

HBCU/ HBGI College Cost Reduction and Access Acts (CCRAA) Grants

ALABAMA

Alabama A&M University-P031B085057-08

Activity Description:

Program Administration

Program administration is the executive arm of the university's Title III HBCU program. Under the leadership of the Director, the administration supervises all aspects of the program to ensure a holistic focus on the university's Strategic Planning Goals and to ensure compliance with the regulations and guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education. Funding for this supplement is requested for two years.

Activity 1- Establishing the Centers of Excellence for Teaching and Learning

The Office of Academic Affairs has begun a new initiative, the Centers of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). The Centers of Excellence in Teaching and Learning is envisioned to be the umbrella under which faculty members (experienced and new) will be instructed in the most effective strategies for engaging and teaching today's college students. The Centers of Excellence in Teaching and Learning's primary goal is to improve student learning by improving the quality of teaching at the university. This goal will be accomplished by: 1) engaging the faculty in conversations about the most recent advances in pedagogical approaches to teaching via in-house seminars and workshops and workshops led by outside consultants; 2) faculty attendance of regional and national conferences on the scholarship of teaching and learning and reporting back to the university faculty on concepts learned; 3) offering resources to assist faculty with the infusion of technology in instruction. CCRAA funding will be used to complete the establishment of CETL offices and to sponsor the initial workshop.

Activity 2- Enhancing Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories

This activity is designed to enhance laboratory experiences for students in courses in the sciences, engineering and technology, and telecommunications. The teaching laboratories to be enhanced are housed in three of the five schools of the university: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering and Technology and the School of Education. The School of Education coordinates licensure programs in each of the academic schools. In addition, the School of Education offers fifth year licensure programs to approximately 200 students. The specific enhancements requested are: 1) purchase of scientific equipment; 2) repair and/or replacement of laboratory hoods; 3) renovations of laboratory and office space; and 4) removal of hazardous materials from laboratory and storage spaces.

Activity 3- Strengthening Faculty Participation in Research

Funds are requested to provide start-up packages (small laboratory equipment, chemical, general laboratory supplies) for new science faculty members, especially in the Natural Sciences. This is intended to assist them in establishing research laboratories for the pursuit of their research and for the research training of undergraduate and graduate students. This will increase the institution's capacity to prepare students for careers in the physical and natural sciences.

Research shows that students who actively engaged in research alongside a faculty mentor are better able to learn complex concepts and are better attuned to the real-world application of those concepts. Thus, enhancing the research activity of the faculty will result in increased learning by students.

Activity Description:

Title: Academic Quality Assurance

The purpose of the Academic Quality Assurance Program at Alabama State University is to measure student achievement and to ensure the curricular offerings effectively meet the student's academic needs. The program was established in 1987 to help ensure that instructional programs and indicators of student performance reflect standards of higher education.

The program directly responds to the following institutional goals and objectives of the university:

- I. To produce greater quality outcomes in all academic programs, managerial functions and other support programs.
- II. To systematically measure and improve the achievement of student educational outcomes on course-by-course and curriculum levels.
- III. To systematically conduct evaluations of academic programs through internal and external assessments.
- IV. To maximize the use of educational technologies, especially computer technology, in achieving excellence in all academic program areas.

The program is based on a systems model for educational management and a comprehensive plan with four pillar elements: 1) the development of course syllabi which address bona fide instructional requirements and which contain clear learning objectives, derivative teaching strategies, provisions for evaluation, and grading criteria; 2) the establishment of test banks designed to measure the achievement of specific course objectives in keeping with the evaluation provisions of each syllabus; 3) the implementation of a computerized scoring and evaluation system to track and archive progress over the life of the program and beyond; 4) to conduct periodic workshops to acquaint and train faculty to participate successfully in all aspects of the program. The plan includes guidelines for syllabus and test bank development, review, and approval and summarizes the computerized evaluation/ accountability component--the computerized assessment system--that supports over 330 courses.

New Activities and Rationale for Federal Support:

Federal funds are essential for the successful continuation of this project. Our incremental program over has moved us forward considerably, yet much remains to be done. The following major tasks remain: 1) constantly updating syllabi/ test banks as a result of evaluation and feedback; 2) tailoring syllabus formats and requirements to department and degree programs; 3) establishing procedures and timetables for the review of syllabi and test banks; 4) analyzing the results of student performance to revise and/ or create new syllabi, teaching strategies, and

evaluation methods; 5) continuing, enriching and expanding workshops and seminars to nurture faculty discussion, involvement and collaboration; 6) fully equipping the Testing Center to handle test banks and provide test management and analysis data to faculty and administrators; 7) evolving the freshmen assessment capability from course placement to a richer capability of diagnostic assessment that can be made available to course instructors for use in tailoring classroom instruction. Another area of substantial need is the computerized networking of faculty to Testing Center staff to facilitate interactive test question development, test generation, and test results and analysis reporting.

Objectives:

- State course objectives in syllabi as measurements of student achievement reflecting the goals and purposes of individual programs and update syllabi on a regular basis;
- Develop course examinations so that students will only be evaluated on the objectives stated in the course syllabus;
- Consistently improve student achievement of course objectives; and
- Train/update new continuing faculty on developing course syllabi according to IDC standards and expose faculty to new teaching concepts and assessment approaches

Goals for the CCRRA Initiative:

- 1) To increase graduation rates of Alabama State University (ASU) students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas and Teacher Education;
- 2) To strengthen select academic programs in the STEM areas and Teacher Education at ASU;
- 3) To strengthen the ASU Faculty in the STEM areas and Teacher Education;
- 4) To increase instructional support capability for students enrolled in STEM curricula and Teacher Education at ASU; and
- 5) To increase research productivity of Alabama State University faculty members

Institutional objectives and activities, designed to aid in the achievement of these goals, have been defined. The activities consist of:

- 1) Strengthening the Teacher Education Program;
- 2) Strengthening the academic programs in the STEM areas;
- 3) Supporting faculty development;
- 4) Improving the Computer Science Program; and
- 5) Strengthening technology

Bishop State Community College- Carver Campus- P031B085100-08

Activity Description:

Priorities for Implementing Corrective Action:

The following priorities have been established for corrective action on our Carver Campus:

- 1) Improvement of academic instruction, acquisition of equipment;
- 2) Renovation and maintenance;
- 3) Strengthening funds management and acquisition of equipment;
- 4) Improvement of student services;
- 5) Strengthening administrative management; and
- 6) Faculty and staff development.

Bishop State Community College- Main Campus- P031B085101-08

Activity Description:

Priorities for Implementing Corrective Action:

The following priorities have been established for corrective action on our Main Campus:

- 1) Student learning outcomes and assessments;
- 2) Increasing student retention through student engagement and innovative recruitment Strategies for a targeted population;
- 3) Innovative marketing and recruitment strategies;
- 4) Faculty and staff development;
- 5) Construction, improvement and maintenance of instructional facilities;
- 6) Strengthening administrative management;
- 7) A computer-based developmental mathematics-learning center;
- 8) Creation of a center for teaching and learning; and
- 9) Grant coordination/evaluation

Concordia College- P031B085073-08

Activity Description:

Concordia College, an HBCU located in Selma, Alabama, takes seriously its commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Realizing that Alabama, like many other states, is suffering from a shortage of teachers, Concordia will use funds in this grant to continue to strengthen and expand its teacher education curriculum. With a society that is dependent on technology, Concordia believes that it must produce students who are technologically savvy and provide an environment where administrators, faculty, and staff have access to technology resources. Therefore, Concordia will use funds to improve its technology infrastructure.

Activity Description:

Gadsden State Community College-Valley Street Campus proposes a two-year project that is designed to further expand programs and facilities on the Valley Street Campus. The activities involved in the project will serve to build future academic and fiscal stability. The desired outcomes will include improved student retention, decreased attrition, and improved graduation rates. Efforts will also result in attracting additional students to the college by creating new instructional resources and enhancing physical facilities.

The major grant activities include providing support in the following areas: 1) the development and establishment of a library on the Valley Street Campus. Currently there is not a library facility on the campus. The establishment of a library would broaden the student's research capabilities beyond the Internet and provide expanded resources that would augment the learning experiences of the students. The purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational material including program-specific software will be included. The student's chances for success would therefore be enhanced. 2) Providing a wireless learning environment laptop initiative will increase student engagement. Presently there is only one computer laboratory on the Valley Street Campus. Based on the circumstances of having only one computer laboratory, there have been constant challenges related to requests from faculty and students for utilizing the laboratory. Increased overlapping requests from faculty and students have created scheduling challenges. The laptop initiative would be a major step in responding to this need. Institutionally, over the past year the college has provided the installation of a wireless network. Through the laptop initiative, each student and faculty will be provided with a laptop.

This will enable each student to have access to Internet resources, engage in more interactive activities in the classroom whether at school or home. The Valley Street Campus does not have a student center/auditorium. The construction of a one hundred-seat student center/auditorium would contribute towards the continued growth of the campus. The structure would include a one hundred-seat auditorium, an Internet café, library, and student social area. Currently we do not have the space necessary to accommodate more than approximately forty participants in workshops, community events, or student activities.

Through the implementation of this grant, the Valley Street Campus will attract increased numbers of new enrollments, promote learning through technology, expand training and professional development opportunities, enhance fiscal stability, and upgrade campus facilities.

Efforts will improve and strengthen access to services, and support for students, faculty and staff.

Activity Description:

J. F. Drake State Technical College seeks to expand the healthcare training programs and building capacity to address a critical shortage of health care professionals. The program will be directed by the Chair of the Nursing Department who has a MSN degree and over 20 years of experience in the health professions industry. Related to capacity-building, the health professions staff will work individually with students to facilitate the early resolution of issues impeding success, connect students to health care providers and provide consistent, career-specific, and personalized guidance. The new program in allied health will result in increased enrollment in all aspects of the health professions program. Most importantly, there will be a major contribution to the workforce in an effort to help eliminate the national shortage of nursing and health-care professionals. According to the U. S. Department of Labor, Medical Assisting is expected to be the fastest growing occupation through 2012. Job placement opportunities are numerous in the Huntsville and North Alabama area with employers preferring to hire individuals who have completed a formal program in Medical Assisting. The average full-time annual wage of a Medical Assistant is \$23,350.

The Medical Assisting Technology Program at Drake State will seek accreditation from the American Association of Medical Assistants' Endowment and from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The length of the program is based on full-time status of 12-15 credit hours per term. The curriculum is designed to provide students with theoretical instruction as well as practical application. Various methodologies are utilized in order to meet the needs of students with diverse earning styles. Some of the clinical skills include taking medical histories, taking and recording vital signs, assisting with examinations and treatments, providing patient teaching and performing specialized tests, such as electrocardiograms (EKG's), and diagnostic laboratory testing. Administrative skills covered include scheduling appointments, manual and computerized billing, filing insurance claims and medical transcription.

All graduates of the Medical Assisting Technology Program are academically eligible to take the American Association of Medical Assistants National Certification Examination. Upon successful completion of this examination, the graduate will earn the title of Certified Medical Assistant. The American Association of Medical Assistants stipulates that individuals found guilty of a felony or individuals who have pleaded guilty to a felony are ineligible to sit for the National Certification Exam. The certifying board may grant a waiver based on mitigating circumstances. Applicants who have been convicted of a felony or pleaded guilty to a felony may be accepted to the Medical Assisting Technology Program. However, admission to the Medical Assisting Technology Program does not guarantee that the applicant will be eligible to sit for the American Association of Medical Assistants National Certification Examination. Students are admitted to the Medical Assisting Program each semester. Individuals who are interested in enrolling in the program must meet the general admission requirements.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Instructional Facilities Improvement

This activity is designed to improve and/or upgrade instructional facilities. Many of the instructional facilities are in need of modernization, renovation and/or major repair to meet city, state and federal codes and regulations. Upgrades are needed to continue to enhance the instructional environment and make it more conducive to learning. These upgrades include but are not limited to: preventive maintenance, electrical, heating ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC), safety and security, classroom enhancements, installation or provision of multi-media equipment, installation of equipment and/or other adaptive measures to make buildings more accessible for disabled constituents, upgrading teaching laboratories and/or studios with state-of-the-art equipment for instruction and research purposes, efficient maintenance and upgrading of Internet access and telecommunications access, continuous upgrading of the library with appropriate instructional needs such as shelving, seating, study areas, etc.... The importance of enhancing instructional facilities and providing students adequate access to these facilities has become increasingly important. This requires a well-thought out plan for the maintenance and future development of facilities and an institutional commitment to provide adequate resources to do so.

Activity 2- Improving Health Professionals

This activity is designed to improve the learning environment in the area of health professions. Specifically, Lawson State Community College will provide students with the latest instructional technology that is available in the health care profession. The activity consists primarily of the nursing department and faculty in the Associate Degree in Nursing program and the Practical Nursing program. Nursing is a critical component of the health care profession. In the nursing area, practical demonstrations are essential so the acquisition of skills via current equipment and in a learning environment that simulates acute care and clinical settings is of primary importance.

Activity 3- Improving Health and Wellness for Achievement in the Academic Environment

In the health and wellness component, fitness and nutrition assessments will be enhanced to meet the health and fitness needs of students. This component will provide students with information and activities that will assist them in optimizing the longevity of their life and promote healthier and more productive lifestyles. Research shows that offering health and wellness programs strengthens students grades, attendance and participation. Wellness oriented programs have shown positive effects on academic achievement through increased concentration, improved mathematics, reading and writing test scores. The Health and Wellness activity will also facilitate retention and student success. The activity will enhance the total physical, mental and social well being of students in the academic environment. The goal is to promote, encourage and facilitate participation in a variety of activities directed towards lifelong health and wellness.

Activity 4- Strengthening the Management Information System

Student, administrative and academic units need continuous and reliable access to information. There has been tremendous expansion and growth in the computer industry. Because of this, the technological needs of the college continue to expand. These needs include: up-to-date servers, core and peripheral switches, microcomputers, laptops, projection devices, communication systems, Wi-Fi networks, wired networks, and bandwidth capability. It is incumbent upon the college to utilize all available tools, techniques and technologies to ensure that its graduates are competitive.

Activity 5- Program Administration

The purpose of the Program Administration activity is to provide leadership to the ongoing programmatic and fiscal monitoring of all activities that are funded by the Project. Program Administration has the specific responsibility of assuring that the project activities are carried out as stipulated in the grant proposal; facilitating the maximum impact of the activities on the mission and goals of the college; and serving as the institutional liaison for the Grant Program.

Miles College- P031B085053-08

Activity Description:

The proposed Academic Instructional Facility will:

- 1) Strengthen research and instruction in international studies, global intelligence, public policy, foreign languages, and public administration;
- 2) Provide basic training in critical languages such as Arabic, Farsi, and Chinese to meet the challenges created by globalization and the need for world peace and security;
- 3) House state of the art equipment for technology research, meetings and conferencing; and
- 4) Provide additional space for academic campus outreach activities.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Strengthening Academic Programs and Support Services

The primary objective of the activity of strengthening academic programs is to provide academic excellence in the quality of teaching and learning among students and faculty. Correlated objectives include graduate program expansion, expansion of library capacity to support graduate instruction, continuous faculty development in underrepresented areas, upgrades in the physical integrity of instructional buildings, improving student performance in underrepresented disciplines, increasing the number of students enrolling in graduate programs, and preparing for the university's entry into distance learning. All of the aforementioned require an aggressive program of curriculum development.

Activity 2- Strengthening Student Development and Services

The primary objective of this activity of strengthening Student Development and Services is to support academic success outside the classroom. Relevant objectives include developing more internship opportunities, providing resources and information about graduate and professional education, creating living learning centers and labs in upper class residence halls, and enhancing academic support for single parents.

Activity 3- Strengthening Funds Management

In support of the mission of Oakwood University, the purpose of this activity is to effectively and efficiently receive, distribute, protect, and control the fiscal assets of the University. The University endeavors to protect and secure its assets by strengthening the following areas: Public Safety, Financial Affairs, Accounting, Student Accounts, and Financial Aid.

Activity 4- Strengthening Institutional Development

The Advancement and Development Division hereafter referred to as Advancement and Development received a report from Jenzabar, the database system, indicating that the institution is only using twenty percent of the overall functionality of the system. In addition, the Advancement and Development staff has experienced major turnover in the "Development" area necessitating help with data-base improvements, training in major gift solicitation, prospect research, writing the case statement, and in conducting annual and capital campaigns.

Training and consulting expertise in these areas is hereby requested along with contract support, travel for training purposes, and supplies for upgrading the Jenzabar software and improving office functionality. Implementation of these critical Advancement and Development functions through Title III is necessary for the institution to reach its strategic goals of increasing the number of income streams to the university, including more scholarship assistance for our students.

Activity 5- Project Administration

The major focus of this activity is the administration of the grant award. It is the responsibility of this office to adhere to the policies and procedures set forth in the A-21 Circular and to ensure they are carried out by the aforementioned activities through the objectives and budget appropriation awarded. Additionally, the Title III Director maintains effective communication between the U.S. Department of Education, Oakwood University administration, and the Title III activities, assuring all guidelines and procedures are met.

Activity Description:

Minority students enrolling in the gatekeeper science, technology, and mathematics courses have a 33 percent chance of completing these courses successfully. Of the 605 minority students who attend the C.A. Fredd Campus of Shelton State Community College, approximately 10 percent successfully complete two or more Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses and enter advance courses. Because our classrooms/laboratories are outdated, we propose to enhance and strengthen our science facility that will result in making preparation in STEM courses an attainable goal for students. We also hope to establish the campus as a nurturing STEM disciplined learning nucleus that is needed in the surrounding minority community. This College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) project will have two activities: 1) Classroom/laboratory improvement and 2) Infusion of technology.

Activity 1- Classroom/laboratory improvement

Improve basic laboratory infrastructure in the science facility. The classroom/laboratory will be upgraded by making major modifications. The laboratory will be equipped for use as a general laboratory for Astronomy, Biology and Chemistry. The current shared space does not provide for science and research activities.

Effort will be made to eliminate or drastically reduce conflicts in class schedules from the students' point of view. Within the constraints of low enrollment, limited faculty, and laboratory and classroom spaces, courses will be separated in time and scheduled as frequently as possible.

This activity is designed to respond to the changing needs of new and expanding industrial employers, and the diverse educational needs of students in Tuscaloosa and surrounding counties. Within the constraints of low enrollment, limited faculty, and laboratory and classroom spaces, courses will be separated in time and scheduled as frequently as possible.

Activity 2- Infusion of Technology

This activity is designed to increase the quality of equipment used to advance scientific technology. Technology has not only affected teaching and learning, it has changed the process by which students are prepared, evaluated and positioned for success. As part of our effort to improve students' access to our courses, the college will make a concerted effort for greater integration of technology into the curriculum. This activity provides assistance in upgrading and enhancing technology that is consistent with the technological needs of our globally competitive economy. The utilization of computers, robotics, and other forms of automation in business and industry has influenced the design and delivery of our educational programs. There is a strong demand for highly skilled, technically articulate workers who can perform well in a team environment. The West Alabama community is demanding that the College provides efficient and effective educational programs that are consistent with the computer-based applications and processes used in business and industry. This Activity assists the College in expanding the traditional form of classroom instruction to an application and hands-on format.

Stillman College- P031B085002-08

Activity Description:

The CCRAA Project continues to support the quality of the educational program at Stillman College. The program enables the College to strengthen the infrastructure whole enhancing the overall curriculum. Two activities are contained in the narrative and activity budgets for the 2008-2009-project year. The activities and stated objectives are in keeping with the strategic needs of the institution. These activities are important in the overall development of the College. The three activities are included in the six activities in the approved Title III Part B Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for the fiscal year 2007-2012.

The budget for the 2008-2009 operational year will support the following:

Activity 1) Restoration and Revitalization

Activity 2) Teaching Excellence and Accountability: Enhancing Student Learning

Activity 3) Project Administration

Stillman is an accredited, co-educational, liberal arts college located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama that is committed to excellence in both scholarship and service. Stillman confers the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees. In addition to a more rigorous innovative curriculum, the College enhanced and expanded its physical environment. The 105-acre campus is noted for its stately magnolias, spacious, well-maintained grounds and graceful buildings. Stillman continues to be a top-tier comprehensive institution in the region.

The infusion of Title III funds for the past several years has been a significant boost to the strengthening of academic programs and the upgrading of technology systems and physical facilities. Emphasis on providing comfortable learning environments for faculty and students inform the targeted areas listed above. The College remains poised to undertake aggressive efforts to maintain a relevant curriculum, provide continued professional development of its top-rated faculty and deploy state-of-the-art technology across the campus.

Three activities are contained in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) narrative and activity budgets for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The activities continue and expand upon the 2007-2012 fiscal year with modifications that are in keeping with the strategic needs of the institution. These activities continue to be important in the overall development of the College.

Activity Description:

Talladega College, as a liberal arts college, strives to be an institution dedicated to nurturing minds, advancing knowledge, and elevating the human spirit. The college will uphold these pillars of academia by providing a first-rate undergraduate education, accelerated basic research, and a comprehensive program in public service. The college will be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the citizens of the state and nation, as well as contribute to the economic, social, technological, and cultural advancement of the nation. The college's primary goal is the facilitation of intellectual growth and achievement for students regardless of their background. The college shall distinguish itself by: a *Mission* to offer program of instruction, research, and service appropriate for a liberal arts institution; *Students* challenged to utilize critical reasoning, independent thinking, basic computation, communication, collaboration, and creativity throughout their tenure at the university and motivated to become well-rounded citizens who are prepared for today's workforce; a *Faculty* that possesses intellectual prowess and skill adeptness, exhibits exceptional teaching abilities, internalizes a commitment to lifelong learning, and espouses a genuine concern for students; *Instructional Programs* in which students are exposed to ideals associated with an educated community, global and multicultural perspectives, advanced technology, and learning support appropriate for mental, social, and physical development; *Policies and Procedures* that promote continuous improvement and insure the integrity of administrative processes by providing quality services consistent with the policies and procedures of the Board; a *Campus* that encompasses historical as well as state-of-the-art facilities; a vast array of special and electronic resources for investigation, expression, and recreation for the 21st century and technological links to the world beyond; and *Integrity*, in that, the college assumes full accountability to students, and the citizens of this nation for the effective and efficient use of its resources, technology, and human insight and activity to achieve access to academic excellence.

