

From the Director

Dear Colleagues:

It is difficult to believe that another academic year has passed - and it has been a busy one! I would like to thank everyone that submitted external grant applications this year for your hard work. For the past fiscal year, 62 grants were submitted for funding consideration and submissions for FY02 have already begun!

The most encouraging factor about this past academic year was the number of faculty and staff that submitted grant applications. We experienced a 45% increase of participating faculty and staff.

Our goal for the 2002 - 2003 academic year is to once again, increase faculty and staff participation and increase the number of external grants submitted. Enjoy your summer. You deserve it!

Nancy L. Cruikshank
*Director, Office of Grants
& Sponsored Research*

Suggested Web Site: The Grants Resource Center is located at www.aascu.org/grc and contains valuable funding information for higher education institutions. Site access is available to all members of the SRU community. If you would like to access the site, contact the Grants Office for SRU's username and password.

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Grant Writing Tips

- Think about the needs of the audience.
- Obtain specific program information and contact the program officer.
- Begin drafting way ahead of the deadline.
- Keep the guidelines in one hand while drafting with the other.
- Ask for feedback from a well-educated generalist who knows nothing about your project.
- Rewrite the draft, filling answers to all the questions your colleague raised.
- Think as the reviewers will and critique your own proposal.

E-mail Alerts

Slippery Rock University subscribes to GrantSelect, which is one of the most comprehensive grants databases available containing over 10,000 funding opportunities.

One of the services available is an automatic e-mail alert system, which notifies you of new or changed records in the GrantSelect database, based on criteria you specify. This service is particularly effective, as it allows the user to specify key areas of interest and geographic restrictions, saving valuable time in searching for funding sources.

If you are interested in receiving e-mail alerts, you can visit www.grantselect.com from any on-campus computer. Simply click on the "Alert Service" located in the left-hand column and follow the directions. Or if you prefer, contact the Grants Office at extension 2045 or grantsoffice@srn.edu and we will arrange the service for you.

Private vs. Public Funding

Most of us are aware of the state and federal funding sources that are available, but did you know that there are a large number of private sources of funding in the U.S.? Quite often they are regional and can be limited to a specific area of interest, but they do represent a possible source for funding not supported by governmental agencies.

Priorities are set by committee (as opposed to legislation) and the process can be quite lengthy. However, of the 62 external grants submitted this past fiscal year, 8 were submitted to private organizations and 7 of these were funded. If you have an idea for a grant that you think might be suitable for private funding, contact the Grants Office.

Awards Received January 2002 - April 2002

Dr. George Brown, Government and Public Affairs, was awarded \$1,575 from the University of Pittsburgh to conduct a seminar for middle and high school teachers on teaching East Asia in the secondary curriculum.

Dr. Doris O'Shea, Special Education, received a grant in the amount of \$24,996 from the PA Department of Education to offer special and general education student teachers opportunities for implementation of research-based reading practices appropriate for students with disabilities.

Dr. James Hathaway, Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment, was awarded \$10,000 from the PA Department of Environmental Protection for a project entitled "Environmental Education Inclusion in Slippery Rock University's Teacher Preparation". This project will help integrate environmental content and education into required courses.

Ms. Alice Kaiser-Drobney, Institute for Community, Service-Learning and Nonprofit Leadership, received \$10,189 for Year Two of a three-year agreement from the PA Department of Labor and Industry for the SRU AmeriCorps Program.

Dr. John Nichols, Department of History, is the project director of a two-year grant in the amount of \$174,524 from the US Department of Education for a project entitled "European Studies Undergraduate Development: Gateway to an International Curriculum". Other faculty members playing a key role include **Dr. Nancy Barta-Smith**, Department of English, **Dr. George Brown**, Department of Government and Public Affairs, and **Dr. Jaclyn Gier-Viskovatoff**, Department of History. The purpose of this project is to develop a new interdisciplinary area of studies program in European Studies, as well as to strengthen both the undergraduate curriculum in support of a European Studies minor and teaching of modern European languages.

Dr. Susan Peterson, Department of Secondary Education/Foundations of Education, and **Dr. Jered Kolbert**, Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, were awarded a \$2,000 mini-grant from the PA Academy for the Profession of Teaching and Learning for a project entitled "Kidspiration Celebration". Student teachers enrolled in the elementary and/or special education program will be provided with visual design software to integrate into their fall 2002 teaching assignments.

Dr. Pamela Soeder, Department of Elementary Education/Early Childhood, received an award of \$20,410 from Emporia State University in Kansas under a US Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant. The project, entitled "The Multicultural/Diversity Outcomes Assessment Dissemination Project", will institute a program evaluation for multicultural/diversity learning outcomes.

Dr. Pamela Soeder, Department of Elementary Education/Early Childhood, was awarded \$80,400 from the State System of Higher Education to support the continuation of the Pittsburgh Partnership - Phase I program. This program brings inter-city high school juniors and seniors from the Pittsburgh area to Slippery Rock University to experience college life for two weeks each summer.

Dr. Joyce Penrose, Department of Nursing, received a Federal award in the amount of \$38,408 from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to provide traineeship stipends to nursing students enrolled in the master's of nursing/family nurse practitioner program.

Total awards for the time period equaled \$362,502 bringing the total awards notices for FY01 through the end of April to \$2,001,479. Congratulations to all involved!!! If you are interested in learning how to receive sponsored funding, contact the Grants Office at extension 2045 or grantsoffice@sru.edu.

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