In the Spotlight: Supporting Student Success Through Grants

Grants at Kingsborough Community College support a variety of programs, from faculty research to performing arts to institutional improvement. One critical area for grant support is student success. Though the college receives direct, public support for core college operations, support from public and private grantors provides the resources for Kingsborough to implement new educational approaches, address student financial needs and provide additional support to students with unique needs. Following are some examples of grant support that promotes student success here at Kingsborough.

For over forty years, Kingsborough has provided student-parents with on-campus child care to enable student parents to attend Kingsborough while their children are cared for in a safe, nurturing, and educational environment. What started as a student co-op has grown into a full-time operation directed and run by professional, certified educators. With a Universal Pre-Kindergarten contract with the New York City Department of Education, Kingsborough’s Child Development Center will provide free full-day services to eighteen children turning 4 in 2014. Private childcare averages $9,000 per year in New York State. This contract helps to relieve what could be a significant burden for our students.

Like most community colleges across the country, Kingsborough provides a significant number of first generation students with the opportunity to attain a college degree. The college is also serving an increasing number of students with disabilities. With the support of the United States Education Department’s TRIO program, the college provides additional support, including but not limited to: tutoring, advisement, individualized counseling, financial literacy education, and career exploration.

The Robin Hood Foundation supports the implementation of Kingsborough’s Opening Doors Learning Communities. In Opening Doors Learning Communities, students take a block program of three linked courses: English, the Freshman Seminar, and a General Education Discipline course. The English course is either Freshman English I or one of three levels of developmental English, depending on students’ scores on the CUNY ACT reading and writing placement exams or others. Students in an Opening Doors Learning Community can earn between 8 and 12 credits, depending on their level of English.

Kingsborough’s first grant from the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation was received in 2012 in response to an appeal for assistance for students impacted by Sandy. This led to a new grant, awarded in December 2013. The grant supports students who have earned at least 30 credits toward their degrees, show considerable academic potential, and are at the highest level of remediation. Students will be recruited by advisors, counselors, and faculty, and will sign a contract agreeing to register for a developmental course. At the beginning of the process, students will be given a $500 scholarship to incentivize their participation. As they progress from the Fall to the Winter, students will receive comprehensive advisement on everything from course registration to preparing to transfer to a four-year college – and a second $500 installment. Students who successfully complete the Fall and Winter semesters, are registered for Spring, and are on-track for graduation in June will receive an additional $400 scholarship.

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The college also receives grants to support student scholarships. Student eligibility for scholarships is outlined in grant agreements, and may be determined by geography (as is the case with the Richmond County Savings Foundation and the Northfield Bank Foundation), by a student’s academic pursuit (as is the case for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Scholarships for Disadvantaged Nursing Students grant), or by other criteria. Scholarships both fill the gap between the student’s need and their costs of attendance and reward students for academic success.

Finally, Kingsborough’s highly-successful, on-campus Single Stop office was established as the result of a grant from Single Stop USA. Through their innovative approach, Kingsborough provides students with financial education, legal services, and benefits-screening to ensure that financial need does not become an insurmountable barrier to student success.

“Grant funding provides Kingsborough with the means to address unmet student needs and try new approaches to support student success,” says Dr. Elizabeth Basile, Assistant Vice President for College Advancement. “It enables the college to develop, in alignment with college priorities, new programs to enable students to achieve their goals.”

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following are brief synopses of upcoming funding deadlines. Please be sure to refer to the funder’s website for details regarding submission requirements and program goals.

National Science Foundation
Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5518
From the website:
The Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Research Opportunity Awards (ROA) funding opportunities support research by faculty members at predominantly undergraduate institutions (PUIs). RUI proposals support PUI faculty in research that engages them in their professional field(s), builds capacity for research at their home institution, and supports the integration of research and undergraduate education. ROAs similarly support PUI faculty research, but these awards typically allow faculty to work as visiting scientists at research-intensive organizations where they collaborate with other NSF-supported investigators.

Eligible PUIs are accredited colleges and universities (including two-year community colleges) that award Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields, but have awarded 20 or fewer Ph.D./D.Sci. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.

Due Date: Proposals Accepted Anytime

National Science Foundation
Research Experiences for Undergraduates
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517&from=fund
From the website:
The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation. REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program. This solicitation features two mechanisms for support of student research: (1) REU Sites are based on independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of students in research. REU Sites may be based in a single discipline or academic department or may offer interdisciplinary or multi-department research opportunities with a coherent intellectual theme. Proposals with an international dimension are welcome. (2) REU Supplements may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

Undergraduate student participants in either REU Sites or REU Supplements must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.

Students do not apply to NSF to participate in REU activities. Students apply directly to REU Sites or to NSF-funded investigators who receive REU Supplements. To identify appropriate REU Sites, students should consult the directory of active REU Sites on the Web at http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm.