The strategy for institutional enhancement must be directed toward strengthening all aspects of the College and eventually reducing its reliance on external support. As the College strengthens its programs, it increases its marketability and its position as a partner in relationships with business and industry, government, and other institutions that benefit from its products and services. Federal funding has provided substantial support to Talladega College over the past decade. This support has aided in the development and continuance of selected programs.

A review of the Strategic Priorities Plan resulted in the identification of key areas in which the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds will be requested. The following activities have been identified:

Enhancing Academic Quality in the Division of Business Administration and Renovations and Technology Upgrades in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Talladega College's abstract responds to and addresses institutional concerns designed to lead to self-sufficiency, financial stability, enrollment stability, technological improvement, academic and administrative improvements, and physical plant improvements. The Plan identifies a series

of objectives to be realized, programs and systems to be developed and refined, and new directions to be undertaken as Talladega moves toward attainment of these goals. The Plan is designed to strengthen the College by effectively addressing problems that affect viability and stability.

Activity Description:

The proposed two-year plan of operation is based on the College's Comprehensive Development Plan and consists of the two activities described below.

Activity 1 – Project Administration and Evaluation

The primary objective of the administrator's office is to facilitate full implementation of all approved grant activities. The Project Director will manage all aspects of the project operation and accountability and will maintain ultimate responsibilities for the implementation and operation of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant. The Project Director provides daily supervision for the program and advises the President regarding compliance with grant terms and conditions.

Activity 2- Construction and Improvement of Instructional Facilities

This activity will cover planning and associated construction activities associated with the enhancement of the Culinary Arts facility. It will focus on activities to renovate the existing Culinary Arts facility that will house classrooms, a cooking lab, kitchens, dining area, central food storage area, garbage room, and other support space to include a computer lab, workroom and instructional offices. All classroom and kitchen instruction will take place at this site. An architectural firm will be commissioned to evaluate and recommend ways to restore the current interior and exterior of the existing building. Every effort will be made to preserve existing wall structures to lessen expenses.

Our Culinary Arts program has had phenomenal growth due to the popularity of the curriculum and the employability of program graduates. The renovation will provide additional space that will accommodate the projected growth of the Culinary Arts program. The desired outcomes of planning and programmatic effort lead to recommendations for this planned renovation of the Culinary Arts facility. Superior planning and communication in the design process will allow the project to be completed within the established budget.

Activity Description:

Summary of Activities:

Tuskegee University will continue five activities plus project/grant administration during the grant year, October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009. It is anticipated that these activities will continue during the five-year period. However, the university will continue to monitor and assess the most critical needs in an effort to ensure that funds are being used to strengthen student services, academic programs and administrative management. Below is a summary of each activity.

Activity 1- Academic Enhancement and Retention Strategies for Entering Students

As an integral component of the recently completed Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation of accreditation process, the university has carefully researched, designed, and initiated the implementation of a SACS mandated Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), for which the overarching goal is increased retention and overall academic performance of first-year students. More specifically, addressing this goal is supportive of a strengthened general education curriculum and improved student services, and is premised on a categorical focus on the knowledge and skills that attend two competencies: communication and mathematical/quantitative reasoning. Initial and periodic assessments of student learning outcomes will be used to annually determine the efficacy of the QEP. Accordingly, funding will support objectives that enable the following: 1) the teaching of an orientation course (“Orientation to Academic Success using Innovative Strategies”) for first-year students in which substantial emphases will be assigned to communication and mathematical/quantitative reasoning and critical thinking, as well as the Tuskegee University experience/tradition/values, and generic academic expectations; 2) conducting a restructured academic college and a centric program of substantive and sustained academic advising and student counseling; 3) undertaking rigorous assessments of student learning over the first two academic terms as well as the evaluation of the university’s programs to increase retention of students; 4) providing supplemental instructional/tutorial activities to enable student success in specific mathematics and communication courses, both being foundational offerings of the general education curriculum and on which the success of QEP depends.

Activity 2 – Enhancing Library Services

The university has an automated library system. Upgrades to the automated library provide faculty, staff and students instantaneous access to all of the campus libraries as well as to other automated systems. The goal is to enhance the library services by: 1) continuing the acquisitions of books, journals, e-books, and databases to strengthen the library’s collection and meet the requirements of accrediting boards; 2) providing opportunities for faculty and staff to stay abreast of current developments by attending meetings and conferences; 3) providing educational and training opportunities; 4) upgrading equipment for the Library Management System; and 5) maintaining maintenance agreements for equipment and systems.

Activity 3 – Faculty Development

The ongoing faculty development is heightened in significance owing to the implementation of a more rigorous general education curriculum characterized by eight explicit competencies, among which are those specific to the QEP, communication and mathematical/quantitative reasoning. Thus, an increased focus on the currency and substantiality of content (disciplinary) knowledge and pedagogical skills, inclusive of the effective use of technology-enabled instructional modalities, of the faculty and curriculum redesign strategies for mathematics and communication courses must obtain.

Accordingly, with the goal of a strengthened instructional program executed to yield highly competitive students and thereby the achievement of exemplary student learning outcomes, program activities will include: 1) faculty development activities to improve instructions in mathematics and communication courses; 2) acquisition by faculty of contemporary pedagogical skills and approaches through attendance at selected conferences, topical workshops, and training sessions; 3) the convergence of instructional materials, course wares, best practice instructional modules, specific competencies-based assessment of student learning resources, and other professional development resources preparatory to the planning of a dedicated university-wide “teaching and learning center”, which will function as the holistic faculty development entity in future years.

Activity 4 – Renovation of Instructional Facilities

The university’s current priority is the completion of interior renovation to historic Huntington Hall (1905) to serve the Department of Teacher Education. Huntington Hall improvements include: 1) curriculum resource center and seminar room; 2) faculty offices and conference rooms; and 3) new electrical system and fixtures, plumbing, heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC), fire alarm and sprinkler systems. The Luther Foster Hall (1970), the primary academic facility for our engineering programs, needs renovations. Planned improvements include: 1) upgrade HVAC piping system; 2) replacement fan coil units; 3) replacement pneumatic controls; 4) replace mental easement windows and light fixtures; 5) replace elevators in both buildings; and 6) replace fixtures and upgrade bathrooms.

Activity 5 – Enhancing the Curriculum Through Technology

The use of information technology interconnects students, faculty and staff with the rest of the world. The goals for this activity include: 1) install a wireless campus-wide network with appropriate devices that meet current and future demands for network bandwidth, availability, and mobility; 2) develop and document professional training materials and electronic media for the purpose of teaching and learning; 3) continue to develop standards and specifications for the instructional community on technology and its applications; and 4) implement the active advising module to be able to track and assess student learning outcomes with the use of information system tools to provide more collaboration, advising and tracking of students by academic advisors.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Baptist College- P031B085034-08

Activity Description:

The purpose of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) proposal is to provide Arkansas Baptist College (ABC) with resources to modernize its technology system, enhance its facilities, strengthen pedagogy and learning system for clientele with various academic deficiencies who are subject to social and educational inequalities. Historically, the college is a coeducational, predominantly black, privately supported four-year institution that attracts and serves low-income minority students. This process continues to create special challenges, as it is more expensive to design pedagogical methods to educate this population of students. Arkansas Baptist College's track record proves that many of these students have become productive citizens. With the CCRAA grant, ABC will be able to enrich its teaching and learning program, upgrade its technology services and facilities for its students so that they might continue to be productive citizens.

Activity Description:

Philander Smith College is a small, privately supported, four-year liberal arts college, affiliated with the Board of Higher Education and the United Methodist Church. Officially founded in 1877, Philander Smith College is the result of one of the early attempts to make education available to freedmen (former African-American slaves) west of the Mississippi River.

The College faces a number of challenges including: 1) the lack of a unique marketable identity; 2) threats to its long-term fiscal stability; 3) declining enrollment; 4) academic deficiencies; 5) lack of integration of technology into the curriculum; and 6) deterioration of its infrastructure.

Based on an analysis of the College's infrastructure needs as referenced in the ***Comprehensive Development Plan***, Philander Smith College has elected to use its College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) award to renovate and upgrade classrooms and administrative offices (Financial Aid, Admission, and Registrar) and provide handicapped accessibility. This activity will be limited primarily to the James Monroe Cox Administration Building, which is the oldest building on campus, and the building that houses the classrooms and administrative offices.

Through this selected activity (renovating, upgrading, and providing handicapped accessibility to the Cox Administration building), Philander Smith College will improve its infrastructure, particularly its older buildings, and will significantly enhance the ability of the College to effectively serve students and patrons by providing adequate teaching and administrative facilities. This renovation project is critical to students' success, from enrollment through graduation.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Strengthening Academic Resources through the Purchase of Scientific and Laboratory Equipment for Educational, Instructional, and Research Purposes

This activity proposes to increase academic success in the areas of biology, computer science, industrial technology, chemistry, and physics by upgrading the laboratories for those disciplines. Additionally, upgrades to the university writing lab will provide a campus-wide resource to help students prepare written assignments for coursework in all disciplines.

Activity 2- Strengthening the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff's (UAPB) Physical Plant and Academic Programs through Renovation, Maintenance and Improvement in Classroom, Library, Laboratory, and Other Instructional Facilities

Strengthening UAPB's physical plant and academic programs through renovation, maintenance and improvement of facilities (including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services) is designed to provide safe, sanitary, and state-of-the art academic facilities for all students, faculty, and administrators by September 30, 2010.

Activity 3- Strengthening Academic Instruction in Disciplines in Which Black Americans Are Underrepresented – Aquaculture & Fisheries Course Expansion

Expanding course offerings in Aquaculture and Fisheries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) will be implemented in the Spring 2009 semester.

Activity 4- Strengthening Academic Resources through the Purchase of Library Books, Periodicals, Microfilm, Telecommunication Program Materials and Other Educational Materials

This activity will also be used to upgrade equipment and software for the Word Instructional Resources Center (a library satellite), the library's auditorium used for bibliographic instruction and staff professional development, and other library services components (including equipment and software to engage learners and proficiently enhance distance instruction and staff development.

Activity 5- Enhancing the Teacher Certification Program Designed to Qualify Students to Teach in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Arkansas

The purpose of this activity is to implement a program to improve and enhance the retention and graduation rate of African-American students in the teaching profession by providing resources for successfully reaching teacher certification.

Program Administration

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) activities proposed in this application will be incorporated into the existing UAPB organizational structure. This office further assures notable recognition of the CCRAA Program by networking with faculty, staff, administrators of UAPB, citizens of Pine Bluff, and state, local and federal legislators via news releases, agendas, e-mail, and other correspondences.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

University of the District of Columbia- P031B085027-08

Activity Description:

The University of the District of Columbia is appreciative of the opportunity to present our project plan to expend funds granted under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA). This grant will strengthen our institution primarily in the areas of student services and outcomes and institutional management. To this end, we have established three programmatic activities: 1) Administration; 2) Online Instruction & Technology; and 3) Sponsored Program Development.

DELAWARE

Delaware State University- P031B085089-08

Activity Description:

Delaware State University is submitting this formal application for funding through the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program—College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 Grant (HBCU-CCRAA) for 2008 – 2010. The support afforded through this grant will fund the following activities:

Activity 1- Enhancing Library Online Resources and Electronic Access to Collections and Services for the University, Community, and State of Delaware

We plan to enhance and upgrade digital holdings in educational materials, access/linkages through Web sites, and hardware to support high-speed transmissions to benefit the University and the entire state.

Activity 2- Enhancement of Teacher Education Programs

We plan to enhance instructional support in physical education, implement activities to increase the number of students passing Praxis I and II in the Teacher Education Program and the “National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education” (NCATE) accreditation maintenance components.

Activity 3- Upgrading Instructional Facilities in the Mishoe Science Center

We plan to add video conferencing, distance learning, research capability, and upgrade the technological network capability and all other infrastructure needed to support this level of technology.

Activity 4- Enhancement of Professional Development for College of Business (COB)

We plan to support the professional development for instructors in the COB and the “Association to Advance Collegiate School of Business” (AACSB) accreditation maintenance components. Furthermore, this two-year funding source will assist the University in achieving five “Institutional Goals” that are part of its “Strategic Plan for 2007 – 2011.” The goals are as follows: 1) strengthen and support academic programs to enable students to reach their career goals; 2) maintain, support, and encourage a dynamic research program that will foster and increase faculty and student participation; 3) improve and strengthen outreach efforts to underserved populations in the state; 4) improve the quality of life for residential and commuting students through a comprehensive enrichment program; and 5) improve and upgrade technology to support the living-learning environment. The monitoring of the activities through the “*Program Administration*” (activity five) includes the internal and external monitoring components needed to assess the achievement of the goals and objectives of each activity in the

Comprehensive Development Plan. Therefore, at the end of the grant period, these areas will be strengthened to support the continuing efforts of the university community and the entire state.

FLORIDA

Bethune Cookman College- P031B085061-08

Activity Description:

Instructional Facilities Enhancement/ Faculty Development for the School of Science, Engineering and Mathematics

The School of Science, Engineering and Mathematics (SSEM) is an integral component of Bethune-Cookman University's assessment process. In order to address the Student Outcome goal of Bethune-Cookman University, the School of Science, Engineering and Mathematics (SSEM) has two main objectives:

1) Improve the physical infrastructure of its learning environment for all students who are either science, technology, engineering or mathematics majors and those who are enrolled in general science courses by proposing the following:

- Acquire "Smart Classroom" technology for the Science Lecture Hall, and five smaller lecture rooms and laboratories;
- Acquire appropriate seating for these lecture rooms and classroom facilities and the Science Resource Center;
- Acquire state-of-the-art computers, equipment and software for student use in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and
- Renovate selected classrooms and laboratory space to make them more functional

2) Provide at least 60 percent of the faculty in the SSEM professional development opportunities to attend professional conferences and workshops with consultants in instructional strategies.

This proposal is directed toward providing a campus environment that empowers students to succeed. Dr. Herbert Thompson, Dean of SSEM, will direct this initiative.

Activity Description:

Edward Waters College proposes to use the Title IV College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds to address the three areas identified in the Comprehensive Development Plan for this program. Under the title “Construction, Renovation and Improvement of Other Instructional Facilities,” a Center for Excellence in Teaching Learning (CETL) will be established which provides a comprehensive academic support program that is centrally located and available to all students. The music program classroom and faculty offices are currently located in the Polly Brooks Humanities Center. In January 2009 the music department will move into the newly constructed second floor of the Adams-Jenkins Sports and Music Complex. The new classrooms and offices were built using a generous, restricted donation from an anonymous benefactor. Edward Waters College proposes to use \$216,000 in the 2008-2009 year to renovate and remodel the Humanities Center to accommodate the CETL program. The facility will be ready for occupancy in January 2010.

Edward Waters College also proposes to fund two key positions in the CETL program. The need to help students is too great to wait until the renovation of the Humanities Center is complete. There is currently a critical need for both a Dean of Teaching and Student Performance and a Disabilities Coordinator. Edward Waters College proposes to use \$126,000 of the CCRAA funds to initially support these two positions. The positions will then be incorporated into the Edward Waters College operational budget in 2010.

Under the same category of “Improvement in Classroom, Library, Laboratory and Other Instructional Facilities, Technology Equipment or Services,” Edward Waters College proposes to use \$75,000 of the CCRAA funding to begin to establish an academic computing center and hire a center director. Rather than continually spending money for technological software and equipment and then not taking full advantage of all the capabilities of these data systems, a specialist who has a focused academic technology background will be available to maintain systems, train faculty and recommend upgrades as necessary. The academic computing center will initially be housed with the Information Technology and Telecommunications facility, but will be an entirely separate department. The center will be added to the institutional operational budget in 2010.

Finally, under the title “Enhancing a Program of Teacher Education” Edward Waters College proposes to use \$83,000 of the CCRAA funds as a planning grant to ready its teacher education program for National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation. The move to NCATE accreditation is in keeping with “best practices” for offering a teacher education program of the highest standards. An expert in elementary education will be hired to lead the effort to move towards NCATE Accreditation. This individual will be responsible for attending NCATE workshops, visiting elementary education programs at other colleges and universities, and disseminating this information to the rest of the education department faculty. The department faculty will develop a plan, which would be implemented in 2010 to then apply for NCATE accreditation.

Activity Description:

Continuous plans are on the table to facilitate and fully effectuate a smoothly operating Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and to enhance academic programs during the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant period. Particular emphasis will be placed upon academic quality and institutional technological enhancement. The Comprehensive Development Plan for 2008-2010 will focus on the following three activity components:

Activity 1- Enterprise Information Technology

Enterprise Information Technology is committed to ensuring that students at Florida A&M University are equipped with the latest and best technological resources and networking services. Due to a lack of quality technology equipment and networking services the existing networking infrastructure in several major academic buildings is no longer supportable due to age, availability of parts, industry support, and inadequate wire and wireless services. Our primary goal is to improve and extend network services in four major student-learning environments on the main campus by upgrading and modernizing networking services and computing equipment.

Activity 2- Academic Enhancement and Improvement: University Library Project

The Florida A&M University Library's mission is to provide a user-centered information environment that supports inspirational teaching, exemplary research, meaningful service, and life long learning to the local and global university community. The university seeks to strengthen the undergraduate students' access to conduct reliable research in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) over the next two years and provide necessary materials such as: books; periodicals; licenses; and other electronic programs to meet required internal and external mandates for library holdings. The CCRAA grant will be used to support university efforts to increase and sustain its long-standing commitment to ensure access to faculty, staff and students through the utilization of state-of-art electronic multimedia resources.

Activity 3- Academic Enhancement and Improvement: Instructional Technology Resource Project

The Instructional Technology Resource project is designed to impact class lectures, student interactive participation and provide state of the art educational experiences that will enhance student-learning outcomes. The activity will work in conjunction with the various schools and colleges to install mediated classroom facilities across campus. During year one, the project will develop processes and procedures to manage a centralized technology resource command post and provide technology support. In year two, we will expand to include 40 "smart classrooms" and provide other specialized scientific and laboratory equipment designed to increase the institutional capacity in the STEM areas. We will also include hardware/software training to enhance classroom and online instruction.

Florida Memorial University- P031B085054-08

Activity Description:

The proposed two-year project plan presents five institution-based activities, which, with the use of Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU-CCRAA) funds, would help strengthen the institution immeasurably. These five activities are the following:

- 1) Improve administrative capacity through technology;
- 2) Renovate instructional facilities in two buildings;
- 3) Strengthen library services and collections;
- 4) Establish a center of excellence for teacher education; and
- 5) Enhance project administration

GEORGIA

Albany State University- P031B085037-08

Activity Description:

Albany State University (ASU) – a Historically Black Institution located in Southwest Georgia, is a comprehensive, coeducational liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate and graduate curricula that build on a strong liberal arts foundation. A regional institution of higher learning, Albany State University is one of thirty-five units of the University System of Georgia, and it offers a range of academic programs encompassing the liberal arts, sciences and some pre-professional programs. The university serves a geographically large area consisting of 24 counties in the southwestern part of the state of Georgia. The communities can be mostly classified as rural, with Albany being the only statistically designated metropolitan area. Many of the cities contain significant economically and socially depressed populations, characterized by low educational achievement levels, high unemployment rates, and high poverty rates.

Albany State University continues to fulfill its role as a catalyst for change in the region, and through its teaching, research, creative expression and service, seeks to promote the growth and development of Southwest Georgia, the state and the nation. Reflecting its progressive mission statement, Albany State University proudly serves its historical role of improving the quality of life for African Americans, while focusing on the effective delivery of academic and research services to students from all backgrounds.

For the Fall 2007 Semester the University had a record enrollment 4,033 of which 91.3 percent are African Americans and the majority were first-generation college students. The institution's retentions rate of 75.5 percent and graduation rate of 42.3percent ranks among the top in the University System of Georgia. While its focus is clearly higher education, the university also understands the dynamics of the education continuum and offers a variety of learning opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds.

As a part of the ASU 2006-2011 Strategic Plan, the emphasis of this proposal is grounded in two areas:

1) We aim to Strengthening the historic mission and role of the University while proactively serving the diverse educational needs of the region and state. Three programs will provide innovative educational experiences for the students we serve: 1) "Preparing Future Teachers through Hand-on Training;" 2) "Establishing an Undergraduate Research Center;" 3) "Writing Realized: Developing Writing Literacy in a Technological Age." These activities will prepare future teachers to serve our service area.

2) This focuses on strengthening southwest Georgia and offers students research experiences that will expand what is learned in the classroom and prepare them for graduate work, as well as provide the necessary writing tools for success in whatever endeavor they choose.

The University has a goal for enrollment of 10,000 students by 2011. The institutional leadership realizes that this is only possible if recruitment efforts are expanded. Thus the activities “Strengthening Enrollment Services” and “Expanding Online Degree Programs” were developed to meet this need. These activities will enhance the recruitment of students who attend two-year colleges in which ASU has existing memorandums of understanding. Concerted effort will be placed on recruiting, advising and tracking these students from rural areas as they progress from the Associates degree to the Bachelors of Science degree. ASU also will expand its online degree programs, a market that has excellent potential. As the university grows, it is imperative that we offer superior customer service to existing and potential students. This issue will also be addressed in this proposal.

