IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PSC-CUNY Research Award Program
Supports Dean Mitra’s Study on Reverse Transfer Students

Each year, PSC-CUNY, the union representing faculty and professional staff at CUNY, provides an opportunity for full-time staff and tenured or tenure track faculty to apply for grant support for promising research. Brian Mitra, Kingsborough’s Associate Dean of Student Affairs, secured one of these grants in April 2014. Dean Mitra’s research study takes a closer look at “reverse transfer students” at Kingsborough and uses the New Start Program as a laboratory.

Reverse transfer students include the growing number of undergraduate students who leave four-year institutions to resume their education at community colleges. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSCRC), a third of first-time students who began at a four-year institution transferred to or enrolled at another institution at least once within five years after their initial enrollment, and more than half of those students enrolled at a two-year institution. Mitra’s research focuses on reverse transfer students who have failed academically at four-year institutions and are looking to receive a “second chance” at community colleges. “Upon high school graduation, these students were high achievers whose grade point averages and college entrance exam scores indicated their capability to succeed at a four-year college or university,” says Mitra. “However, they have performed poorly and have consequently been dismissed from these schools.”

Although statistical data show that reverse transfer students are largely successful at community colleges, Mitra posits that there is not much information on why this is the case. To gain a better understanding of the reverse transfer experience, Mitra will survey reverse transfer students from Kingsborough’s New Start Program. New Start was established in 1985 to assist students who were dismissed from four-year programs and came to Kingsborough to regain their academic footing. Each semester, about 600 to 800 students are enrolled in the New Start Program (roughly 45 percent of Kingsborough’s total transfer population). Most of these students come from Brooklyn College, College of Staten Island, and New York City College of Technology. However, New Start partners with a total of 27 institutions, including all eleven senior CUNY colleges, six SUNY schools, as well as Adelphi University, Hofstra University, and St. John's University, among other colleges and universities.

The typical New Start student enters Kingsborough with only 15 credits, yet 60 percent continue at Kingsborough and earn their Associate’s degree. One such student is Carly Sheck-Leon, who currently works for the New York City Department of Social Services. Carly came to Kingsborough after an academic dismissal from Hunter College in spring 2004. After two semesters, she graduated from Kingsborough with a degree in Liberal Arts and was readmitted to Hunter College. At Hunter, Carly completed a Bachelor’s degree in Urban Studies in 2006 and then a Master’s degree in Urban Affairs in 2007. “I’ll never forget the day when my counselor at Hunter told me that I was academically dismissed,” Carly says of her journey. “Kingsborough and the New Start Program helped me get my education and life back on track.”

Dean Mitra first became acquainted with the New Start Program and reverse transfer students like Carly in his previous capacity as Kingsborough’s Director of Career Development, Transfer and Scholarship Opportunities. “There is a significant lack of data regarding their lived experience,” he reflects. Findings from Mitra’s PSC-CUNY research study will contribute to understanding the growing population of reverse transfer students at community colleges. It will also provide insight to administrators at both community colleges and four-year institutions on how to provide student support services to this population and maximize their success.
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.

CUNY Office of the Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management

CUNY Diversity Projects Development Fund

From the website: The Diversity Projects Development Fund (DPDF) of CUNY has released the 2014-15 Call for Proposals. The Fund supports educational projects, scholarly research, creative activities and other programmatic initiatives that promote multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion, affirmative action and nondiscrimination for the benefit of the University community.

The Fund invites proposals in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Programs that support members of diverse populations in academic disciplines in which they are traditionally underrepresented.
- Scholarly research which integrates results of innovative studies and research projects on underrepresented groups into courses throughout curricula.
- Seminars or workshops on topics related to diversity and/or multiculturalism.
- Creative endeavors such as exhibits or performances that illustrate aspects of diversity or multiculturalism.
- Programs or projects which integrate the about underrepresented groups into the general curriculum.
- Action programs/projects to promote affirmative action.

Due Date: October 31, 2014

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Grand Challenges Explorations

From the website: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is inviting applications to Grand Challenges Explorations on the following topics:

- Surveillance Tools, Diagnostics and an Artificial Diet to Support New Approaches to Vector Control
- New Approaches for Addressing Outdoor/Residual Malaria Transmission
- New Ways to Reduce Pneumonia Fatalities through Timely, Effective Treatment of Children
- Enable Universal Acceptance of Mobile Money Payments to Create an Economic Ecosystem that will Help Lift the Poorest Out of Poverty
- Explore New Ways to Measure Brain Development and Gestational Age
- New Ways of Working Together: Integrating Community-Based Interventions

Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization including universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations as well as for-profit companies.

