

# **Report to Governance on TCC's 2002 ITTL Competitive Grant Program**

Jim Roberts, Chair

TCC's Instructional Technology in Teaching & Learning Grant Program, now in its fifth year, is becoming renown for transforming our visions of instructional technology use to reality. The ITTL Committee is better organized to represent the college as a standing sub-committee of the TLTC, and had only two returning members. All six projects funded this year represent valuable investment in TCC's best ideas for bringing high-quality, accessible instruction to increasingly techno-sophisticated students.

Collaboration was again emphasized with the most recent round of competition, bringing forth more projects that will bring colleagues from various campuses together. The blind review process was replaced with a more streamlined process that worked well, but the call for proposals brought forth plans for spending that totaled less than the budget would allow. Coming on the heels of the 2001 competition when most applicants were turned away, this was a curious reversal.

## **Outline of this Report:**

- I. Projects Proposed & Funded
- II. Issues Raised
- III. Appendix: Grantees' Budgets and frs codes

Recommendations and planned actions are highlighted in [blue text](#).

## **I. Projects Proposed & Funded**

After a review of preliminary grant proposals in October, the selection committee met and responded to all applicants with feedback: specific recommendations, requests for additional information, and/or requested modifications of projects proposed. In early November three proposals were withdrawn and revised applications (or additional information) from the remaining six were reviewed, discussed, and the projects voted upon. Ranking of projects was not necessary this year (because the total of all requests were within the budget), but a majority of committee members still had to approve funding for each project. All six projects passed that test. The funded projects were:

### **Enhancement of Library Instruction Classroom**

**Proposed by: Ruth Shumate**      **[\$10,886]**

The Virginia Beach LRC would like to build upon the recent "inheritance" of 20 computers (from PeopleSoft training) and complete a highly mediated

classroom. We would like to facilitate the learning experience toward information literacy by mounting a projector in the ceiling and installing a teacher's station in the front of the room. There is room for two more tables, giving us seating for 24 students instead of 20 while allowing better access for the instructor to assist students.

The goal is to convert ITTL funding to an instructor's station and three additional student computers so that faculty and LRC staff may more fully use the room for Library Instruction, English, Student Development courses, Dual Enrollment Program sessions, AP English classes, and occasional use for courses in psychology, education, child development, military architecture, business, Work Force Development, and other areas.

### **Computerized Clinical Simulations**

**Proposed by: Denise G. Bieszczad, MA, RRT**                      **[\$2,980]**

This project will provide the Tidewater Community College Respiratory Therapy Program with a set of twenty-six computerized clinical simulations that would be integrated into respiratory therapy courses spanning the entire two-year program. These simulations are identical in format to a national exam that students must pass in order to become licensed in the State of Virginia.

Although TCC's pass rate exceeds the national average, the faculty feels that the integration of computerized clinical simulations exams throughout the program would greatly improve TCC's exam pass rate but more importantly improve the quality of the program's graduates. Computerized clinical simulation scenarios are very effective teaching tools that require a high degree of decision making and problem solving skills.

The Respiratory Therapy programs' accreditation requirements are dependent upon the students' successful completion of a national exam. The program is in desperate need of updating the computerized clinical simulation exams. This grant would provide the program with the necessary funds to bring the program standards up-to-date.

### **Sigi Plus for Self-Directed Student Career Exploration**

**Proposed by: Tom Lee, TCC Multimedia Coordinator**                      **[\$6,180]**

The purpose of this grant is to purchase a site license for the web version of SIGI plus so that students can access this career assessment program 24/7 off of TCC's website. Also, an online student development course, "Topics in Career Planning" will be designed utilizing the various modules of this software. Finally, a workshop for all TCC counselors will be held to demonstrate the online version of SIGI PLUS and show how to incorporate the system into their STD classes as well as their career advising both online and in their offices. All four Student Development offices will participate.

### **Division of Health Professions' Global Learning Community**

**Proposed by: John Morea on behalf of the Division of Health Professions and the Emergency Medical Technologies (EMT) program**     **[\$14,320]**

The Division of Health Professions at Tidewater Community College (TCC) is a statewide leader in synchronous distance learning. The funds requested in this proposal will be used to design and broadcast the Emergency Medical Technologies' Advanced Life Support associate degree program and continuing education courses via live video compression throughout the State of Virginia, particularly in rural areas that are experiencing a critical shortage of EMS and ALS (advanced life support) training.

### **Physics Classroom Projector, Computer, and Screen**

**Proposers: David Wright, Mark Greer, and Ken Broun, Jr.**     **[\$7614]**

Purchase, installation, and setup of a computer, computer display projector, and screen in the Pungo building room F – 112, the Astronomy classroom in most intensive use. Images of galaxies, nebulae, planets, moons, etc., make astronomy exciting. Displaying images in class and discussing in detail the prominent and subtle features helps students to appreciate and understand processes and concepts. Computer simulation programs will illustrate planetary and satellite motions, simulate the night sky and planetary alignments, and demonstrate relevant calculations, significantly enhancing the student's understanding of the concepts and principles of astronomy, physics, and mathematics. Videos from VHS tapes, DVDs, and video laser disks can be fed through the system for class viewing.