Ultimately, the goal is to increase enrollment, persistence and graduation rates. The vision for Albany State University is to be recognized as a preeminent institution of higher education and this can only be realized through the implementation of projects such as these described above.

Activity Description:

Enhancing Academic Instruction through Facilities Restoration

In order to meet the current and future demands of an expanding student body and to provide facilities that are safe, secure, comfortable, and technologically equipped, Clark Atlanta University (CAU) identified the renovation of Oglethorpe Hall as a project to undertake with the assistance of funding from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant. Oglethorpe Hall is a three-story red brick academic building owned by Clark Atlanta University. The building is in poor condition and houses courses in the College of Arts and Sciences, the largest school of the institution. The heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is in poor condition and has worsened rapidly since measures have not been taken to improve overall maintenance procedures.

Our focus will be on using grant funds to competitively bid for and acquire the services of a firm that will serve as our Program Manager for all of these projects. Renovation of Oglethorpe Hall will strengthen the institution's accreditation process for the college of Arts and Sciences. The School of Arts and Sciences at CAU currently offers 16 degree-granting departments of which only the department of Public Administration has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs/Administration (NASPAA). Although the major degree programs in this school are designed in accordance with the policy statements, guidelines and requirements of the university, the faculty in Mass Media Arts, Computer Sciences, and Music has expressed the genuine intention to assess, prepare, and apply for professional accreditation to their respective programs by 2012. In accordance with the normal accreditation practices, the school of Arts and Sciences has initiated their program pre-assessment process and is expected to schedule and fully undertake their program specific self-study by Fall 2009.

The Office of the President through the grant and Facilities and Maintenance will improve, restore, and upgrade instructional facilities on the Clark Atlanta University Campus. This task will be undertaken in order to meet the current and future demands of an expanding student body and to provide facilities that are safe, secure, comfortable, and technologically equipped, while improving student retention, academic quality, and institutional effectiveness. Enhancing maintenance and improving classrooms and other instructional facilities of the campus will assist Clark Atlanta University in preparing for professional academic accreditations. Professional accreditations incorporate nationally accepted standards to improve CAU student learners' skills and competencies, share knowledge and raise the profile of the educational programs. The accreditation process focuses on re-examining the methods in teaching and learning by adopting best practices in the field to achieve effective program outcomes and accountability. These efforts will enhance the value, credibility, and reputation of the university.

In order to meet the institutional goal of enhancing academic instruction through facilities restoration, a review of project priorities has identified areas in need of immediate improvement. The project priorities include: Oglethorpe Hall Repairs & Restoration, elevator repairs in academic buildings, the James P. Brawley Contiguous Campus Project and HVAC and fume hood repairs and/or upgrades.

Activity Description:

Enhancing the Hunt Memorial Library

Under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), The Fort Valley State University proposes to purchase library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials, including telecommunications and program materials (in year one), and engage in maintenance, renovation and improvement in library facilities and infrastructure (in year two). The expected outcome of the two-year project is to increase the university's library acquisitions, and student and faculty usage, in an effort to increase retention and graduation rates.

Hunt Memorial library is in great need of additional acquisitions. Fort Valley State University has relied on library loan and on-line access systems to meet the growing needs of its expanding faculty and students. With the institution's growing enrollment and reduced budget, it is becoming increasingly challenging to meet student and faculty demands. The university seeks to implement a plan that will address its expanding needs.

Fort Valley State University plans to carry out its enhancement of Hunt Memorial Library via four objectives: 1) conducting a needs assessment; 2) developing best practices and expected outcomes; 3) implementing best practices; and 4) evaluating effectiveness. Implementation of the four objectives includes securing the professional services of a consultant to assess where we are (base-lining), engaging peers and participating in professional conferences to ascertain best practices in the field of library science, implementing a library acquisition plan, and securing the professional services of an evaluator to assess initiative improvements. The anticipated outcome is to enhance library usage and the number of library holdings by securing books, periodicals and information technology systems.

In an effort to demonstrate sustainability, Fort Valley State University's Office of Sponsored Programs, in the unit of External Affairs, and in collaboration with the unit of Academic Affairs, will implement a three percent library acquisition assessment on all proposals allowable, effective September 2008, pending approval. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act will be evaluated as part of Fort Valley State University's current Title III, Part B project. The current Title III project is evaluated twice per year—a formative six-month review and summative end of the year review.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Renovation of Instructional Facilities

A number of instructional facilities on Morehouse's campus are included in its list of deferred maintenance projects. As institutional funds become available, needed upgrades are undertaken to ensure that these facilities are operating at an optimal level for supporting academic activities. College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds are being requested to upgrade three instructional buildings.

Activity 2- Library Acquisitions

The Robert W. Woodruff Library supports the learning, teaching and research needs of the Atlanta University Center, the country's largest consortium of historically black colleges and universities. With the increase in costs associated with the library over the years, Morehouse is challenged with keeping up with these costs, while meeting the demands of other administrative and academic support operations. The CCRAA grant will be utilized to assist the college in funding a portion of its share of the costs associated with the library's purchase of books, periodicals, and other educational materials.

Activity 3- Acquisition of Lab Equipment and Instructional Materials

The Department of Music strives to transform traditional academic and conservatory instructions into an environment that combines innovative research and technology with the art of music. The proposed acquisition of digital technology will allow faculty to easily assess, critique and archive each student's progression through the program. The department aspires to provide opportunities for students to gain creative self-expression, scientific knowledge, and technical expertise to be used in future musical endeavors.

The Department of Biology is a leader in preparing African-American men for medical, dental, and graduate school. The department proposes to update its laboratory equipment and to purchase an institutional electronic subscription to some of the most prominent scientific journals in the field of biology.

Activity 4- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Quality Enhancement Plan

Over the course of the next few years, Morehouse College will work to implement the strategies that are a part of its Quality Enhancement Plan submitted to SACS for reaffirmation of its accreditation. The College will organize an approach to comprehensive internationalization around the following goals: 1) to develop broad-based knowledge of global and international issues throughout the curriculum, including general education; 2) to provide experiences that will enhance student understanding of other cultures and nations; and 3) to develop the attitudes and values that will enable Morehouse students to lead in the nation and the world.

The focus for 2008-2009 will be to:

- Develop and assess global learning outcomes;
- Establish a Student International Research Capstone Competition;
- Establish an ethical leadership course, with an emphasis on international issues; and
- Provide staff and operational support for enhancing the study abroad and Crown Forum program.

Activity Description:

The overall (projected) effect of these programs is to strengthen the college's technology delivery system as it relates to student learning and information acquisition. Each component of the application has been carefully considered and chosen as a part of a whole that moves Paine College toward a significantly enhanced ability to communicate with and instruct students. At the center of the system is a core switch that increases the bandwidth several times over the previous model. In other words, far more students can receive information related to essentials (online instruction, e-mail, software processing, emergency communications, PowerPoint presentations, Photoshop and many more graphic and text applications).

The physical sites at which the overall enhancement takes place are the IT Laboratory, the Campus's Learning Resource Center, the residence halls, virtually any campus instructional space, and all on-line interfaces. Again, the composite effect of the items provided via the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant is to significantly improve and enhance the potential for learning by providing information to many more places in a highly effective manner.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Information Literacy

- 1) Provide opportunities for faculty and librarian to receive training, carry out research, and attend workshops and conferences to increase their information literacy pedagogy;
- 2) Develop easily accessible resource materials and strategies to support the integration of information literacy into the curriculum;
- 3) Employ an information literacy library professional to coordinate information literacy activities;
- 4) Acquire equipment and research tools, both electronic and hard copies, to teach information literacy skills; and
- 5) Design a campus-wide assessment tool for information literacy.

Concepts and Methodology

- 1) Provide professional development for librarians. Guided by an information literacy coordinator, librarians will take responsibility for the success of the project. There will be opportunities for training so that the staff is well versed in information literacy and knowledgeable of “best practices” in the field will enable;
- 2) To design instructional materials and train faculty in how best to integrate information literacy into their courses;
- 3) Develop resource materials on information literacy. For this program to be successful and sustainable, materials must be developed that guide and assist faculty in incorporating information literacy into the curriculum;
- 4) Create opportunities to share best practices. Faculty and librarians will conduct best practices programs to share current resources and methods, demonstrate effective approaches to teaching information literacy in the curriculum, and explore areas for further development and collaboration; and
- 5) Generate a project Web site. Information literacy resource materials will be readily available to all Savannah State University faculty members through a Web site that will highlight best practices, disciplinary resources, and sample course assignments.

Activity 2- Improvements to Enhance Academic Facilities and Classrooms

This activity proposes to renovate and upgrade older facilities and classrooms. Most of the work to be completed with the renovation component includes the replacement of roof, floor coverings, and painting in Herty Hall. Additionally, plans are to upgrade building systems by installing a heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system in Herty Hall. Upgrades to classrooms and labs will be made at the following academic facilities: 1) Herty Hall; 2) Whiting Hall; and 3) Howard Jordan. Also, minor renovations to Hodge Hall, the facility that houses the campus radio station, will be completed to accommodate the station’s equipment.

Activity 3- Mass Communications & WHCJ: The Creation of a Learning Laboratory

This proposal will allow us to: 1) enhance the practical experience that we provide by creating a professional newsroom where students and community volunteers will receive hands on training in broadcast news production; 2) enlist a news director to oversee the news facility and train student and community volunteers; 3) provide Internet streaming of WHCJ-produced programming; 4) purchase a generator to protect equipment from power surges caused by electrical power failure; 5) create a production room that will be utilized for student projects, training and program production; and 6) create a low-power radio station to provide a more complete and intensive setting where students would be able to obtain practical training in most aspects of radio broadcasting.

Activity Description:

This proposal seeks funding for Spelman College from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), as authorized by Title IV, Part J of the CCRAA. Each of the activities described in this proposal is consistent with and extends the activities described in Spelman College's Title III Comprehensive Development Plan, as well as Spelman College's Strategic Plan, "Blueprint for the Future." In addition, the implementation of the proposed activities will strengthen Spelman College's capacity to prepare students for careers and graduate training in the physical and natural sciences, mathematics, computer and information sciences, and engineering. Specifically, the proposed activities address the following priority areas:

- 1) Purchase of scientific laboratory equipment for research and instructional purposes for the departments of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Computer and Information Sciences, Mathematics, and the Environmental Sciences and Studies Program;
- 2) Renovation and improvement in classroom and laboratory instructional facilities, through installation of enhanced telecommunications and information technology equipment; and
- 3) Enhancing the undergraduate research experience, which is consistent with the College's Comprehensive Development Plan and will increase the college's capacity to prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. These activities include faculty development activities to enhance student research experiences, implementation of a Data Manager position, and installation of computer facilities throughout the campus that will enhance students' access to research resources via the Web.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky State University- P031B085088-08

Activity Description:

The purpose of this activity is to foster greater efficiency in the management of the university by converting the university's Student Information System, Human Resource Information System, and Financial Resource Information System. These systems, collectively referred to as the university's Enterprise System, form the backbone of the university's administrative network. Completion of this conversion will allow the university to complete the necessary migration to client server operation while simultaneously providing a unified digital campus for Kentucky State University (KSU) faculty, staff, and students. The university will utilize federal funds to begin the initial phase of this migration with the conversion of the Student Information System (SIS). The SIS system will allow the university to meet the challenges and constituent needs of KSU students with regard to student registration, class scheduling, financial aid, and maintenance of academic records.

LOUISIANA

Dillard University- P031B085004-08

Activity Description:

Dillard University, a private, Historically Black College University (HBCU) located in New Orleans, Louisiana, has long been a cornerstone of educational excellence and a critical part of the New Orleans community. Dillard's historical origin dates back to 1869 when the lawyers who defended Africans from the slave ship *Amistad* founded what was to become Dillard University. In 1930, the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church and the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church established schools that were joined to form Dillard. Dillard has always made the commitment to producing African-American men and women dedicated to public service throughout the world.

Dillard's purpose is to develop graduates who are broadly educated, culturally aware, concerned with improving the human condition and able to meet the competitive demands of a global and technologically advanced society. To achieve this purpose, the university strives to create and maintain an academic climate that is conducive to the pursuit of scholarship through programs of excellence anchored in the liberal arts.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) award will support two important activities: 1) strengthen financial management; and 2) enhance information technology and Web design. The first activity, Strengthening Fiscal Management, will enable Dillard to hire additional personnel—three employees—in the Business and Finance Division, acquire the latest equipment and technology for fiscal compliancy, and provide essential training and professional development to enhance employees' performance. Through this activity, Dillard will strengthen its existing infrastructure and facilitate university efforts to ensure that fiscal and programmatic priorities are stabilized and sustained throughout the institution for years to come. The second activity, Enhancing Information Technology and Web Design, will allow Dillard to rebuild its Information Technology (IT) infrastructure that was shattered as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Although the university receives Title III support for an IT initiative, additional support is needed to meet the demands of a global and technological society for an institution still recovering from the nation's worst natural disaster. In order to compete for students and advance the university, Dillard must hire essential personnel to enhance and rebuild its technology systems for students, faculty and staff.

Activity Description:

Under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), Grambling State University is proposing six activities for the 2008-2009 grant year. Included below is a brief summary of each activity, including how each will address the goals and objectives of the Title III, Part B Program. The six activities include:

Activity 1- Establishing and Developing the Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Film Studies

Grambling State University plans to enhance the infrastructure of academic programs with special emphasis on the development of a new Bachelor of Arts degree program in Film Studies, an emerging field in the state of Louisiana. The film industry has made significant strides in the state, including North Louisiana, following the legislative offer of an attractive tax incentive package that includes a 25 percent tax credit on in-state spending on motion picture production, a 10 percent credit on Louisiana payroll, and a 15 percent credit on infrastructure development within the state. The state now ranks third, behind California and New York, among the top locations in the nation to produce films. The film industry has become an important component of the cultural economy of the state. The proposed degree program in film studies will be a technology-intensive and innovative academic program that will meet the professional manpower needs of this emerging industry in the state.

Activity 2- Enhancing Instruction for Academically Talented Students Through Technology, Research, and Leadership Activities in the Honors College

Grambling State University is raising its admissions standards and as a result is attracting a more diverse and academically talented group of students. With the increase in international students and better-prepared traditional and non-traditional students, the university must take the necessary measures to raise the standards of instruction in order to meet the needs of these growing populations. As such, we will incorporate the most recent technology, encourage research activities and utilize new innovative teaching tools to strengthen delivery of information. Many of the students, new and returning, are accustomed to using “state-of-the-art” technology to complete projects and assignments. The Honors College must meet the challenge of delivering instruction in the manner in which these gifted students are accustomed to receiving information, while maintaining a traditional approach to facilitating knowledge. By bridging the two approaches, traditional and contemporary, students will receive a well-rounded education in an environment that facilitates thought and provokes ideas.

Activity 3- To Strengthen Classroom Instruction, Improve Student Productivity and Efficacy, and Strengthen Faculty Ability to Provide Cultural Opportunities through the Visual Arts

The Art Department recognizes the role of adequate facilities, up-to-date equipment, faculty and student research opportunities, instructional aids, and student access to studio and lab space as essentials to increasing enrollment and retaining students. To align with the goals and objectives for increasing enrollment and retention in the university's strategic plan, and to help prepare for initial accreditation, the Art Department will address improvements in overall academic quality with special emphasis on strengthening technology. The Art Department recognizes that peer interaction and camaraderie are vital to expanding creative ideas, and because a facility that

allows for private studio spaces is not currently available, students must have access to departmental studios and labs to complete assignments and work on art projects.

Activity 4- Strengthening the Technology Infrastructure of Grambling State University through Distance Learning

The use of technology to enhance teaching and learning is a standard established by accrediting agencies. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has mandated for all educational programs that “The institution’s use of technology enhance student learning, is appropriate for meeting objectives of its programs, and ensures that students have access to and training in the use of technology (SACS 2002).”

Activity 5- Strengthening the Mass Communication Department to Meet its Academic Professional, and Public Service Needs

Grambling State University’s Department of Mass Communication is striving for greater recognition for academic excellence in northern Louisiana, based on its commitment to provide students with a challenging and rigorous academic and experiential curriculum. The department’s undergraduate curriculum will be revised to enable students to develop skills across multiple media platforms, as new communication technologies bring about a convergence of print, radio, and television. The revised curriculum will emphasize writing and expertise in graphics and animation that have become a workplace standard. As a result, the department will develop a Convergence Laboratory where students can hone relevant cross-media experience and training.

Activity 6- Strengthening Teacher Preparation Programs

National Education Association 1997 data indicate that seven percent of all teachers are Black, one percent is Native American, four percent are Hispanic, and one percent is Asian/Pacific Islanders. The other eighty-seven percent are White. *National Population Projections* (2003) by the U.S. Census Bureau predict the racial composition of schools will be fifty- nine percent by 2010. Efforts to educate minority teachers must be strengthened to meet the uncontested need that exists. This activity is designed to address teacher preparation challenges that impact successful completion of teacher preparation programs at Grambling State University (GSU). Another focus of the activity is enhancing skills of teacher candidates in the use and integration of technology in the teaching learning process. The primary users of the “smart classroom” will be students enrolled in methods of teaching classes. Focus in these areas will increase the number and quality of minority teachers in public schools.

The above activities are necessary for strengthening the academic program, attracting and retaining talented students and will contribute to the university's goals of increased enrollment and retention.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhancing Campus Life Strategic Initiative

The Enhancing Campus Life Strategic Initiative is a series of projects designed to enhance facility aesthetics (classrooms, library and other student buildings), create environments that cultivate student learning and development, purchase library educational resources and provide first responders with technology needed to improve campus security.

1) Strengthening the Physical Environment and Academic Technology: By the end of the program cycle, at least five of the ten academic and student buildings (including the University Library and Business Incubation Center) will be upgraded with new furnishings, seating, technology, and signage. The establishment of a Mac Lab within the multimedia technology center will be developed to introduce Mac technology, podcasting and video streaming into instructional delivery. Additional funds will be set aside to replace/upgrade computers in student service areas to maintain efficiency (faculty, staff) and encourage independent study (library). Campus security is vital to the university's efforts to provide a safe learning environment for faculty, staff and students. The university will make use of funding to support technology upgrades inclusive of a surveillance camera system, and communication equipment upgrades. The need for increased security is a direct result of added structures including student housing.

2) Strengthening University Library Resources: The university library seeks to support student independent study and research skills of Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana (SUSLA) students through the acquisition of books, periodicals, research databases and other educational materials. The library will increase its holdings for twenty-five academic departments in addition to increasing reference resources, black literature and books on Louisiana.

3) Living and Learning Communities: The Residential Living Themed Housing Program provides a direct link between residential, academic, and extra-curricular life for students at SUSLA. This program will provide students who have common educational endeavors or common extra-curricular interests with the opportunity to live together in a campus housing setting. Special programmatic attention will address the following themes: 1) academic enhancement; 2) fitness and wellness; 3) cultural awareness; and 4) personal enhancement. To address academic enhancement, selected faculty will facilitate workshops related to their disciplines and serve as mentors for residents. Resident and community assistants will serve as tutors. A component of this activity will also give attention to health issues and promote healthier lifestyles. This activity also seeks funding to provide cultural activities that promote diversity and prepare students for the global society. Finally, this activity will also provide topical workshops that address the personal development of students to include such areas as fiscal responsibility, conflict resolution, effective communications, personal etiquette, professional dress, and grooming. These programs will provide for a successful transition to the higher education environment and promote successful persistence to graduation.

Activity 2- Information Technology Initiative

In order for students to participate in classroom experiences that prepare them for life after college, it is imperative that they have access to viable technology and services. The university activity referred herein as Information Technology (IT) provides support services through a centralized operation, focusing on activities related to technology implementation, applications computing, network-telecommunications, and in-service support to facilitate incorporation and use of technology. The Information Technology Center (ITC) is directly responsible for technology implementations and computer-related services to support academic, administrative, managerial, and operational functions of the university. The unit develops strategic initiatives and systemic approaches to integration and use of technology, and measures and leverages the university's investment in technology. The overall functions of the IT unit are essential to the university's fulfillment of its mission to prepare students for a good education, and a competitive edge in today's economy that is increasingly driven by technology.

An evaluation of current technology infrastructures at Southern University at Shreveport reveals the need to continually implement viable technology to support instruction and other functions within the university. Specifically, the university needs to upgrade the Student Technology Laboratory with new computers and multimedia equipment, as well as upgrade aging network-telecommunications infrastructures required to maintain the flow of information. Besides support for teaching and learning on campus, there are increasing needs to provide remote access to administrative resources so that faculty and staff can work securely from home and be productive while away from the campus. The successful implementation of the activities described will require additional personnel. The position most needed and recommended for funding to support the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) activity is the "Manager of Network Services." The addition of this position will help relieve increasing workload, incorporate multiple tasks, facilitate separation of duties, and improve deliverable services to end-users.

Activity 3- Enhancing Institutional Development Initiative

Southern University at Shreveport's strategic plan addresses a crucial need for additional revenue. The strategic plan emphasizes the importance of strengthening the financial base while minimizing the additional financial burden required of students. The strategic directions outlined in SUSLA's plan will require an improved and enlarged fundraising program, as well as the completion of a successful capital campaign. The work of the Development Enhancement Center is crucial to the university meeting these goals.

The Enhancing Institutional Development Initiative is responsible for furthering the mission of the university and its contribution to the community through philanthropic activity and alumni relations. Through this initiative, SUSLA will engage the services of an expert in donor relations to assist in the development of a tactical approach to substantially increasing levels of financial support and endowment, generating assets for critically needed scholarships, facilities and program enhancements. Such an effort is essential at a time when state capital expenditures will be limited. Additionally, this activity will create broader public awareness and greater

appreciation for SUSLA through brand management. The institution will use the results of a student satisfaction survey and career cluster videos to demonstrate the economic impact of the institution within its service region as well as connect to outreach activities.