Initial grants will be US $100,000 each and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to $1 million.

Due Date: Two-page proposals are being accepted online until November 12, 2014

American Philosophical Society

Franklin Research Grants
http://www.amphilso.org/grants/franklin

From the website: Since 1933, the American Philosophical Society has awarded small grants to scholars in order to support the cost of research leading to publication in all areas of knowledge. The Franklin program is particularly designed to help meet the costs of travel to libraries and archives for research purposes; the purchase of microfilm, photocopies, or equivalent research materials; the costs associated with fieldwork; or laboratory research expenses.

Applicants are expected to have a doctorate or to have published work of doctoral character and quality. Ph.D. candidates are not eligible to apply, but the Society is particularly interested in supporting the work of young scholars who have recently received the doctorate. Independent scholars and faculty members at all four-year and two-year research and non-research institutions are welcome to apply provided that all eligibility guidelines are met.

Funding is offered up to a maximum of $6,000. Grants are not retroactive. Grants are payable to the individual applicant.

Due Date: December 1

National Endowment for the Arts

NEA Literature Fellowships: Translation Projects, FY 2016
http://arts.gov/grants-individuals/translation-projects/grant-program-description

From the website: Through fellowships to published translators, the Arts Endowment supports projects for the translation of specific works of prose, poetry, or drama from other languages into English. We encourage translations of writers and of work that are not well represented in English translation. All proposed projects must be for creative translations of literary material into English. The work to be translated should be of interest for its literary excellence and value. Priority will be given to projects that involve work that has not previously been translated into English.
Competition for fellowships is rigorous. Potential applicants should consider carefully whether their work will be competitive at the national level.

We do not fund:

- Individuals who previously have received three or more Literature Fellowships (in prose or poetry) or Translation Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Individuals who have received any Literature Fellowship (in prose or poetry) or Translation Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts within the past five years.
- Applicants applying with the same project for more than three consecutive years.
- Scholarly writing. (Writers who are engaged in scholarly work may wish to contact the National Endowment for the Humanities.)
- Work toward academic degrees.

Applicants must submit their applications electronically through Grants.gov, the federal government’s online application system.

Due Date: December 8, 2014 (11:59 p.m. ET)

Kress Foundation
History of Art Grants Program
http://www.kressfoundation.org/grants/default.aspx?id=142

From the website: Through its Grants Programs, the Kress Foundation supports scholarly projects that promote the appreciation, interpretation, preservation, study and teaching of European art from antiquity to the early 19th century. These areas are also supported through our Fellowships. The History of Art Grants Program supports scholarly projects that will enhance the understanding and appreciation of European art and architecture. Grants are awarded to non-profit institutions with 501(c) 3 status, based in the United States, including supporting foundations of European institutions.

Due Date: January 15, 2015

National Science Foundation
Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions: Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) and Research Opportunity Awards (ROA)

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. Sc. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.

Due Date: Submission deadlines vary by program and proposals must meet program-specific requirements to be considered for review.

There are several additional NSF funding areas with upcoming deadlines. Please refer to the website for additional information:

Integrative Activities in Physics
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5610
Due Date: October 29, 2014

Chemistry of Life Processes (CLP)
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503417
Due Date: October 31, 2014

Environmental Chemical Sciences (ECS)
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503416
Due Date: October 31, 2014

Chemical and Biological Separations (CBS)
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13363
Due Date: November 5, 2014

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.

Not finding what you’re looking for? Try using Pivot, a powerful online tool for finding funders and collaborators.

Visit http://pivot.cos.com/ to sign up and start searching!

COS/Pivot has significant online training resources. After signing up for an account, click on the red "help" button on the upper-right hand side to access printed training materials, register for live open-access webinars, or watch videos about specific techniques on the Pivot/COS Youtube channel, and find help desk contact information.
Hot Topics: PSC-CUNY Research Awards: Cycle 46: Grants Proposal System is Open

The Grants Proposal System is open and accepting applications for Cycle 46 of the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program. PSC-CUNY Research Awards are designed to encourage the scholarly and creative pursuits of CUNY faculty, especially junior faculty.

