the NSF grant of the host researcher, and the application is submitted by the host institution.

Some NSF directorates set annual deadlines for RUI proposals. Please verify deadlines within your area of study. NSF Directorates are as follows: Biological Sciences, Education and Human Resources, Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, and Computer and Information Science and Engineering.

Planning to submit a federal grant?  
Kingsborough Community College requires the use of Cayuse424 to submit federal proposals. Contact the Office for College Advancement to receive logon information and schedule an orientation to the use of Cayuse424.

Sea World-Busch Gardens Conservation Fund  
http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/grantInfo.htm
Deadline: Applications accepted on a rolling basis

The Sea World-Busch Gardens Conservation Fund provides support for conservation efforts directly benefiting wildlife in their native ranges (in-situ). The fund supports efforts in species research, Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation, Habitat Protection, and Conservation Education. Applications are accepted online from various entities, including accredited universities and research centers. While the fund has no set minimum or maximum grant amount, it has supported projects ranging from $5,000 to $25,000 for a one-year term. Multi-year projects will be considered.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides funding on a competitive basis to projects that sustain, restore, and enhance our nation’s fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The Foundation offers funding through a wide range of grant programs.

The Keystone Initiative Grants are a core portfolio of multi-year initiatives through which the Foundation and its partners seek to achieve measurable outcomes. There are currently four keystones: bird conservation, fish conservation, marine and coastal conservation, and wildlife and habitat conservation.

The next available Keystone Initiative Grant Cycle is as follows:

Preproposal: October 1, 2012
Full Proposal: November 1, 2012
Notification: April 15, 2013

If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact Kirstin Swanson, Director of Development or Antonio Thompson, Associate Director of Development, to discuss your proposed project.

RECENT AWARDS

Dr. Reza Fakhari
Office of the Associate Provost
Con Edison, Inc
$5,000
Eco-Festival 2012 and R2C

Prof. Maxine McGarvey
Department of Business
$40,000
JP Morgan Chase
Community Financial Education Program

Michael Geller
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program
$276,500
New York City Council
The Lighthouse

Heidi Lopez
Single Stop
$4,207
New York City Human Resources Administration
Emergency Food Assistance Program

Roderick Wilson
Office of Collaborative Programs
$21,579
New York State Education Department
Liberty Partnerships Program

Professor Alfredo Dolich
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
$35,000
Simons Foundation
Research in Model Theory of Ordered Structures

Professor Gary Sarinsky
Department of Biological Sciences
$115,229
New York State Education Department
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program
$5,380

Professor Georgia Lind
Department of Biological Sciences
New York State Education Department
Science and Technology Entry Program

Heather A. Brown
Child Development Center
$71,250
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Child Development Center Block Grant
$5,000
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Child Development Center Playground

Natalie Bredikhina
Office of Continuing Education
$68,250
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Venture to Success

Professor Gregory Aizin
Department of Physical Sciences
$24,216
Sandia National Laboratories
Theoretical Modeling of Resonant Periodic Plasmonic Cavities

Dr. Regina Peruggi
Office of the President
$20,000
The Wallace Foundation
Establishment of President Regina Peruggi Scholarship

Grant Proposal Workshops
Stay tuned for the Fall 2012 Grant Proposal Workshop schedule. Workshops are presented in partnership with KCTL.