Activity 4- Administration and Implementation

Title III Administration and Implementation supports the University objective to “maintain a comprehensive financial plan consistent with the strategic directions of the university system”. All objectives and implementation strategies for Administration and Implementation are a function of this major university goal. This activity serves as the management arm of the university’s Title III Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Grant Program. As such, the Title III Director reports directly to the Chancellor and has active participation in university strategic planning. A Program Manager will be added to the administrative team to coordinate oversight of implementation of activities.

Activity Description:

This Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU/CCRAA) proposal is driven by the goals written as outcome statements for academic quality (Goals 1, 2, & 3) and institutional management (Goal 4):

- 1) The CCRAA project will establish environments that encourage student engagement in the learning process by creating smart classrooms, high-tech learning laboratories, and a lecture series for the University, as well as the construction of a new facility with classrooms, library, and other resources.
- 2) The CCRAA project will enhance student learning through the use of technology, increase access to, and utilization of, computer technology, and provide opportunities for students to participate in best practices in their respective disciplines by creating smart classrooms and high-tech learning laboratories.
- 3) The CCRAA project will facilitate the analysis of retention data, monitoring and tracking of students, and establish an ongoing culture of assessment and evidence collection which will improve institutional effectiveness, establish an effective faculty development program, and directly assist in the preparation of the university for reaffirmation of accreditation by implementing a strategic assessment system.
- 4) The CCRAA project will enhance access to, and utilization of, technology and online services, seek collaborative agreements with other state agencies, and build an infrastructure that will increase faculty and student creative pursuits by constructing a new facility with classrooms, library, and other resources.

University Weaknesses Addressed by CCRAA Activities

The University weaknesses will be targeted by six CCRAA activities designed with goals and objectives that are consistent with the overall goals, the Title III, Part B academic quality and institutional management goals, as well as with CCRAA allowable activities. Activities one through five address academic quality. Activity six addresses institutional management. (An additional activity, Activity seven is for Program Administration.) The following activities address retention and graduation rates: internet connectivity in classrooms, utilization of technology to improve and expand the teaching and learning process, utilization of technology to enhance research, public service, and collaborative partnerships, and/or the provision of experiential learning as a basic component of the curriculum: 1) Department of Chemistry Smart Classroom; 2) Department of Computer Sciences Smart Classroom; 3) Upgrading and Enriching the Honors College; 4) The Chancellor's Lecture Series; 5) Institutionalizing and Sustaining Strategic Assessment Management; and 6) Facilities Planning Enhancement.

The following activities address mechanisms for review and assessment of the outcome of the core curriculum to establish curriculum effectiveness and relevance to the university's statement

of purpose, effective faculty development program which contributes to continuous professional growth and enhances teaching effectiveness and scholarly productivity, and/or ability to attract and retain quality faculty and staff: 4) The Chancellor's Lecture Series; 5) Institutionalizing and Sustaining Strategic Assessment Management; and 6) Facilities Planning Enhancement.

Activity Description:

Since 1981, the School of Social Work has had a major impact on the caliber and quality of social work-related services provided in New Orleans and surrounding parishes. The School of Social Work faculty and students continue to make major contributions, in spite of the space constraints, to social service delivery throughout the area. Currently, the school's endeavors include the Basic Elderly Crisis Counseling Intervention (BECCI) Program which has been in existence for over 25 years and the Domestic Violence Prevention Services Program, each of which provide undergraduate stipends. Other School of Social Work instructional plans include enhanced bachelor's level mental health courses and field placements in nontraditional mental health settings including the various court systems, half-way houses and correctional facilities. It is projected that during the academic year 2008-2009 over 350 students from 25 parishes in Louisiana will enroll in the School of Social Work. The 25 parishes in Louisiana represent over one-third of all of the state's parishes.

The purpose of this project is to begin putting in place all of the necessary infrastructure strategies to construct the long overdue School of Social Work Building. The building will bear the name of its founding dean, Millie M. Charles. The School of Social Work, one of the largest colleges at the university, is nationally accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and offers both the BS and MSW degrees. The construction of this building by the end of 2009 will eliminate the perennial space problem of the School of Social Work that existed prior to Hurricane Katrina and has been greatly exacerbated post-Katrina. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, several faculty members were using temporarily constructed offices while three other faculty members were sharing one large office and a computer. Space for student advisement, classrooms, common areas, activities and community-based interactions was also limited. These situations and similar ones greatly compromised faculty and students' interactions for privacy, confidentiality and the like. While the two-story, state of the art building is estimated to cost anywhere between five and six million dollars to construct over a two-year period, we intend to use monies from this grant to begin the process. We will also be seeking monies from any and all possible sources during the next year to complete this project.

The construction of the School of Social Work building will not only meet current and future needs of our student, faculty and community stakeholders, it will provide an educational environment that is conducive to teaching and learning for both students and faculty and will provide an infrastructure that is consistent with current technology. It will also promote professional interactions among students, faculty and community stakeholders.

Xavier University (LA)- P031B085103-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Summer Science Academy

This activity will support a summer science academy for high school students and undergraduate pre-medical offerings. Targeting academically promising high school students and graduates who will enroll at Xavier University in the fall, Xavier will enhance prospective students' and current students' involvement in academic pursuits through summer programs designed to increase their knowledge base and proficiency in mathematics and science.

Activity 2- Pre-medical Program

This activity will support a summer bridge program for incoming freshmen and academic year activities designed to increase their success and retention in pre-medical studies. African-American students will receive tutorial assistance, individual counseling, academic enrichment in General Chemistry, and exposure to health professions through pre-professional workshops

Activity 3- Center for Undergraduate Research

This activity will support student exposure to academic research. Through mentoring relationships with Xavier faculty, students will collaborate on research projects, participate in a Festival of Scholars, and publish research results through an online student journal.

Activity 4- Super Scholar/EXCEL Summer Academy

This activity will support student success in non-science areas. Xavier will provide high school graduates with academic, cultural, and community service activities designed to enhance their academic skills in the liberal arts and humanities.

Activity 5- Facility Planning

This activity will support projects that will create an environment conducive to implementation of teaching and academic enrichment activities. It will support the construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement of Xavier classrooms and instructional facilities.

MARYLAND

Bowie State University- P031B085102-08

Activity Description:

Bowie State University is a Master's I regional comprehensive institution that strongly promotes excellence in the classroom. Currently, the university offers bachelor's and master's degree programs and two doctoral degrees. Included in the inventory of degree programs is the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, Master of Science, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, and Doctor of Applied Science in Computer Science.

The funds from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) award will give Bowie the opportunity to enhance the learning experiences of students across all disciplines. College Cost Reduction and Access Act funds will establish "smart" laboratories for mathematics, English, history, and communications. All students are required to take courses in these disciplines. Additionally, CCRAA funds will enhance laboratories that support education, social work, sociology, and nursing. The Thurgood Marshall Library's holdings will increase substantially because of CCRAA funding and the School of Business will receive funds to support its accreditation requirements. Bowie State University will benefit significantly from its CCRAA award. All students will be better prepared to enter the workforce and/or attend graduate or professional schools.

Activity Description:

Consistent with our previous Title III programs, our College Cost Reduction Access Act (CCRAA) activities for the 2008 fiscal year will continue to support, strengthen and work toward the achievement of the Coppin State University mission. The following five priorities are consistent with the university's mission statement and the expenditure priorities included in the university's Comprehensive Development Plan.

- To strengthen and enhance the Nursing and Sciences programs;
- To strengthen graduation and retention rates of African-American males;
- To undertake student outcomes assessment activities;
- To improve the Information Technology Emergency Preparedness & Cyber Security Infrastructure; and
- To invest in new academic programs in which minority students are unrepresentative in the global job market, such as the field of Geography.

The Activities included in the College Cost Reduction Access Act are as follows:

Activity 1 – Virtual Hospital for Clinical Simulation in Nursing

Equipment will be used to provide hands on experience of actual patients' medical scenarios for nursing students to practice and hone their skills. They will have access to monitors and wireless human simulators that talk, breathe, and have audible heart and lung sounds, a simulated pulse and cardiac rhythms. These simulators can be injected and incubated, simulating a real-work environment.

Activity 2 – Campus Wide Assessment Student Learning Outcomes

Coppin State University wishes to build a university-wide assessment process to measure student learning outcomes; a key area is general education. The university plans to adopt one or more national assessments to accomplish this task.

Activity 3 – Strengthening Coppin Cyber Security Infrastructure

This project involves using Network Access Control (NAC) as an approach to computer network security that attempts to unify endpoint security technology such as antivirus, host intrusion prevention, and vulnerability assessment, user or system authentication and network security enforcement. NAC might integrate the automatic remediation process fixing non-compliant nodes before allowing access into the network systems, allowing the network infrastructure such as routers, switches and firewalls to work together with back office servers and end user computing equipment to ensure the information system is operating securely before interoperability is allowed.

Activity 4 – Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Recovery Hot Site

This project involves deploying electronic data storage, servers, and data communication equipment at Salisbury University. Those systems will host a replica of Coppin's mission-critical applications such as EagleLinks, Web site and e-mail system as well as live data that is updated on a nightly basis. In case of a disaster, those systems will be accessed remotely to continue Coppin's day-to-day faculty, staff, general administration and student business.

Activity 5 – Equipment for the Enhancement of the Science Program

This activity involves acquisition of major pieces of equipment to be used to enhance both the instructional and research activities that will lead to more graduates in the fields of chemistry, biology and physics. Also the equipment would make the chemistry program eligible for consideration for accreditation and certification by the American Chemical Society. It is believed that since Coppin State University is located in the Biotechnology corridor, that forming partnerships with sister institutions will give more African-American students opportunities in this career field.

Activity 6 – Geospatial Technologies

The proposed activity would re-energize the Department of Geography and Geospatial Technologies. From dashboard Global Positioning System (GPS) units, to Google maps with satellite photographs, to the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) used by city, state and national agencies, geospatial technologies are spreading rapidly. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that career opportunities in geospatial technology industries are growing even faster than those in the rapidly growing field of biotechnology.

Activity 7 – A Collaborative Program Between Library, Natural Sciences & Information Technology

This activity will support the efforts to improve academic achievement in the natural sciences. The library will develop a new computer lab that will include technological modes of information for students enrolled in natural sciences courses. The specialized software and online teaching systems which include automated tutorial assignments will enable students to study at their own pace.

Activity 8 – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Virtual Lab

This project will allow Coppin State University to provide a virtual information technology lab environment to strengthen the STEM curriculum. This is a very innovative, cost-effective way to deploy a virtual information technology lab environment to any platform in any location through the network or Internet, while still having full control over those virtual environments. Such an environment will enable our students to have access to expensive software, without having to buy it, over the Internet from their personal computer's or laptops. This will also open the horizon for developing online courses for several computer sciences, information systems, management science and natural sciences that are not currently possible.

Activity 9 – Improving Educational Outcomes for African-American Males

This activity will attract African-American males into an incentive based program designed to promote their accelerated persistence to graduation. Over the next two years, 225 students will be invited to participate in winter semester and summer course offerings. We will encourage students to complete their undergraduate degrees in five years or less by granting a tuition incentive scaled to continuous enrollment and earned grade point average.

Activity Description:

This application is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for funding under the Historically Black Colleges and Universities/ College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU/CCRAA) program. Morgan State University, a four-year comprehensive public institution is currently receiving funds through the Title III program. The institution is located in Baltimore, Maryland and has provided higher education experiences to students over the past 140 years. The institution provides an array of program offerings at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels. Currently, there are more than 6,500 students enrolled at the institution in the various programs. This request includes four major areas which are determined to be areas needing strengthening at the institution. Fortifying these programs will assist the institution in fulfilling the CCRAA goal of providing educational experiences to minority students in areas where they are currently underrepresented. The areas for which funding is requested are: 1) Strengthening the Academic Programs in Architecture and Planning; 2) Development of the Academic Programs in Nursing; 3) Enhancing the Nutrition Science Program; and 4) Enhancement of the Computer Lab to Support Academic Programs.

1) The “Strengthening the Academic Programs in Architecture and Planning” has developed considerably and is now a full blown School of Architecture and Planning. Since the inception of the undergraduate program about four years ago, substantial increases in the undergraduate enrollment have occurred. With its new status as a School of Architecture, it is justified that federal funding is requested to strengthen the needs that result from being a School as opposed to an Institute.

2) The “Development of the Academic Programs in Nursing” is a new program. Fall 2008 is the initial year for the implementation of this new program. The program is housed under the School of Community Health and Policy. Because of the severe shortage of nurses in the state of Maryland and the nation, it is an ideal fit to include this program in the CCRAA program plan for the next two years. The major objective, consistent with the U.S. Department’s goal, is to increase the number of minorities holding degrees in Nursing, a field where minority representation is currently lagging.

3) The “Enhancing of the Nutrition Science Programs” is another request for this grant. This program has been in existence at Morgan State University for several years. Unfortunately, the institution has not been able to support the program at a level that addresses all program experiences. To this end, funding is requested for various upgrades, and for the purchase of instrumentation necessary to ensure that students receive a quality experience during their tenure at Morgan State University.

4) The “Enhancement of the Computer Labs to Support Academic Programs” is a comprehensive approach to upgrading and instituting the technology needed on campus to ensure that students receive a quality supplemental approach to their educational experience. Most of the current labs are outdated and inadequate for the kind of software currently used in select educational programs. Thus, upgrades and equipment purchase are necessary to support the operation of

these new software programs. This problem exists across the academic board and influences the experiences of most of the students enrolled at the institution.

The above programs represent the request over the next two years under the HBCU/CCRAA Program. This funding will definitely facilitate Morgan State University's goal of increasing the number of minorities who succeed in getting degrees in areas where they are currently underrepresented.

Activity Description:

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore's (UMES) Project Plan for the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) is designed to assist the institution in achieving its goals and objectives by enhancing academic programs and library resources that are priorities to the institution. The proposed activities that address these priorities are entitled: 1) Developing a Four-Year Engineering Program; 2) Enhancing the Graphic Arts Computer Laboratory; 3) Introduction of Guided-Inquiry Learning into the Exercise Science Program through the Development of an Applied Physiology Laboratory; 4) Enhancing Library Resources; and 5) UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC).

1) The Four-Year Engineering Program is designed to establish an independent Undergraduate program in Engineering at UMES.

2) The Graphic Arts Computer Laboratory is designed to provide students with hardware and software, which are standard and state-of-art in the computer graphics industry. This enhancement will make the UMES programs competitive with the quality graphic illustration programs in the state.

3) The Applied Physiology Laboratory will provide relevant laboratory experiences for students enrolled in the Exercise Science Program.

4) The Library Resources will be enhanced in the areas of pharmacy, professional golf, social work, history, engineering, media resources and audiovisual equipment.

5) The Foreign Language Instructional Center will be designed to train government, industry and university personnel (faculty, staff and students) who desire to study, teach or work in countries where the languages spoken are listed by the U.S. State Department, as critical to U.S. national security. The proposed center will provide instruction with focus on conversational proficiency in the less-commonly taught languages identified by the National Security Council as critical. The allowable activities that the proposed activities relate to are specified in the project plan and listed below:

- Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented;
- Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program materials; and
- Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes

MISSOURI

Harris Stowe State University- P031B085005-08

Activity Description:

In an effort to strengthen the university's academic resources and facilities the university is requesting approval to use College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds to upgrade faculty and staff computers, upgrade current equipment available in teaching laboratories, establish study areas in the main classroom building, upgrade all university classrooms and laboratory spaces, upgrade the resource scheduling software currently in use and upgrade the lock system in use in the main classroom and administration building.

Activity Description:

Lincoln University (LU) is an education enterprise committed to serving the educational needs of a diverse student population. To that end the university has proposed to use the funds obtained under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 for the following activities:

1) Engaging Science Students in Technology Assisted Learning

This activity is to enhance student success across the science programs at LU by equipping existing facilities, improving curricula and developing new laboratories.

2) Strengthening Programs in Computer Science, Technology and Mathematics (CSTM)

This activity is designed to improve classroom and laboratory space and purchase equipment to improve instruction for all students who take classes in the CSTM department and to create new programs to recruit and retain majors in the CSTM areas.

3) Engaging Nursing Students in Simulation-Based Education

This activity is to enhance student success across the nursing science programs at Lincoln University by providing simulation-based educational experiences. These activities encompass the following goals and objectives of Lincoln University's 2008-2012 Strategic Plan.

Goal Two – Academic Quality Improvement: Lincoln University will prepare students for careers and lifelong learning by enhancing the value and quality of the academic programs.

Objective 2.2 – Lincoln University will improve access to educational offerings and programs through enhanced delivery methods and innovative scheduling.

Objective 2.4 – Lincoln University will enhance the value and quality of academic programs through assessment, innovation, and collaboration.

Goal Four – Enrollment and Matriculation: Lincoln University will implement recruitment strategies and enhance programs and services to ensure student academic success and social development.

Objective 4.2 – Lincoln University will implement recruitment strategies to achieve desired enrollment targets.

Objective 4.3 – Lincoln University will implement strategies to ensure student progress and success.

The three proposed activities fall under the following CCRAA allowable activities:

- Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research progress;
- Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment services;
- Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented; and

- Other activities, consistent with the institution's comprehensive plan and designed to increase the institutions capacity to prepare students for careers in the physical and/or natural sciences, mathematics, computer science and/or information technology, engineering, and language instruction in the less-commonly taught languages.

MISSISSIPPI

Alcorn State University- P031B085042-08

Activity Description:

Alcorn State University will continue to strengthen its capacity to educate and graduate students with the highest level of academic training and readiness for graduate and professional school as well as the workforce. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funding will enhance the university's ability to achieve the following institutional objectives:

- 1) Expand the technology infrastructure by purchasing latest generation hardware and software for use in the areas of teaching, learning, and budgeting;
- 2) Enhance library resources to support the instructional and research requirements of students, faculty, and scientists;
- 3) Develop a comprehensive strategic plan and facilities master plan to be used to inform decision makers on future growth and development patterns; and
- 4) Strengthen the teacher education program to prepare and produce the highest quality of certified teachers for employment in the elementary and secondary schools in the surrounding states.

The activities proposed in this abstract are designed to achieve these objectives that are consistent with the university's comprehensive plan and commitment to preparing students for careers in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented.

Activity Description:

1) Enhancing the Polysomnography Program

The purpose of this activity will be to provide resources to demonstrate its ability to meet expressed program outcomes such as: 1) ensuring that the majority of students admitted to the polysomnography program will complete the program of study and graduate; 2) ensuring that the pass rates on the Comprehensive Registry Examination (CRE) for polysomnography graduates will meet or exceed the state or national rate; and 3) ensuring that employment rates for new polysomnography graduates will meet or exceed the state or national rate.

2) Strengthening Academic Instruction and Faculty and Staff Development

The purpose of this activity will be to expand academic quality at Coahoma Community College through academic development, student learning outcomes assessment, and faculty development. This activity will also promote infusion of technology in the classroom, assessment initiatives to track and measure student professionalism among staff and opportunities for faculty and staff development.

3) Strengthening Financial and Academic Management

The purpose of this activity will be to expand the college's information services, as well as its funds management. Activity tasks will focus on institutional management as well as system security. The focus of reliable access will be on the infrastructure enhancements and information technology special projects.

4) Strengthening the Learning Resources Center

The purpose of this activity will be to expand the college's entire academic spectrum as it brings about increases in the resources of the Dickerson-Johnson Library. Media, print, electronic, and audio-visual formats will be added to specific disciplines such as the allied health majors on a predetermined schedule. While most subject areas will be impacted due to constantly increasing enrollment, special attention will be directed toward areas of new degrees or programs offering and those seeking to achieve specialized accreditation.

5) Enhancing the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program

The purpose of this activity will be to provide resources to demonstrate its ability to meet expressed program outcomes such as 1) ensuring that the majority of students admitted to the nursing program will complete the program of study and graduate; 2) ensuring that the pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) for nursing graduates will meet or exceed the state or national rate; and 3) ensuring that employment rates for new Associates Degree Nursing (AND) graduates will meet or exceed the state or national rate.

6) Project Administration and Evaluation

The purpose of this activity will be Project Administration and Evaluation in order to: 1) design each activity so that it will address one or more goals or objectives in the college's Long Range Strategic Plan; 2) process project expenditure requests in such a way that each satisfies institutional, state, and federal regulations and requirements; 3) monitor and evaluate progress, including seeing that needed adjustments are made; 4) serve as the college's official Title III project representative by attending pertinent local, state, regional, and national meetings; and 5) submit the required and requested reports related to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) project to both internal and external individuals and agencies.

Activity Description:

Health-Related Skills Enhancement Program

The Health-related Skills Enhancement Program is proposed to provide students electing to enter health-related professions with the academic and technical skills needed to meet the entry requirements and persist through program completion. The overarching goal of the program is to increase the institution's capacity to prepare students for careers in the allied health professions.

Technical programs in the health-related professions require American College Testing (ACT) scores of 17, 18, and 19, depending upon the health program selected for entry. For example, the Associates Degree Nursing (ADN) program requires sub-scores of 18 in reading and math. Both the ACT and the Nurse Entrance Test (NET) prove to be barriers to students' entry into the health-related professions. According to estimates provided by Hinds Nursing Allied Health Program, 40 to 50 percent of Hinds students are unsuccessful on the first attempt at the NET. When students do not pass, they are encouraged to get remediation through online services or enrollment in skill classes. More often than not, students require at least one semester to matriculate through remediation courses and exit with a degree of confidence for taking the entrance tests for the health professions.

