IN THE SPOTLIGHT:  
Making Community Connections Work

When Eliot Spitzer took office as governor of New York, he issued a new regulation requiring emergency food programs to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables provided to their clients. Given the rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension among low-income New Yorkers, and a growing interest in supporting local agriculture, this seemed a sensible regulation. However, it had unintended consequences. Food pantries suddenly needed storage for deliveries of fresh New York State produce, and soup kitchen workers had to peel, cut, and prepare fruits and vegetables they didn’t know how to cook, and in some cases had never seen before.

Thanks to a connection with the United Way of New York City, Professor Jonathan Deutsch, of Tourism and Hospitality, designed a training program at Kingsborough to help meet this community need, involve students in work that increased their marketability, and increase interest in Kingsborough. And he got the organization to fund it. The idea was simple: train students to train soup kitchen workers on safe ways to store and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables, and teach them simple, culturally-relevant recipes that their clients will eat.

But the impact was profound.

Kitchen workers participating in the training saw the students—many of whom had been soup kitchen clients themselves before enrolling at Kingsborough—as role models. Some went on to enroll in Project Welcome, a project of KCC’s Center for Economic and Workforce Development that trains people for jobs in the food and hospitality sector, and in credit-bearing programs.

Dr. Deutsch attributes much of his success in securing funding for this program to the power of professional relationships, such as his with United Way. “Professors often hesitate before mingling their academic lives with other professional pursuits,” he says. “However, these relationships can be the best source for support for initiatives at Kingsborough that benefit the students, the community, the college, and the professor.”

The program also strengthened Dr. Deutsch’s teaching repertoire. “Teaching students how to teach content is much more challenging than just getting them to understand the content,” he says. “Helping students work through how they explain ideas or skills to others helped me examine how I teach, which I think improved what I do in the teaching kitchen.”

Developing, securing funding for, and implementing this program was a positive experience for Dr. Deutsch, who is committed to this model and the good it can do for students, the college, and the community. “I have several ideas in the hopper for related programs going forward. Now all I need is some funding to get them going!”

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RECOVERY.GOV: With the signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal government set up recovery.gov as a clearinghouse of information on the use of ARRA funds. For information about grant programs set up using stimulus funds, visit: http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/agencies

If you are interested in applying for one of these grant opportunities, please contact either Kirstin Swanson, Associate Director of Development, or Kelly Friedenfelds, Assistant Director of Development, to discuss your proposed project.
NSF: DIRECTORATE FOR SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

TITLE: Economics; Geography and Regional Science (SBE--BCS); Law and Social Science; Political Science (SBE--SES)

*Please see website for information regarding active funding opportunities in the above areas.

FIND GUIDELINES AND APPLY ONLINE:
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=SBE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH/NIH/DHHS

TITLE: Research on Co-Morbid Mental and Other Physical Disorders

DUE: June 5, 2009

APPLY ONLINE:

The NIMH provides support for studies on co-occurrence and co-morbidity of mental disorders with other physical disorders. This program announcement expands NIMH- and NINR-supported studies on co-morbid disorders.

GUGGENHEIM (HARRY FRANK) FOUNDATION

TITLE: Research Grants

DUE: August 1, 2009 (new applications)

FIND THE APPLICATION ONLINE:
http://www.hfg.org/rg/guidelines.htm

Support is provided for individuals for research in any of the natural and social sciences and the humanities that will increase understanding of the causes, manifestations, and control of violence, aggression, and dominance in the modern world. Priority is given to research that can lead to amelioration of these urgent problems. Awards normally range from $15,000 to $30,000 per year for one or two years.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION

TITLE: Grants Program

DUE: June 4, 2009

FIND GRANT GUIDELINES AND SUBMIT A CONCEPT INQUIRY FORM ONLINE:

The National Endowment for Financial Education’s mission is to help Americans acquire the information and gain the skills necessary to take control of their financial lives. The Endowment seeks innovative research and research-based development projects that can make a contribution to the field of financial literacy. Projects whose outcomes can improve the public’s ability to achieve personal and household financial well-being are also encouraged. Awards have ranged from $100,000 to $208,000. Grant durations range from 12 to 36 months.

RECENT AWARDS

Harold Connolly – Dept. of Physical Sciences
NASA
$156,057
Constraining the Timing of Pre-Accretion Events in the Protoplanetary Disk

NASA
$50,000
Evolution of Primitive Planetary Materials in the Protoplanetary Disk

David Gomez – Dean of Instructional Services
Tortora Silcox Foundation
$265,000
President’s Prep Program

Frank Milano – Office of Continuing Education
NYSOTDA
$224,625
Paths to Success

Brian Mitra – Office of Career Counseling, Placement and Transfer
Community College National Center for Community Engagement
$12,000
Accent on Student Success: Engaged Together in Service

Northampton Community College
$2,000
PA/NY Campus Compact Regional Network

Stuart Schulman – Center for Economic and Workforce Development
Center for Economic Opportunity
$150,000
CUNY Young Adult Program

Rachel Singer – Office of Academic Affairs
Robin Hood Foundation
$305,000
Opening Doors Learning Communities

Michael Weisberg – Dept. of Physical Sciences
NASA
$219,000
Petrologic-Geochemical Studies of Reduced Mineral Assemblages in Primitive Meteorites

Interested in learning more about grantwriting?
Attend the KCTL Grantwriting Group!
Join Dr. Jose Nanin on April 7th at 3pm and hear more about his experience writing grants and securing funding for his research. Bring your questions.
If you plan to attend, please call Kirstin Swanson at x5673 and let her know you will be there.