Due Date: August 27, 2014

Journalists and Writers Foundation
http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topics/call-for-applications-journalists-and-writers-foundation-peace-pr#.U58Xr0A0fCv
From Announcement
Acknowledging the critical importance of supporting peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives, JWF is soliciting creative and innovative projects that aim to prevent and constructively respond to conflicts around the world.

Peace Projects will provide funds for projects up to US$50,000.

Non-profit organizations and individuals (including but not limited to academicians, activists, artists, community organizers, educators, filmmakers,
journalists, scholars, social workers, and students) from all nationalities are eligible to apply.

Peace Projects will award projects from a broad range of disciplines, skills and approaches promoting peaceful coexistence and peacebuilding. Some of the possible themes include:

- Inter-communal and inter-state dialogue/cooperation
- Peace education
- Pluralism and multiculturalism
- Youth, conflict and peacebuilding
- Early warning and conflict prevention
- Mediation and negotiation
- Post-conflict reconciliation
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
- Good governance, rule of law and transitional justice
- Poverty reduction, development and peacebuilding
- Gender equality and empowerment.

Due Date: September 30, 2014

National Endowment for the Humanities
Summer Stipends
http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends

From the website:

Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

Recipients usually produce articles, monographs, books, digital materials, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources.

Summer Stipends support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months.

Summer Stipends support projects at any stage of development.

Summer Stipends are awarded to individual scholars. Organizations are not eligible to apply.

Due Date: September 30, 2014 for Projects Beginning May 2015

Please note: If applying for an NEH Summer Stipend Grant, please coordinate with the Office for College Advancement to ensure organizational endorsement.

Grammy Foundation
Music Research and Preservation
http://www.grammy.org/grammy-foundation/grants

From the website:

With funding generously provided by The Recording Academy, the GRAMMY Foundation Grant Program awards grants each year to organizations and individuals to support efforts that advance the archiving and preservation of the music and recorded sound heritage of the Americas for future generations, and research projects related to the impact of music on the human condition.

Grant funds have been utilized to preserve private collections as well as materials at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian and numerous colleges and universities. Research projects have studied the links between music and early childhood education, treatments for illnesses and injuries common to musicians, and the impact of music therapy on populations from infants to the elderly. More than $6 million in grants has been awarded to more than 300 recipients.

Due Date: October 1, 2014 for Letters of Inquiry

Department of the Army – Material Command
United States Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences Broad Agency Announcement for Basic, Applied, and Advanced Research (FY13-18)
http://www.grants.gov/custom/viewOppDetails.jsp?oppId=219293

From the grants.gov description:

This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA), which sets forth research areas of interest to the U.S. Army Research Institute (ARI) for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, is divided into two sections- (1) Basic Research and (2) Applied Research and Advanced Technology Development. The four major topic areas of research interest include the following: (1) Training (2) Leader Development (3) Team and Inter-Organizational Performance in Complex Environments (4) Soldier/Personnel Issues.

Funding of research and development within ARI areas of interest will be determined by funding constraints and priorities set during each budget cycle. Awards may be made in the form of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements. Proposals are sought from educational institutions, non-profit/not-for-profit organizations, and commercial organizations, domestic or foreign, for research and development. The U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences encourages Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Other Minority Serving Institutions, small businesses, and small disadvantaged businesses to submit proposals for consideration.
Applications accepted on a rolling basis until February, 2018

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.

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<th>RECENT AWARDS</th>
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<td>Anthony Alessandrini</td>
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Hot Topics: Research Foundation of CUNY Establishes Two New Employee Categories

Current Project Directors and Primary Investigators on Research Foundation grants have been working with the Office for College Advancement to implement new annual leave policies, discussed in the March 2014 Grants Newsletter. Effective July 1, 2014, the Research Foundation of CUNY (RFCUNY) has two new employee designations available: on-call employees and temporary employees. Employees with these designations will not accrue annual leave.

The designations are defined as follows (definitions from RFCUNY website):

- **On Call employees** are employed for no more than 19 hours a week, working sporadically with no established pattern of regular continuing employment. They do not have a fixed schedule, are not required to be at or near the work site, can refuse an assignment when offered, and are only paid for hours actually worked.

- **Temporary employees** are employed on a full-time or part-time basis for one job only or for a set duration of no more than 90 days, have no substantial expectancy of continued employment, and have been notified of this fact.