The Health-related Skills Enhancement Program is proposed to supplement students' general academic/technical course enrollments with remediation and practical application of skills in a comprehensive, computerized/simulated health lab setting. Through use of a director/project navigator and an administrative/resource assistant, a cohort of 40 students will be selected to engage in program activities to enhance their skill sets in math, natural science, reading, vocabulary and verbal reasoning. Activities will include assessment of students' course specific strengths/weaknesses, learning styles, coping skills, and study skills. Additionally, students will be exposed to medical agency environments, associated attitudes/duties/responsibilities, and interact with health professionals. With quality leadership and navigation of the program, the end result should be that over 60 percent of students participating in the Health-related Skills Enhancement Program enter and complete the health-related curriculum of their choice.

Activity Description:

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities' (HBCU) College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) Grant (HBCU-CCRAA Program) application was developed to address some of the major needs that exist at Jackson State University. It offers activities specifically designed to meet challenges identified in its Strategic Plan. Proposed activities do not directly respond to each strategic category. However, the initiatives will indirectly impact most of the Strategic Plan categories by strengthening Jackson State University's ability to provide quality academic instruction and academic support services in its School of Engineering—an academic discipline in which African-Americans are underrepresented.

Two activities are proposed to strengthen the School of Engineering. The first activity is *Strengthening the Infrastructure of the School of Engineering*. This is a dual-phase project in which equipment will be purchased for classroom instruction, laboratory experiments, office operations, and workroom preparations during the first year of the grant. The second year includes support for construction—the addition of a wing to the School of Engineering Building. This phase will be contingent upon Jackson State University's ability to acquire funding for the project. In the event that funding is not secured, a modified activity request will be submitted.

The second activity is *Strengthening the School of Engineering through Student Retention*, which will fulfill two goals. First, it will orient and acclimate pre-engineering students to studies in engineering and increase their academic preparation. Additionally, it will provide academic support and development to first-year engineering students. Thus, this activity is designed to strengthen the academic readiness of students by promoting their academic success, and thus, increasing their retention. Orientation and acclamation services will be provided through a pre-college program during the next two summers prior to freshman enrollment.

The *Grant Administration and Evaluation* activity will provide administrative oversight for the HBCU-CCRAA Program by insuring that grant goals and objectives are implemented, funds are expended in accordance with all applicable regulations, and that summative evaluations are coordinated and formally conducted.

Thus, this grant requests funds to support three activities. They are: 1) Strengthening the Infrastructure of the School of Engineering; 2) Strengthening the School of Engineering through Student Retention; and 3) Grant Administration and Evaluation.

Activity Description:

Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) is one of eight public, state-assisted universities in Mississippi, and one of three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the state. The campus is located in Itta Bena, Mississippi, in the heart of the Delta area in Leflore County. It is situated between Greenwood to the east at five miles away, and Greenville to the west at 50 miles away. Its current enrollment is 2,911 (Office of Institutional Research). MVSU with utilization of funds received under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 seeks to address significant areas of weakness in various departments as they approach accreditation.

These additional funds are necessary to prepare for institution-wide accreditation in 2012. This funding will address eight activities and provide funds for program coordination. The Title III Office utilized a competitive approach to identify the areas in need of funding and met with the university president, provost, and the vice president of academic affairs. With the university's Five-Year Strategic Plan in mind, meetings resulted in eight activities that comprise this application. The activities are as follows:

- 1) Foreign Languages and Culture Institute;
- 2) Strengthening the Fine Arts Program;
- 3) Strengthening the Recording Industry Program;
- 4) Enhancing Computer Science and Mathematics Curricula;
- 5) Strengthening Chemistry and Environmental Health Programs;
- 6) Enhancing the Social Work Program;
- 7) Enhancing and Advancing Instructional Technology; and
- 8) Accreditation

Activity Description:

Funds provided by College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) will provide Rust College with the resources necessary for construction, maintenance, and renovation, and provide for the improvement of classrooms, the library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities. Funds will also be used to purchase or rent telecommunications technology equipment or services as provided for under number two of the Legislative Allowable Activities (LAA). These funds, as with Title III funds, will help fulfill our purpose as a liberal arts Historically Black Institution by continuing to provide an opportunity for equality in the postsecondary educational environment.

Specifically, these funds will provide for the enhancement of our heating/cooling systems to allow controlled temperature settings for the comfort of student, faculty, staff and others using Rust College facilities. The controlled temperature will maintain appropriate temperatures for protecting areas housing supplies and equipment purchased with Title III funds. Also, the college has a responsibility to enhance the accessibility to buildings on campus to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Funds will be used to purchase and install visual/sound devices for handicap accessibility to academic and administrative buildings. These enhancements are nonstructural and considered minor renovation improvements.

This allowable activity also provides for the improvement of the library and other instructional facilities including the purchase of technology equipment. Rust College reaffirmed accreditation status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December 2004 for a ten-year period. However, as a part of the accreditation process, the college identified student retention as a focus for our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The CCRAA funds are crucial in helping with the technology aspects of our campus. Specifically, the funds will help establish a wireless campus that will offer greater flexibility to our students, faculty and staff via unlimited access to the Internet, e-mail and other lines of communication. Our Library, which is currently wireless, continues to be the center of academic success for the campus. However, services are hampered due to the lack of available computers to assist the users. The CCRAA funds will provide for the purchase of 50 laptop computers to be housed in the Library and made available to Library patrons as well as the campus body on an as needed basis.

To further improve our standing with student retention, the campus is implementing an online administrative/academic computing system that will provide the students with the opportunity to register online as well as pay bills, check grades, and assist faculty with real time advising information necessary to guide students toward a successful graduation. Funds will be used to enhance this area with the purchase of supporting software. The mission of this institution is to serve students with a variety of academic preparations offering students a well-rounded program designed that acquaints them with the values required to become productive citizens.

Tougaloo College- P031B085094-08

Activity Description:

Tougaloo College is pleased to receive an award from College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds for Program Year 2008-2009. Several key initiatives have been identified for use of these funds around which four activities have been developed.

Activity 1- Building Faculty Capacity (Faculty Development Center)

This activity addresses the development and implementation of a faculty development center to promote and enhance professional development opportunities for faculty. Four objectives have been developed to support the accomplishment of this activity.

Activity 2- Academic Program Enhancement

This activity has been included to assist the college in obtaining Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation by realigning and strengthening faculty qualifications for two programs: 1) mass communications; and 2) computer science. Three objectives have been developed to support the accomplishment of this activity.

Activity 3- Campus Security

This activity will strengthen the college's infrastructure by providing a uniform campus security system. One comprehensive objective has been developed to support the accomplishment of this activity.

Activity 4- Campus Repairs/Upgrades

This activity supports the upgrade and enhancement of the campus' living/learning environment. One comprehensive objective been developed to support the accomplishment of this activity. The College's administration is committed to utilizing the CCRAA funds to gain optimal benefit for the campus at-large.

The above listed activities and supporting objectives have been identified and selected because they support the enhancement and strengthening of the college's capacity and infrastructure.

NORTH CAROLINA

Bennett College- P031B085047-08

Activity Description:

Increasing the Institution's Capacity to Prepare Students for Careers Through International Education

CCRAA funding will be used to initiate an academic program in entrepreneurship, thus training students in the theory and practice of business development. Currently, African-Americans and Hispanics each represent approximately 13 percent of the total U.S. population, but African-Americans own only four percent of all U.S. businesses. Further, implementation of this activity will increase services to local small businesses, which will act as stimuli and on-site practical experiences for students. Within this context we have established four objectives aimed at meeting this activity goal by September 30, 2010.

These objectives are as follows: 1) develop a comprehensive curriculum to provide instruction in entrepreneurship; 2) implement a carefully designed program that will lead to a Bachelor's degree and certificate in entrepreneurship; 3) increase partnerships with local small businesses to provide a network of support services; and 4) develop a young entrepreneurs summer camp designed to teach students how to establish their own business. We will achieve the activity goal by September 30, 2010.

Activity Description:

“Strengthening Campus Information Technology (IT) Network Infrastructure” is a new two-year activity in the Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) project. ECSU will strategically target these additional funds to improve the overall performance of its computer network, which adheres to the following goal from the current ECSU Strategic Plan:

“The University will enhance administrative efficiency and effectiveness of each organizational unit. As a consequence, through continuous human resource development, expanded automation, improved data processing, and state-of-the-art information systems technology, students, faculty, and staff will acquire and use knowledge in advanced technologies, the teaching/learning process, and achieve organizational efficiency and effectiveness.”

The new activity will seek to improve the computer infrastructure of the Elizabeth City State University campus by strategically applying the CCRAA funds in the following three focus areas:

1) Improving Campus Computer Network Infrastructure

This will provide funding for the necessary equipment to improve the computer network at ECSU, such as new servers, routers, switches, fiber optic cables, and diagnostic tools to assist in troubleshooting network outages. Network performance will be measured through decreased network outages and better-improved filtration of incoming e-mail attacks (SPAM, viruses, etc.)

2) Strengthening Teaching and Learning

This will (a) provide funding for the creation of additional “smart classrooms” in each of the four schools on the campus in order to enhance instructional facilities, and (b) create computer laboratories in designated residence halls, in order to provide easier internet access to students who do not own their own computers. It will also (c) provide laptop computers for lease to economically disadvantaged students who do not own a computer and (d) establish a TeraGrid computing center on campus, to make ECSU the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to establish a grid on this nationwide cyber-infrastructure (CI) network. The Enhancing Disaster Recovery initiative will provide funding to strengthen ECSU’s capacity to maintain or resume operations in response to a serious disruption in campus activity (e.g. a hurricane, flood, or other disaster) by procuring backup computer equipment, establishing a Contingency Operations Room, and securing off-site data hosting of ECSU mission-essential information. The key personnel for this activity is the Activity Director (ECSU Chief Information Officer), who will oversee the departmental managers and technical staff within the ECSU Information Technology Department to ensure the successful completion of all project goals. No permanent positions will be created for this project; instead two computer technicians will be hired for the duration of the two-year project on a contractual basis, in order to ensure completion of the

project. This means that at the end of the two-year CCRAA grant cycle, there are no sustainability concerns for project personnel.

Activity Description:

The purpose of the activity is to develop a Center for Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education and Research (CPSER) that will serve as an umbrella program for integrating all existing educational enrichment programs and research activities. In addition to ensuring collaborations and coherent implementation of externally-funded STEM enrichment programs, the Center will coordinate an outreach summer research camp for rising high school seniors, the Spring Undergraduate Research Exposition, and STEM Faculty Focus Group. The primary goal of this activity is to increase the quality and quantity of students successfully completing baccalaureate degrees, by improving the enrollment, retention, progression and graduation rates of minorities and women in STEM disciplines.

1) Center to Promote Teacher Education Student Success

The purpose of the School of Education Academic Advising Center will be to assist undergraduate students in the development of educational plans, selecting a major and pertinent courses. It will provide information about the university, school, and department requirements, policies, procedures, resources, and programs. In addition, the Center will serve the needs of Fayetteville State University (FSU) undeclared undergraduate students, transfer students who do not have a major and those individuals considering changing their field of study to education. This Center will assist the School of Education in meeting retention and graduation expectations, which will in turn assist the university in meeting its 80-30-50 retention and graduation goal.

2) Enhancing the Success of Nursing Students: Nurses Teaching Others to Understand the Connection of Compassion and Caring in Healthcare (N-TOUCH Program)

This proposed activity is designed to strengthen and enhance the generic nursing program and to improve academic success of generic nursing students by developing the Nurses Teaching Others to Understand the Connection of Compassion and Caring in Healthcare (N-TOUCH Program). Through this program, students will receive academic programs and services that will enhance their critical thinking and psychomotor skills, socialization skills to the profession of nursing, and improve their academic performance in the classroom, ultimately improving performance on the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). The award will assist the generic nursing program to reach the goal of meeting and exceeding 85 percent pass rate annually on the NCLEX-RN.

3) Creating a New Paradigm for Learning: Integration of Second Life and Live Financial Trading in the Business Curriculum

This grant will allow the university to purchase: 1) Second Life, a 3D virtual world created in 2003 by San Francisco-based Linden Labs, to enhance conceptual understanding in STEM and process-oriented courses; and 2) additional equipment for the School of Business' trading room to enhance student understanding of stock market, investment portfolio, and the dynamics of global financial market. This experience will expose business students to the dynamics of global

financial markets and prepare majors in Banking and Finance to pursue successful careers in the financial services industry.

4) Comprehensive Strategic Planning, Activities, and Programming to Address the Deficit in Male Enrollment and to Strengthen Student and Academic Support Programs for Current Male Students at Fayetteville State University

The primary objective is to establish a comprehensive program that addresses enrollment management with a special focus on retention activities to strengthen college success for male students who enroll at Fayetteville State University. Through focused efforts, FSU can strengthen its efforts to attract and retain male students. This can be done through careful planning, focused strategies, data collection and gathering of information with regard to the issues and problems, and the development and implementation of solutions in the form of programs and activities that result in increased year-to-year retention and graduation rates. The grant will enable the establishment of an office dedicated to male student enrollment and retention, and the planning and development of programs designed to achieve that end.

5) Librarian/Faculty Collaboration for Information Literacy

Through a variety of exercises and presentations, librarians will work with faculty to modify an existing syllabus to include information objectives. Librarians and faculty will work together to design active learning assignments, plan instruction and develop assessment strategies. The goals are to promote resource-based learning outside of the classroom, to encourage the use of library resources and to equip students with skills they will need in their matriculation at the university and beyond.

6) Enhancing Undergraduate Students' Research Training through Faculty Mentorship: An Interdisciplinary Behavioral Science Approach

The proposed project seeks to improve the quality of the undergraduate experience in the behavioral sciences at Fayetteville State University through active participation in community-based research. Undergraduate students in the Departments of Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, and Social Work will form interdisciplinary research teams to collaborate on community-based research projects in Cumberland and surrounding counties. Faculty members in the four disciplines will also form mentoring teams to assist the students in undertaking the research projects. The major outcomes of the proposed project include: 1) enabling students to develop advanced skills in applied research; 2) deepening students' appreciation of the importance of teamwork and collaboration in research; and 3) facilitating student-faculty interactions and role modeling through mentorship.

7) Project Administration and Evaluation

The primary responsibility of the office of Title III Coordination at Fayetteville State University is the administration, monitoring and the evaluation of the institution's Title III grants. The office is currently staffed with a Title III director and an administrative officer. Hiring of an office assistant is still planned for grant year 2008-09 and will be funded from the

regular Title III grant. The purpose of project administration is to assist the university with achieving its mission and vision through the development and implementation of the University's strategic priorities and Title III activities. The Title III activities and institutional priorities are aligned with those of the state of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Establishing and Upgrading Multimedia Classrooms and Learning Spaces

The purpose of this activity is to create a central classroom support service to implement and maintain 18 new multimedia classrooms. In collaboration with the Faculty Development Group, and student government committees, the Information Technology Department will leverage its existing support infrastructure to create and maintain smart multimedia classrooms, up-fit residential learning spaces and upgrade two computer science and engineering instrumentation labs.

Activity 2- Achieving Student Academic Excellence by Establishing the Smith Institute for Applied Research

Aimed at enhancing the quality of the educational learning experience for students and strengthening curricula through the encouragement of faculty research, this activity will establish an institutional infrastructure for the Smith Institute for Applied Research. The Smith Institute will build on existing strengths and emerging opportunities to engage students in applied research that responds to the innovation, research and development needs of industry and global partners. Through strategic prioritization, Centers of Excellence in applied research will be implemented in areas such as homeland security and computational technologies, health disparities and health care services, diversity and business workforce development, and global education. Activities of the institute will enable excellent undergraduates to become research students who follow academic careers in the future having the knowledge and skills for continued graduate learning, career success, and responsible citizenry.

Activity 3- Enhancing Institutional Data Management Infrastructure for Decision-making and Planning

The fundamental goal of this project is to improve the Office of Institutional Planning, Assessment, Effectiveness and Research (IPAER) by centralizing institutional information in a data warehouse. The activity will identify data warehouse requirements, facilitate the prioritization of warehouse deliverables, integrate existing data resources, and determine success criteria for the Johnson C. Smith (JCSU) data warehouse project. The activity will also provide JCSU with the decision support software and training to improve institutional capacity in using business intelligence technologies.

Livingstone College- P031B085032-08

Activity Description:

Livingstone College plans to use of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities-College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU-CCRAA) funds to improve and prepare an academic environment that is conducive to learning. As President Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. applies his strategy to “Take Livingstone College to the Next Level” through implementation of The Holistic Learning Center, the college foresees several priorities. These priorities include: 1) improving enrollment and retention; 2) improving the technological infrastructure; 3) renovation and maintenance of instructional facilities; 4) strengthening financial contributions; and 5) obtaining Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) re-accreditation. The project plan proposes four activities to assist the college with obtaining these priorities: 1) Academic Instruction; 2) the Graduate School/Career Planning and Placement Center; 3) Instructional Facilities; and 4) Technology Improvement.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhancement of the Library to Support Teaching and Research

This activity includes purchasing new resources, replacing lost materials and filling gaps in the collection to support research and scholarship. Acquisition of new and replacement equipment will provide faculty and student access to the collection. The installation of automated doors will improve access to the facility for physically challenged patrons. Additionally, this activity will use funds to develop student information kiosks to improve and enhance the delivery of student services. The kiosk centers will enable students to look at their information (records) reducing the congestion in many of the student services office on the campus. These information kiosks will have a secured access path, allowing the students to look up their own information regarding schedules, registration, academic records, financial aid, and billing. The result is shorter and less frequent inquiries to the various student support offices on the campus, thus creating more a satisfied student population.

Activity 2- Technology Enhancements to Support Instructional Delivery and Course Development

The School of Business and Economics plans to use grant funds to equip selected classrooms with a computer faculty workstation that is used extensively in undergraduate teacher education and management information systems (MIS) courses. In each of these areas, technology enhancements, through the acquisition of new computers, will enhance course delivery and improve learning in a manner that directly impacts student retention and graduation rates. Faculty members working in these fields need state-of-the-art resources to enhance curricula and develop specialized modules to enhance student learning and marketability. Additionally grant funds will be used to update a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary financial trading room to engage students in an active financial learning environment that prepares them for careers in fields in which African-Americans and women are traditionally underrepresented.

Activity 3- Enhancement of the Computation Science and Engineering (CSE) Program

Grant funds will be used to improve and expand both the CSE educational and research activities. Computational hardware, associated software and support are essential needs for high quality CSE education and research. Currently the software and hardware environment are insufficient for the expanding student enrollment and research activities, as well as to provide the foundation for the CSE PhD program that has been submitted for establishment to the University of North Carolina General Administration. Annual maintenance is an important component of CSE high performance computing hardware. It is important for the students, starting their research careers, to have the necessary tools that are fully functional and supported which reflect the availability in industrial and government research environments and leading organizations.

Activity 4- Enhancing the Instructional Capabilities of the University Radio Station and Music Program

The College of Arts and Sciences will use grant funds to renovate and enhance the university's radio station and music program that are in dire need of new broadcast equipment and additional musical instruments. Most of the radio station's equipment has been used well beyond its useful life and is obsolete. The faculty has indicated that both modernizing and relocating the radio station will provide a positive element for the 2009 reaccreditation application to the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Similarly, the music program's lack of certain key instruments, such as the requested digital organ, is a serious impediment to the instruction of the music program's students. Presently, piano is the only keyboard instrument available to prospective music performance students. With the addition of a digital organ, the music program would attract new students by offering organ performance courses as well as its current course offerings in piano performance.

Activity 5- School of Technology Special Projects

The School of Technology (SOT) will use grant funds to improve its learning environment. We currently do not have areas dedicated for student learning or open laboratories where students can either practice or do group projects. Because our programs are laboratory-intensive, the lack of an adequate facility has hampered our initiatives on student learning. The comparative analysis of existing SOT facilities will provide us with the information to plan and build a state-of-the-art facility that will incorporate student learning, research, studios and group learning. This project will enhance our retention rate by providing our students with state-of-the-art laboratory and equipment. To do so, we are diligently instituting activities that will require students to work as a group while on campus. Furthermore, we are proposing an aggressive method for tracking our students' references with appropriate interventions.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Campus Safety Project

The North Carolina Central University Police Department seeks to more proactively address the development and implementation of emergency management plans for preventing and responding to campus violence and natural disasters in order to ensure the safety of the entire campus community. In order for the North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Campus Safety Project to address the need for campus security through real-time, widespread communication, it must upgrade its response system. The University Police Department wishes to enhance safety and security initiatives for our students, faculty, and staff in a five-phase format, three of which are being addressed here. These specifically focus on emergency notification, campus security, and upgrades to our campus emergency communication systems. This activity will go a long way to make North Carolina Central University's campus and students safer, and improve our readiness in the event of an emergency.

Activity 2- Enhancement of a Repurposed University College to Ensure Student Success

This proposal is designed to enhance academic services at NCCU in such a way that all new freshmen and transfer students will begin their college career with sound foundations of basic requisite skills needed to be successful in college. This will be accomplished by enhancing the services being offered by the newly formed University College, through which all first time freshmen and transfer students will be admitted. The services offered through the Newly Repurposed University College will include intentional academic advising and counseling, tutorial services and mentoring, continual monitoring and reporting of student performance, and a number of other high quality services, all to be provided appropriately and consistently through the sophomore year. All units with tutors will be organized into one unit for the purpose of making the program more intentional, comprehensive, and effective. Faculty members teaching new first-time freshmen and new transfer students will receive training in special sessions related to pedagogy for teaching first-year students and will also participate in the same topic sessions as academic advisors to understand what students have been trained to do regarding study habits, test taking, conflict resolution, time management, and interpersonal relationship skills. All faculty members teaching new first-time freshmen and new transfer students will be required to submit lists of students who have early warnings and mid-term grades and who miss classes on a weekly basis. Interventions are to put in place as soon as students miss one class. The establishment, development, and enhancement of the University College will allow the University to assess its academic units in a comprehensive manner and focus more attention on the first-time freshmen and new transfer students early on in order to address their needs in the initial periods of their matriculation. Students will receive the assistance they need when they need it.

