Grant Opportunities
February 2016

In an effort to better inform faculty and staff about grant opportunities, this report will be updated monthly providing a high-level glimpse at funding possibilities for which projects could be developed that are consistent with BCTC's strategic plan and annual priorities.

Federal Grants

Title: Educational Opportunity Centers
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Education
Due Date: April 4, 2016
Maximum Funding Amount and Duration: $236K/year over 5 years for new applicants.
Special Notes: The Department of Education expects to make about 151 awards and only 126 programs are currently funded (meaning some new applicants will be funded). BCTC will likely pursue this opportunity.
Description: The U.S. Department of Education (ED) Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) program seeks to increase the number of adults (defined as at least 19 years old) enrolling into postsecondary institutions. Briefly stated, EOC programs:
- Provide information about financial and academic assistance for adults who want to enter or continue postsecondary education;
- Provide assistance in applying for admission to postsecondary institutions, including preparing necessary applications for use by admissions and financial aid officers; and
- Assist in improving the financial literacy of program participants.

Title: NIST Standards Services Curricula Development Program
Sponsor: U.S. Department of Commerce
Due Date: April 5, 2016
Maximum Funding Amount and Duration: $25K - $75K over 18 months.
Special Notes: NIST = National Institute of Standards and Technology
Description: NIST Standards Services Curricula Development program supports curriculum development to integrate standards and standardization information and content into seminars, learning resources, and courses. Funding can be used:
- To design, test, and evaluate specific innovations in teaching methods, curricula, course content and materials, courses or course modules, class assignments, and/or student projects;
- To help cover the cost of students who assist instructors in revising a course or course module, travel and related expenses for guest lecturers, or other costs entailed with the integration of standards and standardization into the academic studies program; and
- For standards curriculum activities in any area that supports science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) or related disciplines such as law, public policy, and business; multi-disciplinary approaches will be considered.

Title: Environmental Education Local Grants
Sponsor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Due Date: April 8, 2016
Maximum Funding Amount and Duration: $91K over 1-2 years.
Special Notes: There is a required match of 25% of the total project budget and grantees are required to award exactly 25% of grant funds to eligible sub-recipients. This program is extremely competitive.

Description: The Environmental Education Local Grants program supports locally-focused projects that increase public knowledge about environmental issues and develop skills to take responsible actions towards the environment. Proposals must address at least one of the following priorities:

1. Environmental Education Capacity Building: Building the capacity of agencies and organizations to develop, deliver, and sustain comprehensive environmental education programs statewide.
2. Educational Advancement: Utilizing environmental education as a catalyst to advance state or local educational goals and to improve environmental literacy among students in formal education programs.
3. Community Projects: Addressing environmental stewardship in a local formal or non-formal educational context, and using outdoor, place-based, experiential, service learning and/or community-focused stewardship activities as the primary teaching tool(s).
4. Human Health and the Environment: Educating students of any age group and/or training their educators or community leaders on how to teach about human health threats from environmental pollution and how to minimize human exposure to preserve good health.
5. Environmental Education Teaching Skills: Providing pre-service and in-service professional development for teachers, faculty, or non-formal educators to improve their environmental education teaching skills and/or knowledge about environmental issues and content.
6. Career Development: Educating students of any age group and/or training their educators or community leaders on how to teach, in formal and non-formal settings, about environmental issues, solutions, and stewardship for the purpose of encouraging interest in careers in environmental fields.

Proposals must also address at least one of the following:

1. Climate Change and Improving Air Quality;
2. Taking Action on Toxins and Chemical Safety;
3. Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country;
4. Protecting Water; or
5. Launching a New Era of State, Tribal, and Local Partnerships.

Funding may not be used for technical training of environmental management professionals, informational or outreach projects that lack an education component, advocacy promoting a point of view, lobbying/political activities, non-educational research, and construction projects.

Title: [Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM)](#)
Sponsor: National Science Foundation
Due Date: May 16, 2016
Maximum Funding Amount and Duration: $650K over 5 years to $5M over 5 years depending on the funding category for which one is applying.
Special Notes: Available again in April of 2017. BCTC will likely pursue this opportunity.
Description: The S-STEM program particularly encourages proposals from 2-year institutions and supports:

• Scholarships for academically talented, financially needy, full-time STEM students; and
• The implementation and testing of activities that support recruitment, retention, transfer, student success, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM.

Example activities include:

• Recruitment of students to higher education programs and careers in the S-STEM disciplines;
• Curricular activities such as the inclusion of active learning in gateway courses;
• Support and mentoring of students by peers and other professionals;
• Academic support services such as tutoring, study-groups, or supplemental instruction programs;

- Industry experiences, internship opportunities, and research opportunities;
- Community building and support among S-STEM scholars within the institution;
- Participation in local or regional professional, industrial, or scientific meetings and conferences; and
- Career counseling and job placement services for S-STEM scholars.

Non-Federal Grants

Title: Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes*
Sponsor: The Bernard Osher Foundation
Due Date: N/A
Maximum Funding Amount and Duration: $25K to $50K is typical, but some awards exceed $1M.
Special Notes: The Foundation's lifelong learning program is not currently receiving proposals. However, interested grant seekers can submit a 2-3 page letter informing the Foundation about their program. These letters will be reviewed in the future if/when the Foundation decides to expand the number of grantees it supports.
Description: The Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes grant targets mature students not well served by standard education curricula. Unlike traditional courses geared toward providing credits for degrees and developing specific job skills, courses under this program are often provided for the "joy of learning – without examinations or grades." Common features of funded projects include:
- Non-credit educational programs specifically designed for seasoned adults age 50 and older;
- Strong support from university or college leadership;
- A diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating courses;
- Robust volunteer leadership;
- Established mechanisms for evaluating satisfaction with educational offerings; and
- Sound organizational structure.

*This funding possibility was recommended by faculty/staff.

If you have questions or would like more information about a grant opportunity, contact Alan Lawson at 859-246-6626 or alan.lawson@kctcs.edu.