IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Training Technicians in Entrepreneurial Skills

Kingsborough’s Center for Economic and Workforce Development (CEWD) has been recognized for its success in developing innovative programs that prepare people for in-demand jobs. CEWD combines experimental approaches using innovative strategies with well-formulated evaluation to develop program designs that deliver content in ways that, while challenging conventional pedagogy, improve student outcomes. In 2008, after completing work funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education (ATE) planning grant, CEWD received an ATE grant to use its signature Virtual Enterprise (VE) approach to incorporate soft and entrepreneurial skills into information technology associate’s degree programs. “Think of Virtual Enterprise as an advanced internship,” says Dr. Stuart Schulman, Executive Director of CEWD, “where you can apply your creativity to designing products in your discipline and making the high level business decisions that are reserved for industry veterans.”

VE has a proven track record in business education. The model is easily incorporated into the business curriculum. However, the skills that VE teaches students – working in teams, identifying problems, understanding career ladders – are skills that are needed regardless of discipline. Information technology (IT) was chosen because of the retention challenge faced by many IT programs nationally. While perceived as a “behind the desk” profession, that perception is not accurate, but many students drop out because the program does not bring them out from behind the computer. Biotechnology was also chosen because it is the frontier of American entrepreneurial activity.

With NSF ATE support, CEWD developed an approach to the curriculum that is modular, making it easily integrated into existing curricula; front-loaded, meaning it addresses career ladders when students enter the major rather than at the end; and provides experiential learning through, among other experiences, a capstone course that has students conceive and launch a product or service innovation in Information Technology.

The results of this grant have been promising. “Students ultimately are excited about their technical discipline,” says Dr. Schulman. “They see the value in their future careers when they are able to connect to the real life problems.”

Despite the promising results, incorporating VE into the classroom is not without its challenges. Incorporating VE into the classroom requires a radical shift in classroom pedagogy, including a change in the locus of control. Where lecture-style classroom management techniques center the locus squarely on the instructor, using VE requires more flexibility – students are encouraged to work independently in groups and solve problems. Instructors need to carefully calibrate when to intervene and when to let a group work it out together. It also challenges domain expertise. Professors are experts in their field, and their focus on research may not allow for as much exploration of incorporating the development of an entrepreneurial venture into their teaching. With NSF support, CEWD addresses these challenges through handbooks and guides, training conferences, and one-on-one support.

CEWD has plans to refine the VE approach in science, technology, and engineering disciplines. It also plans to identify other disciplines that the VE approach may enhance. “Grant support of the program is crucial; it facilitates the many months of curriculum design and faculty development needed to launch the initial cohort of implementers. Once in place programs can be sustained and scaled through tuition and enrollment,” says Dr. Schulman.
CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, National Science Foundation (NSF)

The CAREER Program offers the NSF’s most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. Such activities should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research. NSF encourages submission from junior faculty members at all CAREER-eligible organizations and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply. Awards averaging $220,000 are expected with approximately 600 annual awards anticipated.

Closing date for applications is July 25, 26 or 27 depending upon the discipline.


The Allen Foundation

Established in 1975 by agricultural chemist William Webster Allen and based in Midland, Michigan, the Allen Foundation makes grants to projects that benefit human nutrition in the areas of education, training, and research. Grants to support programs for the education and training of mothers during pregnancy and after the birth of their children, so that good nutritional habits can be formed at an early age, are a high priority. Preference may be given to proposals that include matching funds from the institution or other partners including in-kind contribution. All projects should have the potential for budgetary self-sufficiency (direct and indirect costs) or show evidence that special funds will not be needed to continue the program after completion of the grant period.

The next deadline is December 31st.

For more information about the Foundation, including their giving history & application procedures, visit: https://www.allenfoundation.org

2011 American Nursing Association (ANA), Nursing Research Grants

The ANF Nursing Research Grants Program encourages and supports the research development of experienced and beginner nurses to conduct studies that contribute toward the advancement of nursing science and the enhancement of patient care. Awards are made in a variety of areas of nursing including, but not limited to, neonatal nursing, AIDS care, emergency care, care of chronic diseases, etc. Grant amounts vary.

Application Deadline: May 2, 2011

To learn more, visit: http://www.anfonline.org/MainCategory/NR-Grant/ANFResearchGrant.aspx#below

The Retirement Research Foundation (RFF), CORE Grants

The RFF is devoted exclusively to improving the quality of life for our nation’s older adults, especially those who are vulnerable due to advanced age, economic disadvantage, or disparity related to race and ethnicity. Through its grantmaking programs, RRF fulfills its mission by supporting innovative service, education, research, and advocacy projects that benefit older Americans nationwide. Core Grants support efforts that improve access to and quality of community-based and residential health and long-term care; promote economic security for all older adults by strengthening social insurance, pension, and personal savings programs; support training for those who work directly with older persons and their families to ensure a higher quality of care for greater numbers of older adults. In 2010, grant awards ranged from $1,500 to over $200,000.

Upcoming deadlines are May 1 and August 1.

To learn more about RFF, visit their website at: www.rrf.org

NEA Challenge America Fast-Track, FY 2012

The Challenge America Fast-Track category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development. While not required, applicants are encouraged to consider partnerships among organizations, both in and outside of the arts, as appropriate to their project. Grants are $10,000 each.

Applications are due May 26, 2011.

More details can be found at: http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP12/Challenge.html
American Astronomical Society, Small Research Grants

The purpose of the AAS Small Research Grants program is to cover costs associated with any type of astronomical research. The program is funded by a grant from NASA and is thus intended mainly to support investigators in the U.S. working on NASA-relevant projects. Acceptable expenses are those normally associated with research: computing costs; equipment purchases, upgrades, and repairs; equipment transport/shipping; travel (including student travel) to observatories and/or scientific meetings. The opportunity is open to both U.S. and international astronomers with a Ph.D. or equivalent; graduate students are not eligible. Awards range from $500 to a maximum of $7,000.

Application Deadline: **May 2 and November 29**

To learn more, visit [www.aas.org](http://www.aas.org)

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**RECENT AWARDS**

**Karen Denard-Goldman - Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation**  
The Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation  
$2,400  
*AHA Leadership Conference*

**David Gomez – Vice President for Academic Administration, Program Planning and Development**  
Lavita McMath – Director, Government Relations  
The New York Community Trust Witkin Family Fund  
$25,000  
*Civic Engagement*

**Mary Ann Edelman - Department of Nursing**  
ASMBS Foundation  
$5,000  
*Empowerment Through Education: A Peer-Mediated Initiative to Overcome Obesity*

**Josephine Murphy - Library & Media Services**  
New York State Education Department  
$12,458  
*Library Collection Aid*

**Denise Giachetta-Ryan - Department of Nursing**  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
$5,375  
*New York City Nursing Education Consortium in Technology*

**Anna Becker - Center for Performing Arts**  
Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour  
$4,125  
*Paragon Ragtime Orchestra*

**Stuart Schulman - Center for Economic & Workforce Development**  
NYC Center for Economic Opportunity  
$2,343,255  
*SIF Young Adult Program*

**Elizabeth A. Basile - Office for College Advancement**  
Richmond County Savings Foundation  
$15,000  
*Scholarships for Staten Island Students*

**Maxine McGarvey - Department of Business**  
JP Morgan Chase Charitable Foundation  
$40,000  
*The Community Financial Education Program*

**TD Charitable Foundation**  
$5,000  
*The Community Financial Education Program*

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Wondering what funding is out there? Attend the KCTL workshop: CUNY Funding Opportunities  
**May 23, 2011 at 11:30 am in M-391**