Activity 3- Enhancing the Intellectual Climate at NCCU

North Carolina Central University seeks to establish an initiative to create a vibrant intellectual community where faculty, staff, administrators, and students commit to a shared intellectual life. How do we seamlessly integrate intellectual exchange into the fabric of everyday life so that it establishes a new culture on our campus? Ideally, intellectual exchanges would take place both in the classroom and outside, among students, between students and faculty, and among faculty, students, and the surrounding community. Certainly this reconsideration of the intellectual climate on our campus must be led by the faculty members, for faculty must insist on students engaging in an intellectual life. Every faculty member should lead this effort, but a culture of intellectual expectations and engagement should permeate the campus in all other functional areas as well. If we are to change and enhance the intellectual climate at NCCU, everyone must assume some responsibility for doing so: the Chancellor, the Provost, Vice Chancellors, Deans, Department Chairs, Program Directors, and other unit heads, individual faculty and the students, and even the University retirees and the immediate surrounding community. Now is an ideal time to explore how the NCCU undergraduate experience might be enhanced for the 21st century. We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the college. We are preparing for our reaffirmation of accreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in spring 2009 and anticipate that our Quality Enhancement Plan, which addresses oral and written communications skills, will move us forward in our efforts to enhance the academic experiences of our students. In the not too distant future, we will also begin a new major fundraising effort. The work of this new activity and the Commission on the Enhancement of the Intellectual Climate on the NCCU Campus will help to shape the priorities for undergraduate education and life in this era of the university. The first year of the grant will be devoted to planning for the program, and the second year will focus on fully implementing the program.

Activity Description:

The institution's proposed College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) project plan provides academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented. The science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), international studies, and computer science disciplines are the targeted areas for this project. The goal is to increase the number of minority students who seek careers in these disciplines, to increase their completion of bachelor degrees, and enter into a PhD or other terminal degree program. The CCRAA project plan will support the Honors Program and the Department of Computer Science. This plan will facilitate activities to recruit, retain, and graduate students in these disciplines where African American Students are underrepresented. The Honors Program, founded during the 1959-1960 academic school year, seeks to provide a venue that assists and allows high achieving, dedicated and highly motivated students to enhance academic performance and leadership skills as they strive to become competitive in today's global society. The Honors Program strives to provide advanced levels of research, scholarship, cultural enrichment and leadership activities to enhance the educational programs housed in the five academic divisions that offer the baccalaureate degree. The Department of Computer Science within the Division of Business offers bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Computer Information Systems to prepare students for graduate studies and careers in Information Technology and other STEM disciplines. The department seeks to keep the curriculum in this dynamic field current and relevant to the rapidly changing technology, research frontiers, and marketplace demands. For example, it integrates within the academic curriculum instruction to prepare students for highly marketable industry certification in Internet Network Administration, thus providing students an entry into the job market upon graduation as well as a foundation for one of the expanding frontiers in computing research. To maintain currency, the department seeks to expand its computing laboratory facilities to incorporate the latest technology to support expanded instruction and tangible experience in Internet technologies including networking, open-source software, and Web development, and in robotics and embedded computing. Support from this supplemental funding will provide activities such as advanced levels of research, scholarship, international cultural enrichment and leadership opportunities to enhance the educational programs housed in the five academic divisions that offer the baccalaureate degrees. These activities will support the project goals by providing highly motivated and gifted students additional assistance that will enable them to achieve their terminal degree. The project activities will also improve the college's ability to attract scholarly students, and enrich the Saint Augustine's College academic community through the Honors Program.

Activity Description:

Shaw University is pleased to prepare the two-year College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant of planned academic activities. This is an exciting time for both the world of higher education and the campus of Shaw University. Shaw University plans to implement five activities using CCRAA funding for the fiscal year 2008-2009, which will allow the institution to better serve its student and improve their academic success. Activities planned for implementation include construction of an Academic Success Center, followed by the development of a learning communities program. We will also create an Office of Program Review and provide academic enhancements to the library program. The program management activity will provide effective administrative support.

The activities narrative is listed below:

Activity 1- Construction (608.10(a)(2) of Shaw University Academic Success Center (SUASC)

The Academic Success Center will encompass the University's Advisement Services, First Year Programs, Tutorial Services, Writing Lab, Reading Lab, Math Lab, Mentoring Program, Testing and Evaluation, and Experiential Learning. The Academic Success Center will be comprised of several buildings that will be centrally located on campus to better serve our students.

Activity 2- Development of Learning Communities 608.10(a)(10)

Shaw University is in the process of creating and defining educational learning communities to improve the academic success of students. Learning communities at Shaw University will increase the institution's ability to help more science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students prepare for graduation and graduate school.

Activity 3- Academic Program Review 608.10(a)(10)

Shaw University's program review will initially focus on science, technology, and engineering research, mathematics (STEM), and teacher education programs.

Activity 4- Library Enhancement 608.10(a)(5)

Funds from the CCRAA grant will be used to update furniture, technological equipment, books, and electronic resources that will enhance and ensure Shaw's commitment to excellent educational opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. A consultant is required to help the Library Director make equitable decisions in a book weeding process. The consultant will also help with the selection of tutorial and reference materials to support tutoring and enhanced learning programs.

Activity 5- Program Management 608.10(a)(6)

Program management is linked to the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and will be integrated into the administrative structure of the institution, ensuring that key decision makers are directly involved in the progress, impact, and institutionalization of the Shaw University CCRAA initiative.

Activity Description:

This project is designed to enhance the capacity of the university to prepare students for careers in the sciences, health sciences, business and economics, and the teaching profession by improving its instructional facilities and implementing programs and services that will facilitate more effective teaching and learning. In this regard, seven activities are being proposed: 1) the renovation of a classroom facility; 2) the establishment of a virtual health community and patient simulation learning center; 3) pre-service mathematics professional development workshops; 4) inquiry-based learning in chemistry; 5) strengthening and expanding program offerings in occupational therapy; 6) enhancing the quality of teacher preparation; and 7) improving performance in social and behavioral sciences.

OHIO

Central State University- P031B085039-08

Activity Description:

As a result of the initiatives to grow Central State University, College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funds are critical to the overall mission of the university. Each proposed activity is aligned with the Speed-to-Scale and Strategic Academic Enrollment Management (SAEM) plans. Central State University (CSU) plans to use the CCRAA funds in support of the following four activities:

Activity 1 - Strengthening Academic Quality through Developing a Nursing Program, Phase I

Central State University is committed to developing a bachelor's degree program in nursing as part of the SAEM Plan. During Phase I a coordinator will be hired for the program who will design curriculum, hire faculty, and develop other foundational elements upon which the program will grow. The University seeks \$195,319 in CCRAA funds to facilitate this phase of development.

Activity 2 - Strengthening Academic Quality by Enhancing Program Accreditation Library Acquisitions

The University will utilize \$80,000 in CCRAA funding to support library collections in those areas in which program accreditation is being sought per the SAEM plan.

Activity 3- Strengthening Academic Quality by Spanning the Digital Divide Across Campus

In Phase II Central State University seeks to enhance faculty technology and classroom technology at both the main campus and the Dayton campus by upgrading faculty computers and adding three smart classrooms at a cost of \$426,852.

Activity 4 - Strengthening Academic Quality through CSU Dayton Campus Enhancements

As Central State continues its growth toward optimum size, continued improvement of the infrastructure to the CSU Dayton Campus is vital. College Cost Reduction and Access Act funds will be used to equip general science and health classrooms, create a safe environment for students and faculty to attend evening classes, and to enhance communications and community awareness of the educational opportunities at the CSU Dayton Campus.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Library Enhancement

The Library Enhancement activity is designed to assist the university in strengthening its library collections and library holdings. In addition to strengthening its resources, this activity will provide for much needed renovations and upgrades to the library facility. The library supports all teaching and learning on campus. It provides user-focused quality services in support of undergraduate programs, faculty research and the general information needs of the campus community. This activity will help to build a stronger research collection with special attention given to the areas of curriculum. This initiative is aligned to meet the strategic priorities as well as increase the effectiveness of the overall library service. The facility upgrades/renovations along with the improved quality of library holdings will ensure the continued success of the library's program beyond the funding period.

Activity 2 - Enhancement of Academic Technology Infrastructure

The primary focus of this activity will be to enhance the academic technology infrastructure through enhancing access to, and use of, computer-based resources for teaching, learning and research. Activity Two will provide funding for the purchase of cutting edge technology and software to enhance the pedagogical skills of faculty and to facilitate the creation of technologically enhanced courses. Both students and faculty will be exposed to and trained to utilize technology required to prepare students for their respective purposes in life as global citizens.

Activity 3- Maintenance, Repairs, Renovations and Enhancement of Instructional Facilities

The primary focus of Activity Three will be to repair and enhance the instructional facilities. Funding requested for this activity will be used to continue to provide a campus environment that is aesthetically pleasing, physically safe, technologically efficient, historically preserved and meets the programmatic needs of the university. Many of the university's instructional facilities are more than 25 years old and are in dire need of maintenance, repair and renovations. Studies have shown that a student's environment has a direct impact on his/her ability to be successful. In order for the university to increase its enrollment, it must be able to recruit and retain students. The facilities' improvements will directly impact the institution's ability to recruit and retain students. Increased enrollment will lead to fiscal stability, which in turn will lead to the institutionalization.

Activity 4- Project Administration

The primary focus of activity four will be coordinate the Historically Black Colleges and Universities- College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU-CCRAA) grant with each of the three aforementioned activities to ensure compliance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations, procedures and implementation of grant proposals and funding.

OKLAHOMA

Langston University- P031B085035-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhancement of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Disciplines

The Departments of Chemistry and Mathematics propose to create six Intelligent Resource Classrooms that will serve as 30 stations and 20 station tablet PC laboratories, respectively, including a Hands-On Resource Laboratory. The Department of Biology proposes the creation of the Natural Science Learning and Enrichment Center (NSLEC) that will incorporate a fully equipped electronic classroom as well as a wet lab area with materials and equipment for makeup and special projects

Activity 2- Academic Support for the Diverse Learning Styles of Associate Degree Program Students

This activity will improve the level of service and support to the students admitted in the Associate Degree program. This program focuses on the limited community college mission of Langston University and the academic development of students admitted with academic deficiencies, as well as those who feel unprepared and voluntarily enroll in the program. The purpose of this activity is to provide enhanced classroom instruction, seminar and study skills areas, career counseling/mentoring and computer-assisted tutorials to make learning exciting, challenging and a realistic goal. .

Activity 3- Enrichment of Learning Experiences for Nursing and Health Professions Students

This activity will transform the eight classrooms and one theater in the new health professions building into “smart classrooms,” which may be scheduled for use by the entire university. Two of the classrooms and the lecture hall will be equipped for instruction by Interactive Television to support shared instruction between Langston’s main campus and secondary campuses. The nursing skills laboratory will contain state-of-the-art mannequins for practicing basic and complex skills, eight to ten computers and seven client-care units. Students, namely those in nursing and health professions, will be provided 24/7 access to the skills laboratory. Students will be able to use the computer laboratory for online standardized testing and online tutorials.

Activity 4- Using Technology to Revitalize Teacher Education For Students

This activity will create an environment that is more conducive to interactive and cooperative learning, allowing individual students to benefit from computerized tutorials and other technologically-assisted instructional tools. The smart classroom will allow teachers to simultaneously instruct local and remote students. The purpose of this activity is to design and integrate technology-based learning experiences and solutions into the teacher education

program. The smart classroom will offer a new opportunity for students to engage in laboratory-based learning, and provide increased flexibility for resource sharing.

Activity 5- Redesigning Courses to Improve Learning

This activity will emphasize the use of active learning both alone and with peers to maximize student engagement in the classroom, online and with one another. Our primary goal is to move the students from a passive note taking approach to an active, learning environment. Langston University is proposing to redesign courses in mathematics, science, teacher education and other related courses that support disciplines where minorities are underrepresented. The purpose of course redesign is to achieve better learning outcomes at a lower cost by taking advantage of the capabilities of information technology as well as quality enhancements.

PENNSYLVANIA

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania- P031B085075-08

Activity Description:

Introduction and Institutional Overview

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, established in 1837, is the oldest institution of higher education founded for African-American students and continues to hold an important position in the history of American education. The university serves students representing multiple levels of achievement from a diverse range of educational backgrounds. Cheyney University is a comprehensive, coeducational, public institution, which admits all qualified students regardless of race, creed, or ethnicity. The university maintains challenging curricula and a first-rate faculty. Thus, Cheyney upholds its tradition of academic excellence as it continues to be faithful to its historical commitment to educating students whose academic development may have been limited by a lack of economic, social, or educational opportunities. This commitment makes Cheyney a unique member of the fourteen-university Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). The university offers undergraduate degree programs in the liberal arts, teacher education, and technical and applied sciences. Undergraduate programs of note include: Geographic Information Science; Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management; and Fashion Merchandising, Design and Textiles. Graduate degree programs are offered at the master's level in Education, and Public Administration.

Financial Status of the University

The foundation of financial strength is sound fiscal management. To this end, Cheyney University uses Systems Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP) software. Fiscally, SAP is used to monitor the spending relative to the annual budget. Expenditures are updated as they occur and continually compared to the budget allocated to each department. Individual departments and units within the institution are able to view their expenditures online. Any expenditure exceeding the allocated budget is immediately identified. In the area of procurement, SAP generates an accounting of purchases and helps to ensure that all procurement policies and procedures are being followed. As a public state-assisted university, Cheyney has the ongoing challenge of securing additional funding to support its operation. Inasmuch as the university is enrollment driven (formula funded) it is greatly dependent upon the revenues generated by tuition.

Cheyney University will use the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) award to strengthen its academic programs in science and technology. The science building, built in 1969, is not outfitted to meet the needs of 21st century science education and significant upgrades are needed to the physical structure, laboratories, and teaching and learning facilities. A new program in Graphic Design will be developed to prepare students who will be able to compete successfully in the expanding graphic design industry and related industries. Funds will also be used to institute an integrated enrollment management initiative that will develop a systematic approach to address retention, student aid, and strategic identification of new students.

Activity Description:

Lincoln University will demonstrate its commitment to improve the academic experience of the students, faculty and staff. The university will in this proposal address the Legislative Allowable Activities (LAA) and the priority activities within three activities.

The LAA are:

- 1) Establishing or enhancing a program of teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in public elementary schools and secondary schools in the state that shall include, as part of such program, preparation for teacher certification.
- 2) Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success.
- 3) Other activities, consistent with the institution's comprehensive plan.

Activity 1- Enhancing the Teacher Education and Urban Pedagogy

Purpose:

- a. Significantly increase the number of students who will pass both Praxis I and Praxis II Exam;
- b. Support to bring in consultants to begin working on National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) preparation;
- c. Building critical components other than Praxis within the education program;
- d. Provide transportation for student teachers; and
- e. Review and vitalize the existing program

Activity 2- Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates

Purpose:

To increase retention by:

- a. Increasing tutorial and developmental courses (Mathematics, Reading & English);
- b. Increasing coordination with faculty;
- c. Enhancing the student support services by serving the Progress Probation Students, etc.;
- d. Increasing support for tutorial services in specific identified majors; and
- e. Enhancing the sophomore year experience with specific identified goals/objectives to retain students

Activity 3 Developing an Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Purpose: Institutional Assessment and Student Outcome Assessment

- a. Develop a process for Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) for all of our 40 majors. Develop codification, collecting and measurable output methodologies; and
- b. Develop the structure to collect, collate and provide adequate feedback for decision making in improving the learning process.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Allen University- P031085044-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Improvement of Campus Technology

Funds will be used to assist with improving academic programs by infusing instructional technology into the teaching and learning process. The plan is to support the development of academic programs and courses that make greater use of instructional technologies as teaching aids. In order to accomplish the goal, the existing technology infrastructure must be strengthened, an environment for faculty to foster instructional innovation must be created, and resources to sustain technology advancements need to be set aside. Endowment building is part of the plan.

Activity 2- Improvement of Instructional Facilities

The primary purpose of this activity is to upgrade the university's instructional facilities in an effort to provide an academic environment that will enhance student learning. Although the university's historic campus is valued for what it represents, several buildings on the campus are in need of renovation. Updating and maintaining these buildings are primary challenges for the university. These structural needs include people, processes, facilities, and technologies essential for the operations of a modern academic environment, and they span all elements of the university from accounting, procurement, registration, billing, and student information systems to the classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and offices of staff and faculty.

Activity Description:

Activity 1 – Administrative Improvements: Achievement of a College Network System and Establishment of a Campus-wide Wireless Capability

Benedict College has had two major disruptions in its quest for improved network capabilities: 1) the total crash of the Web infrastructure in December 2007; 2) the crash of the Student Financial Aid server in March 2008. Hardware failure was the cause of both network downtime episodes, and the college remains vulnerable to repeated failure because our systems have G3 and G2 specification ratings by Hewlett Packard. Current standards are at the G5 specification rating, rendering us two to three levels (some cases eight years) behind in server technology.

In addition, while the College has progressed to providing a modicum of wireless capability in areas round the campus, we are in need of additional infrastructure to achieve the goal of a campus-wide wireless footprint. Achieving this goal would give us a state-of-the art digital campus, improve institutional performance, and encourage the use of information technology by both students and faculty.

Activity 2– Improving Academic Programs: Renovation of Academic Facilities for Baseline Technology

Benedict College proposes to upgrade the academic facilities to enhance the teaching and learning outcomes, as identified in the current Strategic Plan. The need for sufficient technology-equipped general-purpose classrooms is critical to improving teaching/learning results. To better serve our students' needs, the focus of this activity will address: 1) instructional technology for 16 signature classrooms; and 2) upgrade the 16 classrooms through basic repairs and enhancements to the physical classroom settings. The following buildings will undergo classroom enhancement: Alumni Hall (Four Rooms); Fine Arts and Humanities Center (Two Rooms); Human Resources Center Learning Resources Center (Six Rooms; and Starks Hall (Interactive & Lecture Rooms).

Activity Description:

Implementation of the Spectroscopy and Analytical Instrumentation Building

Over the past seven years Claflin University has seen a tremendous increase in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduation rates, intramural research internships, senior thesis projects and graduate school/professional school placement. Moreover, there has been an increase in new faculty, grants submitted/funded, scholarly publications, instrumentation/equipment acquisition and conference presentations. Faculty have received prestigious teaching and research awards as well as external funding. Within this time period we have greatly increased our in-house research infrastructure and acquired modern state-of-the-art instrumentation.

The current Jonas S. Kennedy Science Facility (approximately 40 years old) has lost storage space, maintenance service space, and even classroom space because of the influx of students and faculty. We were very creative in turning the above-mentioned spaces into faculty offices, math labs and instrumentation/equipment labs. In doing so, we increased our research infrastructure and have maximized the capacity of the building such that we are subsequently using temporary facilities to compensate. The Spectroscopy and Analytical Instrumentation Building will house newly acquired analytical instrumentation and provide research space and office space that we desperately need. Faculty have begun conducting research at neighboring institutions because of laboratory space constraints. In addition, instrumentation that has been purchased is being held by the vendor until we find space for it. Therefore, this building is imperative to the growth and productivity of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In order to continue to operate under American Chemical Society (ACS) guidelines in the department of chemistry, we must have active undergraduate research projects available to students and modern instrumentation. However, without adequate space our ACS approval will be compromised, enrollment will decrease and we will lose quality faculty.

Activity Description:

Clinton Junior College is a Christian college based on the traditional Christian approach that provides students with the best possible programs and methods of studies. The college seeks to impart to each student moral character development, communicative skill of language and subject matter to develop within the framework of student's personality, potential, and abilities based on sound academic instructions. The college offers an Associate of Business Degree, Liberal Arts Degree, and the Religious Studies Degree and expects to offer two new degree programs: 1) an Associate Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education; 2) an Associate Degree in the Natural Sciences. Clinton Junior College is submitting this College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant application for an award period 2008-2010. This Application requests funds in the following areas:

Activity 1 – Academic Improvement and Enhancing Library Services

The college will request funds to upgrade its library services. These funds will support upgrading the Automated Library System and the computers needed for cataloging. These funds will also support the purchase of photocopying machines needed for student and faculty use. Additionally, the funds will be used to enhance the Living Learning Center by upgrading security. Furniture and lab equipment will also be purchased to upgrade classrooms.

Activity 2 – Improving Technology Infrastructure

The college has a need to rebuild its outdated infrastructure. This will be accomplished by purchasing servers and other software and hardware, and by integrating all campus units in order to share, store and retrieve data.

Activity 3 – Grant Coordination

This activity will allow the college to assure that the grant has college oversight. A Program Assistant will be hired to assure that fiscal and program records of the grant are collected and stored.

Activity 4 – Strengthening the Clinton Junior College Endowment

The college will use CCRAA funds to increase its endowment.

Activity 5 – Renovation, Construction and Facility Improvement

This activity will allow the college to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements by installing an elevator in the Education Building. This activity will also allow the college to build a new academic building which will have state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratory space (including biology, chemistry and physics), a cultural center (including an auditorium and music library) and physical education and fitness center labs.

Activity 6 – Improving Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Advancement

The college needs to improve its ability to evaluate the effectiveness of its academic programs through the improvement of the Institutional Effectiveness Office. The funds will also allow the college to improve the quality of its education programs by upgrading faculty through the use of workshops and travel to conferences.

