The new web pages for Institutional Advancement are up!  
www.pccc.edu/grants

PCCC Partners with NJIT to Deliver High-Skills Training for NJ Workers

PCCC is a partner in a regional workforce training grant that brings together NJIT, Rutgers Newark, four community colleges, corporate partners and One-Stop centers in an effort to train incumbent and displaced workers and other unemployed individuals in high-growth tech fields throughout the state. The grant was awarded to NJIT for $5 million by the U.S. Department of Labor and will benefit individuals from Bergen, Essex, Passaic, Morris and Hudson counties. The funding is through the U.S. Department of Labor’s H-1B training program that collects fees from employers who bring in skilled workers from other countries to work in the U.S. on H-1B visas.

The grant will be used to support PCCC, NJIT, and its partners in providing education, training and job placement assistance related to high tech fields. The project targets four sectors predicted to create over 21,000 new IT and STEM positions in northern NJ over the next 3 years: Software Publishers, R&D in Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences, Computer Systems Design Services, and Engineering Services. Corporate partners are integral to this undertaking and include major employers within northern NJ such as IBM, AT&T and Crestron Electronics. Professor Merille Siegel is leading the College’s participation in this grant-funded project.

STEM Innovation Takes Robotics By Storm

Aided by a five-year, $4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the College’s newest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) initiative, known on campus as “STEM Innovation,” is off to a fast start. This new project aims to improve enrollment, persistence, and program completion rates among STEM students and to provide them with the skills they need to succeed at a four-year college and in the technical workplace.

Among its significant activities, the project will improve the pathway of pre-college students to college by engaging local high school students in hands-on, project-
based learning activities such as robotics. For example, the PCCC Da Vinci Robotics Club is comprised of students from the College and from JFK High School in Paterson. PCCC students mentored their high school teammates in creating, within six-weeks, a 115-pound, battery-powered robot that can shoot basketballs up to 80 mph and maneuver around a course. The students competed at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) competition, took home the Rookie All-Star Award and made it all the way to the 3rd level Divisional competition held in Philadelphia. Said Dr. Ida Greidanus, STEM Innovation Project Director, “The idea of robotics as a joint-learning experience is to stimulate student interest in technology, expose high school students to college life, and provide awareness of careers in technology fields.”

In May, the STEM Initiative sponsored a local TETRIX robotics competition with 16 local high schools. Participants were required to build a robot to compete in an obstacle course and in head-to-head contests with other robots. Visit www.pccc.edu/steminnovation for more information.

New Jersey HPOG Consortia: A Regional Approach to Workforce Development

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Health Profession Opportunities Grant (HPOG) is a national effort to train TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and other low income individuals for careers in healthcare fields. In collaboration with ten community colleges in Northern New Jersey, PCCC is using $3 million in HPOG funding to provide training in areas such as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Administrative Medical Assistant (AMA), and pharmacy technician. On the PCCC campus, Ms. Janet Albrecht, the College’s site coordinator, is leading this effort. The HPOG project focuses on continuing education and certificate programs which have become increasingly important means to provide skills and training to people who need jobs. According to Stan Koutstaal, HHS Program Manager for HPOG, “These projects serve to help people in need, give them the skills they need to succeed, and pull them out from the ashes of an economic crisis.” For more information visit www.pccc.edu/healthpathways.

Small Award, Big Impact

In March, the American Sociological Association (ASA) awarded PCCC with the Sorokin Lecture Grant to bring Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva to speak at the College. Dr. Bonilla-Silva is a Professor of Sociology at Duke University and the winner of the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Major ASA Award. This award is bestowed upon individuals with a record of outstanding work in areas such as social justice, human rights, activism, community efforts, the building of institutions, or sustaining programs. Emphasis is placed on African American or similarly disadvantaged racial/ethnic populations that have experienced historical racial discrimination.

The purpose of the Sorokin Lecture Series, coordinated by Sonia Brown, PCCC sociology professor, is to provide one-day lectures as a way of opening up a forum to inform the student population and the community about social issues that directly and indirectly impact their lives as people of color. Said Professor Brown, “I strongly believe that this student body needs all the resources it can get to realize its dreams. This highly prestigious speaker has a body of work that will resonate with our student population.” Dr. Bonilla-Silva’s lecture will take place on October 25th in the College Theatre.
In the Pipeline
Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Community College and Career Training Project

This past spring, New Jersey’s 19 community colleges came together to plan and submit a single application in response to the U.S. Department of Labor’s TAA Community College and Career Training Grants Program. The focus of this proposed project is to assist those individuals in New Jersey who lost their jobs due to foreign trade and to put them on a career pathway towards high-skill, high-wage employment. TAA eligible workers will be able to enter the project at any of the 19 colleges and seamlessly complete their selected career pathway. The project will build and sustain the capacity of the community colleges to recruit, rapidly train, and place TAA-eligible individuals and other dislocated workers in high-wage, high-skill employment. In particular, the 19 community colleges will target opportunities in the state’s Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation, Logistics, Distribution, and Utilities (TLDU) industries. Total funding is being requested in the amount of $15 million, with PCCC taking a leading role in training individuals for careers in the TLDU sector and Middlesex County College serving as the lead partner in training TAA individuals for careers in Advanced Manufacturing. More than 70 employer partners signed on to participate in this project, including major employers such as United Airlines, Lockheed Martin, GlaxoSmithKline, UPS, Port Jersey Logistics, and South Jersey Industries. Grantees will be notified in the fall of 2012.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

There are countless opportunities for grant funding but it can be a challenge to find the one that fits your academic discipline and particular area of interest. If you have an idea for a project but don’t know how to fund it, please contact Institutional Advancement for assistance in locating the right funding source. Below are two upcoming funding opportunities. Does your field of expertise fit one of them? If so, let us help you put together a proposal.

The Kazanjian Foundation, Increase Economic Literacy: The large number of students at risk of leaving school and never effectively participating in the nation’s economic system are of concern to the Foundation. Programs that help otherwise disenfranchised youth and/or young adults learn to participate in the economic system are very important to the Foundation. Application Deadline: September 15, 2012, Grant Range: $3,500 to $150,000, http://www.kazanjian.org/grants/apply.


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