Funds for research and creative projects are available to all Permanent, full-time members of instructional staff, and untenured members of the faculty in particular (untenured associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, lecturer); and full-time staff in HEO series. For the purposes of the PSC-CUNY Awards, junior faculty comprise those at the rank of untenured associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, and lecturer.

Evaluation criteria include:
- A well-conceived research or creative design suggesting a reasonable promise of successful execution
- Potential contribution of the proposed work to the field
- Evidence of scholarly or creative promise and/or productivity
- For research projects, demonstrated familiarity with the literature in the field
- Overall availability of program funds. The University Committee on Research Awards may also consider the history, nature, and sufficiency of past and present funding received by the applicant

Awards will be made in each of the following three categories:
- Traditional A Awards of up to $3,500
- Traditional B Awards of more than $3,600 and up to $6,000
- Enhanced Awards of more than $6,500 and up to $12,000

In order to maximize funding opportunities, for those applications deemed meritorious, the goal is to award 75% of the available funds to Traditional A Awards. The remaining funds will be allocated to Traditional B Awards. There will be no more than 40 – 50 Enhanced Awards CUNY-wide.

All applications must be completed online. If you do not have a profile, please use this link to set one up: https://www.rfcuny.org/gp/welcome.aspx. This link can also be used to update an already-existing profile.

The deadline for Cycle 46 is December 15, 2014 at 11:59 pm EST. A signed Notice of Intent to Submit a Grant form must be submitted to the Office for College Advancement – Mail Code D by November 30, 2014.

The Notice of Intent to Submit form can be found:
- For Instructional Staff: http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/sub-administration/collAdvancement/ApplyingforGrants/Documents/IntenttoSubmitFormInstructionalStaff.pdf
- For Non-Instructional Staff: http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/sub-administration/collAdvancement/ApplyingforGrants/Documents/IntenttoSubmitForm_non-instructional.pdf

Guidelines, previously funded applications and more information about the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program can be found on the CUNY website: http://www.rfcuny.org/rfwebsite/research/content.aspx?catID=3100

If you would like more information about the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program, please contact Antonio Thompson at (718) 368-5433 or at antonio.thompson@kbcc.cuny.edu.

**RECENT AWARDS**

**Babette Audant**  
Center for Economic and Workforce Development  
*CUNY Workforce Development Initiative*  
$16,000

Integrating Structured Quantitative Reasoning Courses Across Tourism and Culinary Arts

**Anna Becker**  
Performing Arts Center  
*Mertz Gilmore Foundation*  
$3,500

On Stage at Kingsborough: Mariela Franganillo Company's Residency and Performance  
*New York City Department of Cultural Affairs*  
$5,760

On Stage at Kingsborough
Meet Rumbi

As you know, many Kingsborough students struggle year-round to afford the ever-steepening costs of higher education, from tuition and textbooks to meals and MetroCards. These kinds of challenges are difficult for any student to overcome, but they are particularly daunting for the college’s international students, who along with financial obstacles must also contend with cultural and linguistic barriers upon entering a new country.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Rumbidzayi “Rumbi” Change first arrived at Kingsborough with hopes of turning her lifelong passion for helping people into a fulfilling career: “I was very interested in pursuing a healthcare profession, and I had heard great things about Kingsborough’s nursing program.” However, financial woes dampened Rumbi’s enthusiasm for her nursing studies: “As an international student, I was ineligible for financial aid and most scholarships, and my course fees were incredibly high. Even though I was really enjoying my courses and professors, I was so discouraged that I felt like giving up after just one semester.”

Despite these bleak circumstances, Rumbi was determined to find a solution, and turned to the Office of Enrollment Services for guidance. It was there that she learned about a scholarship offered through the Southpole (Khym) Foundation. Unlike most student scholarships offered at Kingsborough, the Southpole Foundation Scholarship caters specifically to high-achieving international students like Rumbi. After completing the application process, Rumbi was approved to receive $1,000 towards her Kingsborough education.

Through this scholarship, Rumbi was able to recover from her dire financial situation and continue to flourish as an outstanding Kingsborough student. And while $1,000 can certainly go a long way toward paying for school-related expenses, for Rumbi the award also had a more intrinsic value: “The money was very helpful, but what helped me just as much was the knowledge that somebody believed in me enough to invest in my future. That alone has been very motivational and has inspired me to work even harder to achieve my dreams.”