Denmark Technical College- P031B085029-08

Activity Description:

Denmark Technical College (DTC), is a two-year, comprehensive, public, postsecondary institution annually serving 1,600 credit students. DTC is governed by a five-member Area Commissioners. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The college utilizes Title III funds to help solve persistent problems that seriously impede its sustainability. These include: 1) DTC's student retention and graduation rates; 2) student learning assessment plans and the Institutional Effectiveness Plan; 3) economic development; 4) expansion of new and existing curriculum in math, science, technology, and allied health; and 5) cuts in state funding. To address these problems, DTC has developed a comprehensive development plan to increase the capacity to prepare students for careers in math, science, technology and allied health professions. These will: 1) increase student learning through curriculum development and institutional effectiveness; 2) document use of assessment in improving student learning and support for the environment that supports student learning; 3) establish partnerships with business and industry to obtain internship and mentoring programs; 4) increase student engagement with the institution; 5) increase the retention of first-year, first-time degree-seeking students into their second college year; and 6) increase the annual graduation rate as well as the three year graduation rate of first-time students. Executive Council members will manage the activities of the grant and temporary positions to develop activities the first year.

Activity Description:

This proposal addresses the need for the construction and equipping of a facility to establish a Forensics Center to support the Criminal Justice degree program and to increase classroom space for the academic program. Over the past decade, the Criminal Justice major has grown to become the third largest degree program offered at Morris College and it generates an increasing number of graduates seeking professional employment in fields such as law enforcement, national security and the private industry.

Because the job market in these most sensitive areas is highly competitive, it is essential that our students be familiar with the latest scientific investigatory technology and methods as a complement to their classroom knowledge of Criminal Justice theory. The proposed Forensics Center represents a campus-based facility that would house such scientific and technological equipment, to provide students with hands-on instruction in various applications. Its focus will include instruction in the following areas: 1) fingerprint analysis; 2) drug analysis; 3) DNA analysis; and 4) ballistics.

Besides enabling our present Criminal Justice students to gain a competitive advantage in the job market through enhancing their knowledge of, and ability to use, up-to-date forensic technology and methods, the facility would house an additional multi-purpose classroom to support the academic program. The proposed project is related to two of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) allowable activities: 1) purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes; and 2) construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.

The goal of this project relates to the U.S. Department of Education's Strategic Plan Goal 3, which is to ensure the accessibility, affordability, and accountability of higher education and better prepare students and adults for employment and future learning. Ultimately, it is hoped that this project will aid in enhancing the institution's retention and graduation rates.

Realizing that CCRAA funding will not be sufficient for a project of this magnitude, the college will supplement CCRAA funds with other institutional funds. To this end, a state-of-the-art, fully equipped Forensics Center will be established and operational by the end of the grant period.

Activity Description:

Abstract for the College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technology

The proposed activities will support the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET) re-accreditation for six programs: 1-4) Civil, Mechanical, Industrial, and Electrical Engineering Technology (Technology Accreditation Commission {TAC} accreditation); 5) Computer Science (Computing Accreditation Commission {CAC} accreditation); and 6) the newly accredited Nuclear Engineering program (Engineering Accreditation Commission {EAC} accreditation).

We also propose to fund the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences to: 1) procure state-of-the-art equipment; 2) support research and instructional programs; 3) enhance overall science facilities; and 4) outfit the research and teaching laboratories with specialized computer facilities and state-of-the-art classrooms.

In an effort to improve and continue the thrust for academic excellence of the aforementioned programs, the College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technology has been charged with the task of implementing the following four major institutional goals found in the South Carolina State University Five Year Strategic Plan (2006/07-2010/11):

- 1) Evaluate academic programs and course offerings with respect to program viability and career potential of graduates and market needs;
- 2) Prepare students to function effectively in a global society;
- 3) Increase the utilization of technology for academics; and
- 4) Improve academic quality through enhanced faculty development and scholarly achievements.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- The Reading and Writing across the Curriculum Activity

Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum (RWAC) is a pedagogical movement that responds to the deficiency in literacy among college students. This activity is directly related to our primary strategic initiative which is “Improving Teaching and Learning.” The syllabus for all classes must be amended to reflect reading and writing across the curriculum.

Activity 2- Learning Communities

The goal of Learning Communities is to promote a higher number of students persisting through the first two years of college. All freshman students will be assigned to a Learning Community Cohort with a faculty mentor to oversee their academic development. Integrated assignments will be developed around themes selected by the Learning Committee Steering Committee. Co-curricular and service learning activities related to the theme will also be conducted during each semester.

Activity 3- African-American Studies Research Center

Voorhees College will establish an African-American Studies Center to serve as a model for teaching and research on race in rural communities and the history of Voorhees College and its impact on Bamberg County. We will develop four additional courses as part of this activity as well as an oral history project and oral history seminar class for students and members of the Bamberg County Genealogical Society. This class will teach faculty, students, and other researchers how to capture recordings, preservation and interpretation of Voorhees historical information.

Activity 4- Creating a Culture of Assessment and Quality Enhancement

In order to maintain accreditation with the Commission on Colleges, Voorhees must comply with the standards contained in the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* and with the policies and procedures of the Commission on Colleges. Under the proposed program, academic and non-academic units must be able to demonstrate institutional effectiveness and continuous improvements. Program reviews for all eleven major fields of study must be conducted with an external reviewer. The assessment model plan for the college must be updated and modified including curriculum in the off-campus programs. This will be done via the Annual Assessment Forums and Assessment Day on the Institutional Calendar.

Activity 5- Improving Health & Recreation Curriculum and Collaborations

The goal of this activity is to improve the Health and Recreation curriculum and build a strong collaboration with the Rural Health Center by providing health and recreation majors with on-the-job training in order to students more marketable in a multicultural and global society. A

Voorhees College Health and Recreation internship program will support majors with no work experience, limited work experience, and extensive work experience. Health and Recreation majors will not only leave with a bachelor's degree but also certification in water safety.

Activity 6- College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) Administrator

The CCRAA Administrator will ensure the CCRAA grant program is properly monitored and controlled, and ensure compliance with federal fiscal policy by monitoring all CCRAA expenditures (including personnel costs charged to the program). The Administrator will work closely with the Office of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs on all matters relating to the fiscal aspects of the grant. The internal accountability and evaluation of activity objectives will be the responsibility of the individual activity directors and sub-activity directors.

TENNESSEE

Fisk University- P031B085033-08

Activity Description:

Fisk University boasts an illustrious architectural history, originating in 1866. Unfortunately, the maintenance of the physical plant poses a statistically significant burden on the financial health of the institution. Grant funds will support initiatives to enhance an innovative scholarly environment within an aging landscape. Due to the historical value and aesthetic equity of these buildings, the plan for College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant is to recapture the academic culture through the following projects:

- (1) Construction: Restore two of the instructional facilities, annually, during the two-year funding cycle;
- (2) Technology: Strengthen the telecommunications infrastructure; and
- (3) Equipment: Upgrade educational instrumentation across the campus.

Therefore, CCRAA grant funding will assist Fisk University in strengthening the capacity to provide a cognitive state-of-the-art learning community to train world leaders.

Activity Description:

Strengthening Instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Lane College currently offers majors in the following science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas: biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics. Engineering is offered as a dual degree program with Tennessee State University. The faculty conducts periodic curriculum review. Over the next five years, the college proposes to increase its program offerings in the area of STEM through the construction of a new Science/Business Building, curriculum review and revision, faculty development, and the purchase of up-to-date equipment and technology. The extensive requirements of the proposed program necessitate the hiring of additional faculty in the STEM areas. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will coordinate the evaluation of all major course offerings. This in-depth study of the curriculum will allow the college to assess strengths and weaknesses of the existing offerings and allow the development of programs that will facilitate the continued academic growth of its students in the STEM areas. This will include:

- 1) Proposing new courses and changes in existing ones to meet present and future needs of the students of the college;
- 2) Deletion of courses from the curriculum that are obsolete and/or are nonproductive in the development of students;
- 3) Staffing and implementation of the new majors;
- 4) Rewriting of syllabi to reflect uniformity across the curriculum and consistency with requirements of external agencies;
- 5) Developing initiatives for integrating more technology into all curriculum offerings; and
- 6) Developing a Masters program at the College.

All proposed changes will be directed to the Curriculum Committee and the faculty for final dispensation.

Lemoyne Owens College- P031B085078-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhancement of Academic Facilities

We seek to improve institutional facilities that have suffered from deferred maintenance to insure a safe environment that is conducive to effective learning.

Activity 2- Improving Institutional Fiscal and Operational Stability Systems

We seek to provide technical support in implementing coherent technology across the curriculum and capacity-building for all constituents.

Activity Description:

Tennessee State University (TSU) is proposing to use Historically Black College and University-College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU-CCRAA) funds to support four projects for FY 2008-2009.

Activity 1- The Nursing Student Learning Resource Laboratory

Tennessee State University's School of Nursing is the primary source for educating nurses in the Middle Tennessee area. There is a need for state-of-the-art resources such as simulation technology. The nurse training labs, as well as the nursing building, have not been updated since 1969. Limited state financial resources are used primarily for basic operational supplies and replacement of outdated or obsolete equipment. State-of-the-art teaching equipment such as simulation technology is needed to help fulfill the commitment to obtain the highest level of research, instruction and service. This award will enable the department to establish its first Simulated Technology Training Laboratory. It is anticipated that a significant increase in faculty and students will occur once the laboratory is functioning. This project will significantly strengthen the program's capacity for scholarly research. The principal investigator has been Faculty of the Year in her Department and Teacher of the Year. In addition, she is a successful grant writer who has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Health Extramural Associates Research Development Award (EARDA) and is currently working on a major grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Activity 2- The Historical Preservation for the Study of Desegregation in Higher Education in Tennessee

In an effort to chronicle the historic formation of TSU and place their story within a broader context of academic (de)segregation TSU seeks to archive oral histories, papers and other documents from surviving individuals knowledgeable of such events. This will be a collaborative effort between faculty, library staff, and students. Students will receive training in archival research, and preservation of historical documents amongst other hands on learning experiences. This project also promises to provide significant impact on the university's "branding" efforts and thereby increase its ability to attract and retain highly qualified faculty and students.

Activity 3- Campus Compact

Campus Compact seeks to transform college students into active citizens who are well equipped to develop creative solutions to the varied and numerous challenges of today's society. Service learning, which is the major thrust of the Campus Compact, is a teaching technique that integrates academic instruction and hands on community service. This project is designed to enhance the Service Learning and Civic Engagement component of the Strategic Plan 2010-2015.

Activity 4- The Physics and Mathematics Improvement Plan

The primary aim of this project is to increase the enrollment of minority and female students in undergraduate physics and mathematics programs. It also aims to support research activities among physics and math faculty and students. A third objective is to inform high school students of college programs in physics and mathematics. Finally, the project director will obtain funds so that the project can become self-sufficient by the end of the CCRAA funding period.

TEXAS

Huston-Tillotson University- P031B085028-08

Activity Description:

Huston-Tillotson University recognizes the importance of planning for a changing social, economic, and educational environment. As part of our institutional planning process, Huston-Tillotson University is constantly monitoring and discussing changes that impact our students and our educational system. This proposal reflects Huston-Tillotson University's commitment to growth in a changing environment. The university is proposing four projects which will advance the institution in the following key areas: 1) quality enhancement and accreditation; 2) information technology; 3) teacher training in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields; and 4) degree completion rates of African-American male students. The four projects are entitled: 1) University Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and Accreditation of the Department of Business Administration; 2) Transforming Network Infrastructure: Delivering Innovative Services to Achieve High Performance; 3) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Teacher Training Program; and 4) President's Male Initiative on Learning and Excellence. In planning for this proposal, Huston-Tillotson University has used multiple measures including results from a recent Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis to determine the direction that will best serve the student population.

Jarvis Christian College- P031B085086-08

Activity Description:

Since its inception in 1912, Jarvis Christian College has embraced the philosophical, theoretical and practical concepts of total student development. The continued devotion to a mission of providing quality education to students of all origins regardless of race, creed, color, handicap, political affiliation, national or ethnic origin, sex or age is ever present.

The activities proposed in this supplemental funding under the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program authorized by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) of 2007 will assist the college in strengthening and supporting the academic programs, and enhancing its academic facilities.

Resources provided through this grant will aid the college in advancing its educational programs for the benefit of the students who matriculate at the institution.

Through its commitment to long-range planning, the college will continue to offer programs for students, both presently and in the future.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Strengthening the College's Infrastructure to Support Academic Programming, Administrative Services, and Research Initiatives

Goal: The goal of this activity is to develop and implement new technological and infrastructural initiatives that strengthen the college's learning environment.

Objectives:

1) To establish a Sustainable Agricultural Initiative for the College via a Heat Resistant Foliage Study, whereby the College will:

- a. Research the growth and sustainability patterns of heat resistant foliage;
- b. Use the study for experiential learning in the college's biology classes;
- c. Use the study to initiate sustainability awareness on campus across disciplines;
- d. Use the study findings to develop an energy and natural resources conservation plan; and
- e. Use the study findings to collaborate with other colleges that have similar environmental conditions.

2) To establish and implement a technologically integrated communications and safety plan that will:

- a. Improve campus communications;
- b. Expand "anytime, anywhere" learning; and
- c. Enhance campus security.

Activity Description:

Funds from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) will be used to support programs that address two of Prairie View A&M University's goals: 1) Strengthen the quality of academic programs; and 2) Promote programs that contribute to student success. The three proposed activities support two of the CCRAA priority activities: 1) Enhancing teacher education programs; and 2) Enhancing programs in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Activity 1 - Preparing Tomorrow's Teacher's to Use Technology

The Whitlowe R. Green College of Education continues to respond to the changing educational needs of teacher education candidates. In order to prepare our students to successfully meet the technology demands of a modern classroom, two traditional college classrooms will be renovated into smart classrooms. Faculty will train pre-service teachers (Pre-Kindergarten – 12) to use technology effectively to teach content and assess student learning. Successful teachers know how to use instructional technologies to facilitate learning.

Activity 2 - STEM Learning Enhancement Laboratories

The STEM Learning Enhancement Laboratories will be a multi-disciplinary university program designed to enhance student learning and success within the STEM disciplines in the Colleges of Engineering, and Arts and Sciences. This activity will help establish interdisciplinary, collaborative STEM learning communities. Facilities will be renovated, laboratories enhanced and hypothesis-driven research modules will be developed to support student learning. Students will become active participants in research activities thereby developing the problem-solving skills needed to be successful in graduate programs or in the workforce. Major initiatives for this activity include establishing a STEM Student Success Laboratory in the College of Engineering and a Genomics/Bioinformatics Laboratory within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Activity 3 – Center for Microbial and Cardiovascular Studies

Currently, the microbiology and cardiovascular laboratories are insufficient to train students to conduct research in these areas. Establishing a Center for Microbial and Cardiovascular Studies will not only strengthen the quality of instruction in Human Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology, it will enable the faculty to train students to conduct hypothesis-driven independent research in the areas of cardiovascular/hypertension and microbiology. Students who have developed strong research problem-solving skills will be well prepared for graduate/professional schools.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhancing, Strengthening and Maintaining the Infrastructure of Southwestern Christian College (SWCC) Technology

In a recent disaster, the college's main technological infrastructure was destroyed, including several administrative mainframes. The college is now in the process of rebuilding this infrastructure by replacing the fiber optics across the entire campus and stabilizing the wireless networks by providing adequate bandwidth, reliability, redundancy, services, and security to support the college's technology needs. Another aspect of technology enhancement will be the purchase of imaging software for scanning documents. A student monitoring system using smart card technology will be installed for safety and tracking of students in the several on-campus facilities. To enhance the business, financial aid and registrars offices a tracking system will be purchased that will monitor online budget modifications, track paper documents and personnel actions, and enhance departmental communications.

Activity 2- Enhancing the Student Learning Experience Through the Use of Technology

There is a need to outfit the Learning Lab, Computer Science Lab, and the Library with desktop computers. Smart-classrooms will be installed in two academic facilities. Laptop computers will be provided to freshmen students for out of classroom assignments as well as to teaching faculty to enable them to develop and appropriately integrate technology into curriculum and increase the number of Web-assisted courses.

Activity 3- Classroom Improvement

Three areas of academic facilities are in need of immediate improvement in order to bring the instructional capabilities to a level of higher standards and safety. The college will remove and upgrade the workstations and equipment in the biology and chemistry laboratories. This will include the removal of hazardous old chemicals and replacing them with newer chemicals, and replacing old microscopes with newer, state-of-the-art microscopes. Due to the recent fire that destroyed one of the major classroom and administrative buildings, the college utilized space in the Health and Physical Education facility. This facility has safety factors and the college will renovate and replace damaged exit doors, replace multi-purpose seating and add handicapped accessibility. Finally, security cameras will be installed in two academic buildings allowing the campus police department twenty-four hour access to these facilities.

Activity 4- Faculty Development

Southwestern Christian College will continue the training and development of administrators, faculty and staff in building online curriculum and enhancing the student learning process through the use of its technology. The Technology Support Specialist will conduct on-site training for at least 12 faculty and staff members per month. Another facet will include travel to

workshops in their professional disciplines, in-service professional development workshops and assist in attaining advanced degrees and upgrading in their discipline.

Activity Description:

St. Philip's College is submitting this proposal to the U. S. Department of Education for four activities to increase institutional capacity in mathematics, and natural and applied sciences.

- 1) The Mathematics Capacity-Building initiative will focus on strengthening the self-sufficiency of the institution by aligning skills and competencies of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) core curricula with new courses and degree offerings that are responsive to ever increasing labor force demands from alternative energy industries. The main objective will be a new Associate of Arts degree in Statistics.
- 2) The Natural and Applied Sciences Capacity-Building initiative will focus on strengthening the self sufficiency of the institution by aligning skills and competencies of the STEM core curricula with new courses and degree offerings that are responsive to ever increasing labor force demands from alternative energy industries. The main objectives will be a new Associates of Applied Science degree in Alternative Energy Technology and an Associates of Science degree in Fluid Earth Sciences and Alternative Energy Sources.
- 3) The construction activity includes the renovation and installation of the finishing materials and furnishings for new classrooms, labs, common spaces and library renovations at the Southwest Campus. Upon completion, this newly renovated space will be home to the Centers of Excellence in Mathematics and in Science.
- 4) The administration of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant will be overseen by a Project Coordinator and an Administrative Secretary, both of whom will support the overall administrative, budgetary and reporting activities, as well as assist the activity managers in the successful implementation of the grant.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Enhance Library Resources and Services

The library seeks to provide efficient services such as library instruction, interlibrary loans, lending services, and technology information services. The library is committed to keeping its users abreast of modern instructional and administrative technology, and is dedicated to promoting internal and external communication by using computer databases and network information resources. With this initiative the D. R. Glass Library will address four problematic areas: 1) increase library volumes; 2) increase library staffing; 3) purchase an integrated system; and 4) establish a faculty/student resource center.

The goal is to increase library holdings by adding at least 500 volumes or more each semester. This request will assist in reaching the overall goal of a total of 150,000 to 200,000 volumes. Purchases will be based on faculty and staff requests for new texts, and supporting materials, and all content areas are to be addressed.

The D. R. Glass Library staff also proposes to implement a new integrated library system to replace the old outdated one. The proposed product, The Library Corporation (TLC), will allow for online cataloging or Online Patron Access Catalog (OPAC) thus enabling students to access resources on the shelves, circulation, acquisitions, cataloging, report writing, reserves, patron management, and Web Pac.

The library also proposes to increase its media/audiovisual collection by purchasing additional media/audiovisual equipment to support a teacher resource area housing projectors, screens, laminating machine, die cast machines, cameras, video cameras, etc....

Activity 2- Enhance Instructional Facilities

It is the intent of Texas College to enrich and enhance the instructional facilities by creating “student centered” learning environments throughout the campus facilities. To promote collaborative study groups, we anticipate adding study areas in the library and in other academic buildings as well as new alternative external study sites. Upon completion of a multi-purpose instructional facility, Texas College will add an additional 2,800 square feet of classroom space.

Activity 3- Provide a Safe and Secure Learning Environment

An awareness to maintain a safe and secure learning environment is foremost in promoting a “student centered” learning environment. As such, Texas College proposes to do the following:

- 1) Conduct an environmental safety survey of the campus;
- 2) Increase campus lighting, surveillance, and other emergency alert systems as recommended in the survey results; and
- 3) Purchase a mass communications e-boards system.

Activity Description:

Activity 1 – Strengthening Airway Sciences- Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades

The Department of Transportation Studies' undergraduate (Airway Science) and graduate (Transportation Planning and Management) programs are in critical need of upgrading and maintaining their instructional laboratories and increasing graduation and retention rates. The two Airway Science tracks (Airway Science Management and Airway Computer Science) are accredited by National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) and also have Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognition. It is crucial to maintain this very important status to attract new students and retain any graduate students currently enrolled. This proposal will maintain the instructional laboratories, upgrade the Air Traffic Control Lab with the state-of-the-art hardware and software, and provide graduate and undergraduate student assistantship.

Activity 2 – Strengthening College of Pharmacy- Classroom Improvements

The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) proposes to upgrade classrooms in the 56-year-old Gray Hall (Pharmacy Building) to accommodate state-of-the-art teaching space and meet modern educational standards. Gray Hall was last expanded and renovated in 1983 with some enhancements to the original structure in 2003. The COPHS would like to improve classrooms and instructional delivery by installing state-of-the-art smart podiums in the lecture hall, replacing worn carpet, replacing damaged blinds and replacing all of the floor tiles in classrooms and teaching laboratories. The COPHS also proposes to use CCRAA funds to remove a laboratory bench and sink in the lecture hall, repair the sound system and lighting in the lecture hall, and repair the heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) system in the 1952 and 1983 portions of Gray Hall to assure temperature and humidity control for classrooms located in these areas. The project as proposed will significantly enhance the teaching and learning environment in Gray Hall and provide the facilities support necessary to achieve the college's educational mission.

Activity 3 – Strengthening the Library- Equipment and Improvements

In an effort to keep our library current, we seek funds to enhance the Robert J. Terry Library at Texas Southern University. These funds will help us to digitize our Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland archives and keep current the state-of-the-art technology and purchase new furniture and equipment that will help our library program in the library excel.