### **Course Development: Civic Engagement**

**Proposed by Anne Parrella**     **[\$16,808]**

The project proposed here calls for building the broader theoretical and practical framework within which to situate the tasks of engendering civic engagement at the college level. Specifically, the goals are to:

- Develop the curriculum for an online course in civic engagement, tentatively titled: Democracy and Civic Virtue.
- Draft a course syllabus and outline based on curricular aims and objectives
- Design the coursework, including readings, discussions, case study analysis, problem-solving projects, evaluations, and analytic/research activities.

## II. Issues Raised

**The Funding-Spending Linkage** seems problematic, leading to at least one case where funding approved last year went unused as the result of purchasing snags. **Ass't VP Scott Langhorst will investigate....**

**Promotion of the Program** and **allowing faculty adequate time** to arrange for collaboration is important. If the ITTL Program is assured of future funding, I will promote the next round of competition at fall convocation time –and much more broadly. I address this issue in the section on [Process Changes, below](#).

### **Content Development Funding Considerations**

Proposals to “add multimedia modules” to an existing course or to “use the web to internationalize” a course, for example, may entail very little work or very much work. Without some idea for the qualities and quantity of the work being proposed, content development appears risky and expensive. There is little incentive for applicants to scour the internet (including various publishers’ websites) for existing content, too. [This issue, too, is addressed in Process Changes, below](#).

It seems that **ITTL funds would be spent well supporting modest awards** for notable contributions to the college’s repository of shared digital content. In order for the college to get better “mileage” from content development efforts, [some incentive to share electronic courseware with colleagues in a peer review process is needed](#). Peer review doesn’t sound so bad when the gathering is to give recognition and an award –not to mention learn a thing or two from faculty at the forefront. College-wide peer review is welcome to those who will go on to wade in the deeper waters of MERLOT. [I hope that TCC administrators will approve of the ITTL committee adopting a program to encourage contributions to a shared pool of content and resources and/or strategies for putting them to use. This involves faculty of a common discipline utilizing a common Blackboard site: “The Commons”.](#)

### **Selection Committee Continuity**

Personal invitations were the ticket to finding new members with fresh ideas. Only two members of last year’s selection committee returned (Larry Niederkorn of OIS and Jim Roberts, chair). New members included Kathy Tilton (LRC, Norfolk), Mike Nickelsburg (Math, Portsmouth), YanYan Yong (Instructional Designer), Cynthia Horen (ENG, Chesapeake), and Vernon Cramer (Director of Instructional Technology). Scott Langhorst served in an ex-officio capacity.

Many proposed ITTL projects are intended to build on previous work, and without knowledge of previously funded projects, funding for similar work

could be awarded twice. It is appreciated that the governance system designated (1) the Associate VP of DTLS, (2) TCC's Instructional Designer, and (3) a designate of the Dean of OIS continue to serve on permanent seats of the ITTL Selection Committee. There is still a **need for more active developmental guidance, strategic direction, and follow-through for funded ITTL projects.**

### **Process Changes**

Ideally, much more focused and sustained attention will be devoted to structuring future projects via our DTLS program. The committee debated following the lead of the college Professional Development committee and **approved dropping any requirement for a proposal deadline. The process would change to first-come, first-served until the budget expires. Greater leeway for negotiation (toward collaboration, for example) will serve the program well. Any agreement of a grant award for work to be produced will be shaped by and subject to the approval of the entire selection committee.**

**Cynthia Horen and I will overhaul the ITTL website and produce forms that will allow the ITTL Selection Committee to make the application process more standardized. We will then promote our new first-come first-served process - hopefully at the Fall convocation.**

### **Sandbox**

The withdrawal of George Fowler's proposal for a LINUX server averted a policy showdown between innovation and adequately maintaining a stable and secure information system at the college. The issue is settled temporarily by a budget crunch, but will not die. As the college and VCCS settle into the use of our particular operating systems and software, it is wise in the long term to remain aware of alternatives and allow for periodic re-examination of choices that may limit our growth and adaptation to a rapidly changing world. The instructional technology "sandbox" for innovation is a worthy goal, but a luxury at present. **In the long-run, the costs to the college of supporting innovation are small compared to the costs of a failure to innovate!**

### **College Purchasing Restrictions**

The Director of Instructional Technology placed some restrictions on the projectors that the college would order to fill the needs of three ITTL grantees: Ruth Shumate, Ken Broun, and John Morea. Vernon Cramer's logic is sound: since the bulbs for these projectors cost roughly \$400 each, they should be standardized so that only one spare bulb may be kept in inventory for all projectors. **The ITTL application process will be refined to address the need to contact the Director of Instructional Technology before applying for the grant (if a projector is involved).**

### III. Appendix:

#### Grantees' Budgets and frs codes

#### ITTL GRANT AWARDS

FY2003

FRS Code	Responsible Person	Project Description	Awarded
115790	Bieszczad, Denise	Computerized Clinical Simulations	\$ 2,980
110022	Broun, Ken	Astronomy Classroom Equipment	\$ 7,614
140042	Morea, John	Health Sciences - Global Learning Community	\$ 14,320
145053	Parrella, Anne	Civic Engagement Online Course	\$ 16,808
142042	Shumate, Ruth	Library Classroom Enhancement	\$ 10,886
	Lee, Tom	Sigi Plus Student Career Exploration	\$ 6,180
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 58,788</b>
		<i>surplus</i>	\$ 41,212