Project Directors and Primary Investigators, or their designees, select the employee category as part of the ePAF process. More information on these new designations and how to select the designation on an ePAF is available on the RFCUNY website: [https://rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/News/DetailNews.aspx?newsID=4211](https://rfcuny.org/RFWebsite/News/DetailNews.aspx?newsID=4211)
Monica Filimon  
**English**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$2,725  
Beyond the Real: the Rise of the New Romanian Cinema

Faith Fogelman  
**Office of Special Services**  
*United States Department of Education*  
$232,115  
TRIO: Student Support Services

Lea Fridman  
**English**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Completing the Legacy: Using the Global Platform of the Web to Open a Space in Cultural History

Thomas G. Friebel  
**Office of Enrollment Management**  
*City University of New York-Central Office*  
$30,000  
Single Stop on Campus

Thomas Greene  
**Physical Sciences**  
*Mertz Gilmore Foundation*  
$2,000  
Oceanography Program

Kieren Howard  
**Physical Sciences**  
*NASA*  
$384,000  
Modal mineralogy of carbonaceous chondrites (bulk & separates) by Position Sensitive Detector X-ray Diffraction: low

Gabrielle Kahn  
**English**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Sociocultural Theory and the Design of a One-Year ESL Learning Community Program

Amy Karp  
**English**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Speaking from a Strange Place: Re-framing Jewish American Assimilation in the United States

Brian Katz  
**English**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$2,197  
Roman Buildings

Daniel LaNoue  
**Office for College Advancement**  
*Northfield Bank Foundation*  
$20,000  
Student Scholarships

Lavita J. McMath-Turner  
**Office of the President**  
*CUNY Service Corps*  
$86,766  
KCC CUNY Service Corps

Jacob Mey  
**Physical Sciences**  
*National Grid*  
$8,000

Frank Milano  
**Continuing Education**  
*New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance*  
$60,000

Brian Mitra  
**Office of Student Services**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$5,949  
Reverse Transfer: Ready for a New Start?

Caterina Pierre  
**Art**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Monuments, Memory, Masons and the Creation of a Nation: Public Sculptures of Agostino Bertani (1812-1886) in Milan

Varattur Reddy  
**Physical Sciences**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Total synthesis of dehydroepiandrosterone-glycals as anti-Alzheimer’s Disease agents

Paul Ricciardi  
**Communications and Performing Arts**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Shakespeare’s Queer Voice

Florence J. Schneider  
**Program of Early Childhood Education**  
*New York State Education Department*  
$12,200  
Race to the Top

Jacob Segal  
**History-Philosophy & Political Science**  
*PSC-CUNY Research Award Program*  
$3,500  
Ideology and the Reform of Public Higher Education
Meet Djarious

For many students, attending college is a means to an end, a straight and narrow path towards degree completion and graduation day. For Djarious Allen’14, though, attending Kingsborough Community College has meant so much more, as he has used his time at the college to pursue a broad array of interests and passions.

As a Business Administration major, Djarious learned the tools, knowledge and strategies he needed to take his catering business to the next level. Furthermore, he benefited from the hands-on, dynamic teaching styles of instructors like Professor Levy and Professor Irizarry: “they were very engaging, and I always felt like they were working hard to help me succeed.”

Djarious also played an exceptionally active role in campus life, serving as Treasurer of the Business Council, Vice President of the Campus Activities Board, President of the Summer Council and other notable leadership positions. Adding to this already-formidable schedule, he also displayed his singing and acting chops on the Kingsborough stage; he has starred in Kingsborough productions of Rent and Big River, among other notable performances. Djarious’ performances would eventually earn him recognition at the 2014 Kennedy American Theatre Festival, where he was a finalist for the Richard Maltby, Jr. Award for Musical Theatre Excellence.

Djarious’ accomplishments would be impressive for any student, but they are even more astounding given that he was able to achieve them in the face of tremendous obstacles. Like many Kingsborough students, Djarious received financial aid and often struggled to afford his tuition. Yet when Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc on his community, he found himself in truly dire straits: “trees fell and broke our power-line, and the storm caused severe damage to our building. I was certain that I would have to drop out of school.”

Fortunately, Djarious found a lifeline in a scholarship he received through the Kingsborough Community College Foundation. Established shortly after the storm, the Jack and Susan Rudin Foundation Scholarship was created specifically to help those Kingsborough students most affected by the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. For Djarious, this scholarship meant being able to pay for repairs to his apartment, replace books and other vital materials lost to the storm, and most importantly: return to school.
Meet Djarious, cont’d

As remarkable as his story is, Djarious is but one of many talented and hardworking Kingsborough students who depend on scholarship support to stay in school and succeed. As Brooklyn’s only community college, Kingsborough hosts a student body that is remarkably diverse in many aspects, and yet a majority of our students have something crucial in common: a constant struggle to afford the ever-steepening costs of education. This is why scholarships play such a vital role at Kingsborough and other community colleges across the country, and why they must remain essential in the years to come.

“Whether it is $50 for groceries, $100 for a metro card, or $200 for a textbook, a scholarship can make the difference between a student dropping out of school or graduating with flying colors,” says Dr. Elizabeth Basile, Assistant Vice President for College Advancement, “by continuing to fund scholarships through foundation, corporate, and individual donors’ support, we can ensure that Kingsborough remains Brooklyn’s gateway to the American Dream.”