Activity 4– Strengthening Communications – Classroom Improvements

The School of Communications seeks funding to further enhance our instructional technology. We want to continue to engage in computer-based learning. These enhancement funds will strengthen the infrastructure of our area. Through new technology we will be able to produce a communications program that will help to improve our graduation rates and will help us to prepare our students for the world of work.

Activity 5- Enhancing the College of Education

The College of Education seeks funding to enhance our instructional technology, equip our classrooms and labs with replacement equipment and accelerated software that will assist in the development of the students. These enhancement funds will strengthen the infrastructure and allow us to embark upon computer-based learning while producing great persons in the field of education.

Activity 6 – Strengthening Distance Education- Equipment Upgrades

The distance education initiative made it possible to accommodate the growing needs of professionals to enhance the knowledge and skills needed in their expanded roles in a competitive global economy. In support of the distance education initiative, equipment and software are required to enhance and strengthen an operational WiFi Network Management and smart classrooms.

Activity Description:

The activities presented herein reflect and emanate from the college's Comprehensive Development Plan and its 2005-2010 Strategic Institutional Development Plan. They are also consonant with the focused priorities established by the U.S. Department of Education and are consistent with allowable activities authorized under the CCRAA.

Activity 1- Improving Academic Facilities: Living-Learning Facilities Improvements

This activity will allow Wiley College to better manage its increasing enrollments, strengthen its residence life programs and contain costs by eliminating subcontracts to external entities to house Wiley students. Planned for the next two years are the modernization and refurbishing of four living-learning centers and to make needed information technology upgrades, modifications and plumbing, heating and other essential repairs. By the end of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) two-year funding period, the college will have established fully, functional living-learning centers within each of its residence centers, and will have increased its capacity to maintain an enrollment above 900 without incurring excessive additional costs.

Activity 2- Ensuring Continuous Accreditation: Improving Administrative Management Capabilities

A major support for ensuring the College's reaffirmation of institutional accreditation in 2013 is a sustained program of leadership and staff development (to parallel the faculty development initiative under the college's Title III, Part B Program). In order for administrators to ensure compliance with the accrediting agency's "institutional effectiveness" criterion and its emerging "e-accreditation requirements," they must stay abreast of accreditation and other regulatory requirements, become proficient in utilizing the college's administrative information system to strengthen the college's control environment, and become facile in developing virtual information databases and utilizing online assessment systems. A leadership forum, campus-based seminars and workshops, robust technology upgrades and other professional development opportunities needed to strengthen the institutional management infrastructure will be made available through this activity.

Activity 3: Enhancing Student Learning: Establishing a Formal Learning Community Program in Forensics

We are also planning the establishment of a formal learning community program in forensics beginning in the first year (CCRAA) with the formation of a debate team. This new co-curricular initiative will involve students in coursework in communications and engage them in a variety of active learning experiences through debating at the state, regional and national levels. With CCRAA support, the college expects that this new co-curricular learning community initiative will familiarize students with a broader range of career opportunities, as well as support increased retention rates.

VIRGINIA

Hampton State University- P031B085043-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- The Harvey Library: The William R. & Norma B. Harvey Library is responsible for providing the Hampton University community with resources that support the academic process of teaching, learning, and research. In order to accomplish this goal, the library must continually acquire new books and subscribe to electronic databases that are essential to the academic process, and also continue to support the library's network management system.

Activity 2- Communicative Sciences and Disorders

The Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders is seeking to continue to enhance Hampton University in terms of its overall recognition as a training institution in the profession of speech, language and hearing. The department is currently working and planning for the Spring 2010 accreditation visit. College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funding would provide the support necessary to fulfill the accreditation requirements.

Activity 3- Department of Architecture

The Department of Architecture serves those who desire preparation to engage in a critical practice of architecture by facilitating environmental and urban design elective courses to the general student body and architecture research opportunities to the faculty community. The Department is currently working and planning for the Spring 2009 accreditation visit. CCRAA funding would provide the support necessary to fulfill the accreditation requirements.

Activity 4- Hampton University Skin of Color Research Institute (HUSCRI)

Hampton University has made great strides in developing a campus-wide infrastructure that can provide state-of-the-art research and applied skin care treatment for students and faculty. The HUSCRI will create a research-based center of excellence dedicated to understanding the unique properties of skin of color, to elucidating the process of coetaneous diseases in skin of color and to develop new tools, technologies and techniques to advance the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions affecting people of color. This will greatly broaden Hampton University student's exposure to new applications and technology in medical research and instrument market place.

Activity 5- Hampton University Center for Public Policy:

Hampton University's Center for Public Policy is rooted in the tenets of the United States Constitution. There will be a course taught on Constitutional Law. An essential ingredient in the Center must be an abiding faith in freedom and free people. With a deep rooting in the Constitution of the United States and an emphasis on freedom of expression and factual

knowledge, the Center for Public Policy will invite some of America's thought leaders to lecture and conduct conferences on best practices in their professions.

Activity 6- Financial Literacy

Consistent with the university's longstanding tradition of "an education for life," the Financial Literacy seminars will be presented in order to help students become equipped with the essential tools to succeed in America by managing their financial lives so that they can become and remain self-sufficient and enjoy financial well-being over their lifetime. Students will come to understand that only by creating savings, accumulating appreciating assets, and understanding and establishing credit can individuals achieve the ultimate goal of securing assets such as a business, a home, real estate, or education.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Establishing an Honors College: Improving Retention by Strengthening Academics

The purpose of the newly constituted Norfolk State University (NSU) Honors College, in support of the university's overall mission, will be to raise the level of academic standards and expectations at the university; to provide an enriched and challenging program of study for students who manifest exceptional academic potential and are willing to commit to a rigorous academic curriculum; to improve the university's ability to attract, matriculate and graduate such scholars; and to enrich the entire university community by sponsoring and co-sponsoring worthwhile academic and co-curricular events. The primary goal of the two-year CCRAA grant will be to upgrade the currently existing honors programs at NSU (chiefly the NSU Honors Program and DNIMAS –the Dozoretz Institute for Math and Applied Sciences) and establish a new Honors College of the highest caliber, offering a complete program of honors general education for qualified students of all majors plus selected advanced honors courses and seminars. The grant will also support the planning for, and renovation of, an existing building(s) to fund an Honors Residential College (Honors East and Honors West). The Honors College, including its residential component, can expect to improve retention and graduation rates for honors students, and to serve as a major recruiting tool for the university in its quest to attract good students and increase enrollment.

Activity 2- Satellite Academic Support Services: Developing a One-stop Student Service Center

This activity purposes to establish a satellite academic support and advising office in Harrison B. Wilson Hall in order to provide one-stop services for students. The activity also plans to enhance and extend advising and academic support services to the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center and other off-campus locations. Additionally, an online academic support resource center will be developed and launched. The satellite office and online resource center will:

- 1) Offer support and advice to students who would ordinarily not come to campus (e.g., online students, distance education students, commuter students, and Nontraditional students);
- 2) Utilize technology to extend services beyond the campus;
- 3) Reduce the run around incoming and continuing students experience and make the processes of receiving academic support more convenient and seamless for students; and
- 4) Strengthen the partnerships and collaborations between academic affairs, enrollment management, and student affairs. The activities of the satellite office, one-stop center, will facilitate university efforts to improve student persistence to achieve educational goals and increase retention and graduation rates.

St. Paul's College- P031085010-08

Activity Description:

Saint Paul's College, located in Lawrenceville, Virginia, in rural America works to meet the broad range of needs of people seeking admission. The college provides leadership in an expanding social and technological society. The college has become strong in its academic programs, its program for adult degree completion, its Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) program, and its Single Parent Support System. The college has weaknesses in its academic program with respect to technology and its fiscal stability. Its lack of technology and its cumulative deficit are analyzed as significant problems. Saint Paul's College proposes to conduct a Historically Black Colleges and Universities- College Cost Reduction and Access Act (HBCU-CCRAA) program involving two activities vital to its stability as a provider of quality higher education:

- 1) Maintenance and renovation to improve educational facilities; and
- 2) Mathematics, Science and Reading Tutorial Program projects are all developmental in nature.

Funding is requested in year one for fiscal year 2008-09 in the HBCU-CCRAA Program.

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Academic Growth and Enhancement

Virginia State University's 20/20 Vision Plan was developed and approved to outline the strategic goals and objectives for the university through the year 2020. The plan calls for continued enrollment growth and expansion of academic offerings with an anticipated total enrollment of 10,000 students by the year 2020. This growth is being felt as the university welcomed in August 2008, the largest freshman class in its 126-year history. CCRAA assistance is needed to support the maintenance of academic quality as the growth and expansion takes shape.

Activity 2- Enhancing Campus Security

The chief purpose of this activity is to obtain an objective and independent assurance that Virginia State University's information technology security program meets the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Resource Management SEC 500-02, Information Technology (IT) Security Policy, and Security Standard SEC 501-01, through augmentation of IT audit professionals under the general direction of the Audit Executive and direct supervision by the IT Audit Manager.

Activity 3- Renovation of Police Department Facility

The demand for more effective and efficient security and law enforcement on campus around the country has intensified at Virginia State University because of tragedies that have occurred. In the demands for more effective security and law enforcement on the campus of Virginia State University, the Department of Police and Public Safety needs to renovate the Old Central Storage Warehouse to make it suitable for use. Currently, the Department of Public Safety and Security cannot house all of its officers in the facility they currently occupy.

Activity 4- Enhancement of Financial Aid Office

The Financial Aid Office is in need of a position that is critical to the client base of the department. This individual is needed to collect data, resolve complaints, make referrals, etc. In addition, this individual will assist customers, work with special projects and collaborate with other departments to resolve problems with students. Funding is requested to support this position because it is critical to the operation of the Financial Aid Office. The State of Virginia is undergoing a budget shortfall; therefore the CCRAA funding is particularly necessary.

5. Accreditation for Accountability and Institutional Effectiveness

The Virginia State University (VSU) Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) seeks to create an academic enterprise in which accountability and institutional effectiveness are hallmarks. VSU seeks to aggressively exceed the standards of its regional accreditation agency for all academic programs, by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Activity Description:

The Virginia Union University Fiscal Year 2008-2009 College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) funding is designed to strengthen the capacity of the university to fully implement its internally defined Strategic Long-Range Plan, including select priorities, goals, and objectives. As such, the two activities chosen for inclusion in the CCRAA application are fundamental to the mission of the university. Those activities are: 1) Instructional and Administrative Technology; and 2) Improving Physical Plant Development.

The Instructional and Administrative Technology activity addresses a priority of maintaining an up-to-date, comprehensive, readily responsive and appropriately staffed campus-wide technological infrastructure to support academic, administrative, and operational functions. The activity will address this priority by: 1) providing critical resources to staff; 2) upgrade, strengthen, and expand the institution's technological infrastructure; 3) enhance teaching, learning, research and community outreach with state-of the-art instructional and library technology; and 4) enhance user capabilities.

The Improving Physical Plant Development activity is designed to address the deferred maintenance, renovation and construction needs of the university's academic facilities. Funds will be used to focus on the repair/upgrade of the interior conditions in the university's Belgian Building to correct deficiencies and restore the building to useable, safe, and efficient conditions for academic use.

Activity Description:

Virginia University of Lynchburg has outlined a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) project that will build on the strengths of the institution and help the university overcome its weaknesses. Virginia University of Lynchburg's roots reach deeply into the history of higher education. Founded in May 1886, by African-American Leaders, just twenty-one years out of slavery, the university is the oldest school of higher learning in Lynchburg, Virginia. The university has a long and widely acknowledged history of accepting students regardless of their financial resources and those who would not likely be able to obtain an education otherwise. Over the past 122 years, Virginia University of Lynchburg has renewed itself periodically as it has adapted to the changing nature of higher education and the changing demands of society. For Virginia University of Lynchburg to ensure its stature as a genuine and outstanding university of the 21st century, the university must establish and project a clear institutional identity, and it must strategically deploy its considerable yet limited resources to achieve excellence in every academic program it chooses to offer. The institution must bring those academic programs that do not yet meet its high standards up to acceptable levels of excellence or reconsider their role or existence.

Virginia University of Lynchburg has designed four activities entitled: 1) Strengthening the University Infrastructure; 2) Improving Academic Programs; 3) Information Technology; and 4) Project Administration. The tasks necessary to accomplish the major goals have been identified and will annually measure our progress and evaluate our strategies. The objectives and supporting activities represent important contributions to the well-being of the educational institution. The objectives guarantee that this institution will continue to fulfill its obligation as a private institution to address the needs of the state and the students that it serves. Through these efforts, the university will move closer to achieving its aspiration to be considered one of the elite private universities in Virginia.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

University of the Virgin Islands- P031B085063-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1- Communications Lab Improvement: Enhancing Instruction and Learning

This activity will build upon recent improvements to the communications laboratories on both campuses of the institution by incorporating technology to improve the delivery of instruction in a growing area of study at the University of the Virgin Islands. The addition of a document camera, instructor's computer, electronic storage device, and large-screen display will allow the course instructors to simultaneously share both on-screen and paper documents with students on both campuses, while using the added screen to maintain visual contact with the distant classroom. It is anticipated that the incorporation of the technological improvements will result in increased use of the lab for instructional purposes, and that there will be added growth in the communications major.

Activity 2 - Programmatic Infrastructure Development and Support for Psychology

This activity will enhance the capabilities of University of the Virgin Islands' Psychology students understanding of the content, methodology, techniques, analysis and reporting of data obtained in biopsychology laboratory research and improve their proficiency in learning to write biopsychological laboratory reports in the style of the discipline. This will be achieved through the purchase and use of six Biopac software units for use in the Biopsychology laboratory, a component of the Biopsychology course at the institution.

Activity 3 - Biology Infrastructure and Instructional Improvements

The University of the Virgin Islands requests funding from the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant in order to fund the improvement of biology labs on its St. Thomas campus. This project will purchase equipment not currently available at the institution, thus allowing students to develop areas of expertise in a manner not currently available to them, and expand options for faculty-guided research currently available to students.

Activity 4- Library Space Program—St. Croix Campus

Over a two-year period, this project will utilize CCRAA funds to design and implement renovations of the St. Croix Campus Library in order to:

- 1) Promote student learning by establishing collaborative areas within the library to combine technology and library learning tools;
- 2) Increase the number and variety of user seating to accommodate an increased number of students using the library and reduce noise and congestion;

- 3) Create enough space to provide an Information and Technology Services (ITS) Service desk and develop a single point of contact for all library and technology needs without disrupting library operations; and
- 4) Expand the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning on St. Croix to accommodate more faculty

Activity 5- Library Space Program—St. Thomas Campus

Over the two-year funding cycle of the CCRAA grant, we will improve the allocation of space in the Paiewonsky Library on the St. Thomas campus by increasing the seating capacity throughout the facility and expanding the number of computers available to students and faculty, while also expanding and outfitting a dedicated training room and conference space called the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Activity 6- Pursuing Progressive Student-Learning Goals Through Physical Science Laboratory Upgrades

This activity will upgrade the laboratory facilities used for several introductory and “gatekeeper” science courses at the University of the Virgin Islands. Using CCRAA funds, this project will enhance the physical environment of the labs and will provide much-needed supplies to enhance the instructional effectiveness of the instructors teaching the lab courses. The institution anticipates reduced failure rates in its introductory science courses as a result of implementation of this project.

Activity 7 - Creation of an Undergraduate Mentoring and Research Center

This activity will combine with several other initiatives at the University of the Virgin Islands to culminate in American Chemical Society accreditation of the institution’s baccalaureate chemistry major. It will convert an existing lab into a chemistry-focused lab for research and mentoring, and will make available state-of-the art equipment that will enhance the skills of faculty and students while ensuring that chemistry students possess the skills that are considered standard in the industry.

Activity 8- Project Administration

Over the two-year life of the CCRAA grant award, the University of the Virgin Islands will perform its project administration function. The Project Administration office will ensure:

- 1) Preparation of a formative evaluation of the program during its first year;
- 2) Completion of a summative evaluation in the final year of the project; and
- 3) Updating of the university’s Title III Web site to ensure that it provides information to the public regarding the impact that the CCRAA funding is having at the institution.

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield State College- P031B085022-08

Activity Description:

Activity 1

Activity I primarily relates to legislatively allowable activity nine as specified in 34 CFR 608.10, which provides for “establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector.” This activity is designed to maintain an Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning (Development) to build the college’s infrastructure and financial stability through the acquisitions of non-cash contributions, cash contributions, other resources and the endowment. This activity includes functions such as fundraising, Alumni Affairs, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Sponsored Programs, Multicultural Affairs, and Fiscal Management. This activity also provides support for special projects, community relations, outreach services, small business development, grantsmanship, and volunteerism. It also includes internships for students to work to improve relationships within the college and the surrounding communities.

Activity 2

This activity primarily relates to legislatively allowable activity seven as specified in 34 CFR 608.10, which provides for “funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management.” This activity enables Bluefield State College (BSC) to maintain an Office of Project Administration to write the proposal and budget, plan for, coordinate, and monitor the process and product of the other activities and facilitate achievement of all project goals. The project administrator consults and plans closely with the President and maintains ongoing communication with the federal agency officials. The administrator and aide ensure the timely preparation and submission of required information and other documentation. The president and administrator actively participate in annual Title III workshops and other supporting conferences that occur. Through this activity, BSC addresses fiscal stability and financial management issues. Activity Two focuses on upgrading facilities, capital improvement planning, and efficiency planning (e.g. energy assessments). Bluefield State College will install new internal digital signage within buildings on campus. The activity includes pilot testing a staff position to manage and supervise off campus sites of BSC.

Activity 3

Activity Three primarily relates to legislatively allowable activity two as specified in 34 CFR 608.10, which provides for “construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.” Activity Three is designed to enhance institution-wide computer literacy and technology upgrades by providing computers, other equipment, networking, distance learning technology, support personnel, and training opportunities. This activity encompasses academic computer services, administrative computer

services, online courses, the Interactive Video Network and computer laboratories. Through this activity, the grant supports the general functions of the Instructional Technology Center and the Computer Center. Activity Three primarily focuses on purchasing contemporary computer equipment.

Activity 4

Activity Four primarily relates to legislatively allowable activity three as specified in 34 CFR 608.10, which provides for “support for faculty exchanges, faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist these faculty members in attaining advanced degrees in their fields of instruction.” Activity Four facilitates Curriculum, Faculty/Staff Development in all divisions, departments and offices. This activity advances teaching and learning throughout various disciplines in the School of Business, the School of Engineering Technology and Computer Science, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Nursing and Allied Health, and the Virtual College. This activity engages faculty, staff, administrators, and students in professional development opportunities such as courses, workshops, conferences, and seminars in addition to supporting guest lecturers, speakers, and consultants. Components of Activity Four include the Emerging Leaders Institute and the Honor’s College. This activity will also allow the College to actively engage in the long-overdue recruitment of African-American, specifically Black, faculty and staff.

Activity 5

Activity Five primarily relates to legislatively allowable activity six as specified in 34 CFR 608.10, which provides for “tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success.” Activity Five is designed to initiate, implement, and maintain tasks related to Enrollment Management and Multicultural Affairs. Activity Five embraces multicultural outreach counseling, and academic advising for student athletes. Bluefield State College will subscribe to SmartThinking software to enhance tutoring services. Activity Five will allow the college to actively engage in the long-overdue recruitment of African-American, specifically Black, students.

Activity Description:

Comprehensive Development Plan for the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA)

The West Virginia State University administrative areas of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Planning and Advancement, Finance, and Administrative Services have activities to promote academic development, fiscal stability, institutional management, and student services. These activities are understood best within the context of each administrative area. The staff and faculty of each respective area developed these sections. Therefore, each section is unique in context, and presents a plan that is best suited to develop West Virginia State University through each area. This approach to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) allows the Comprehensive Development Plan (CPD) of the CCRAA to be a utilitarian document that truly guides the university's diverse entities toward the activities' goals.

West Virginia State University (WVSU) will benefit greatly from the CCRAA. This U.S. Department of Education program will impact our students' progress towards graduation. The additional support for academic programs, supplies, and equipment will make a positive difference in their lives. This CDP will reflect some of the additions planned over the next two years. Predicted declining state support will force an increase in student fees to maintain a balanced budget for the institution. Without this additional support, West Virginia State University would not be able to make the advances needed to strengthen many academic initiatives. The Academic Affairs administrative area has projects and activities that make the difference in students being able to attain their educational goals. Without CCRAA assistance this year it might not have been possible to support many academic goals to support first generation college students in their quest to make their lives and this nation better. It is with this overview that we seek approval of this CDP for the CCRAA.

West Virginia State University has maintained strong planning processes since 1987. Among the several planning documents are the University Strategic Plan (external), Institutional Academic Plan, Administrative Strategic Plan (internal), Administrative Management Plan, and Budget Plan. The University has set goals through these plans, which fulfill the institutional mission. Focus groups, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community leaders comprise those who develop strategies, objectives, and goals. The CDP of the CCRAA is guided by information from all of these plans. They have provided direction for the future use of CCRAA funds.

Overview of Two-Year Plan - the current two-year plan for West Virginia State University includes the following goals:

- 1) Strengthen existing academic programs;
- 2) Provide increased technological capabilities in support of academic programs and services;
- 3) Increase the development and support of creative and expansive methods of instruction;
- 4) Provide additional resources for campus offices and service areas, which support the delivery of academic programs; and

5) Develop appropriate budgeting priorities and plans to support academic programs and the activities of Academic Affairs;

These goals serve as the guide from which CCRAA projects and activities are derived. Only those that fall within the grant are used. The direction is set by the Institutional Academic Plan and the University Strategic Plan