

Texas College grant to boost students with science and math programs

TYLER- Texas College recently landed a \$578,988 federal grant for use in enhancing science, technology, engineering and mathematics education among all Texas College students, while seeking to increase interest in those subjects and taking into account learning styles of minority students. "We are real excited to receive a grant this large (in) an area that we wanted to move into with our curriculum," said Dr. Billy Hawkins, president. The Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Education will enable the traditionally liberal arts degree-granting institution to begin to branch off into concentrating on working with students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

TC's being awarded the grant and the size of the grant "says something in itself ... that we are doing good things here at Texas College," Hawkins said. "It was submitted and we waited patiently. It was a pleasant surprise when we got the notification about the grant," he said.

The grant is aimed at bringing about long-range improvement in STEM education at predominantly minority institutions and increasing the flow of underrepresented ethnic minorities, particularly minority women, into science and technological careers. "This grant is

going to allow us to create courses and to begin to look at new degree options that we can move into with our present curriculum," Hawkins said, expressing interest on behalf of Texas College in pre-engineering. "This allows us to hopefully start the process to develop a partnership with The University of Texas at Tyler and to create interest in our students to explore the whole STEM area, in redesigning courses and implementing new courses, Texas College will take into account learning styles of minority students," said Dr. T.V. Meeks, interim vice president of institutional advancement.

"Often minority students are not encouraged by high school counselors to take college-prep higher level math courses, science and technology. A lot of our students have to enroll in developmental classes not because they are dumb, but because they just have not been exposed to those types of courses in high school," Meeks added. The grant covers a three-year period, beginning October 1 and providing necessary funds to assist the college in the process of being creative and innovative in adding new courses.

Texas College also received a \$600,000 grant from the United Negro College Fund. It will use that grant to enhance all aspects of its enrollment capabilities - recruitment, admissions, financial aid, serving students. ★

Profile: St. Philip's College

SAN ANTONIO-- St. Philip's College is among the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the nation. A Historically Black College and Hispanic Serving Institution with a semester enrollment of over 10,000 credit students and 5,000+ continuing education students, St. Philip's College is meeting the educational needs of San Antonio's growing and diverse community. It is a multi-campus institution of the Alamo Community Colleges.

St. Philip's College- MLK Campus is located at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive and the SWC Campus is located at 800 Quintana Road.

St. Philip's College was found-

ed in 1898 by Bishop James Steptoe Johnston of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of the West Texas Diocese. The school, which opened on March 1, 1898, began as a sewing class for girls with fewer than 20 students in a house located in the area known today as the historic La Villita area in downtown San Antonio. Artemisia Bowden, a teacher and daughter of a former slave, later assumed leadership of the school. Under her direction over the next 52 years, it underwent monumental transformation, evolving from parochial day school to industrial school to a fully accredited two-year college offering a diverse curriculum. ★

Texas Black Colleges and Universities Directory

Huston-Tillotson University
900 Chicon Street
Austin, 78702-2795
(512)505-3000
www.htu.edu

Jarvis Christian College
P.O. Box 1470
Hawkins, 75765
(903)769-5700
www.jarvis.edu

Paul Quinn College
3837 Simpson Stuart Road
Dallas, 75241
(214)376-1000
www.pqc.edu

Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 188
Prairie View, 77446
(936)261-1000
www.pvamu.edu

Southwestern Christian College
P.O. Box 10
Terrell, 75160
(214)524-3341
www.swcc.edu

St. Philip's College
1801 Martin Luther King Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78203-2098
(210) 531-3200

Texas College
2404 N. Grand Avenue
Tyler, 75702
(903)593-8311
www.texascollege.edu

Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Avenue
Houston, 77004
(713)527-7011
www.tsu.edu

Wiley College
711 Wiley Avenue
Marshall, 75670
(903)927-3300
www.wileyc.edu

Huston-Tillotson offers bank teller training

AUSTIN— Huston-Tillotson University offers a four-week Bank Teller Training Program, beginning October 1, through October 26, 2007. The classes will be held Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Wachovia Business Resources and Training Center, located on the campus at 900 Chicon Street.

Graduates will receive training, qualifying them for part-time and full-time bank teller positions at community banks, credit unions, and small retail banks. "I believe

this program will open many job opportunities for individuals interested in the banking industry in the metro Austin area," said Dr. Steven Edmond, Dean of HT's School of Business and Technology. "This program will be a boon to the unemployed and the underemployed in our area since the beginning salary for bank tellers is from \$10.00 - \$12.00 per hour," Edmond continued.

In addition to learning banking and customer service skills, participants will also be trained in ré-

sumé preparation and interviewing techniques. Upon successful completion of the Bank Teller Training Program, participants will receive career placement assistance for teller position vacancies at area banks.

According to Edmond, WorkSource has approved the Bank Teller Training Program for inclusion on its "Target Occupations List." Those interested should contact WorkSource to determine if they are eligible for the \$200 tuition waiver. For more information, call (512) 505-3200. ★

Grambling hosts Leadership Institute

GRAMBLING-- Grambling State University's student club and organization leaders kicked-off the 2007-08 academic session by holding its first Leadership Institute for Clubs and Organizations themed "Leadership and Scholarship: A Winning Combination." Club and Organization officers are gathered together for three days filled with workshops, a luncheon and picnic. President Horace A. Judson opened the three day event by speaking on "Worldwide Leadership - Competing for Leadership Worldwide." He noted that in order to be a

good leader you must possess the five C's: Commitment, Competent, Courage, Character, and Compassion. Former GSU graduates and guest were invited to speak and share their experience about what makes a good leader. Dr. Robert Dixon, GSU Provost addressed the students at the luncheon in the Black and Gold room and spoke on the role that his mentor Benjamin E. Mays played in the development of his leadership style. Provost Dixon also highlighted the fact that leadership entailed sacrifices.

Mrs. Charlotte Favors, Director,

Office of Student Clubs and Organizations was pleased about the turnout for their first leadership institute. "We wanted to start this year with a conference designed to provide our student leaders with information on how to become more effective leaders. This information will enhance the total quality of student life at GSU, says Mrs. Favors. Special thanks was also extended to all who participated in the institute namely, the consultants who came from the university community and from alumni working in corporate America. ★

Mom and two daughters receive degrees from Prairie View A&M University

PRAIRIE VIEW- During commencement exercises at Prairie View A&M University earlier last month, Joan Woodson Mathews, Brandi Moreland and Vaneia Williams — were asked to take a place in the rear of the line.

These three women were mentioned in the commencement address, drawing praise for their specific accomplishments and the special circumstances surrounding their feat. Their story drew a standing ovation from those in attendance. There were smiles all around as Vaneia Williams, Brandi Moreland, joined their mom, Joan Woodson Mathews, in receiving their master's degree in education from Prairie View A&M University. Together, they achieved something that would rarely be accomplished. Only fitting for this mother and her two children. Joan Woodson Mathews decided to return to college while her daughters, Brandi and Vaneia, were still in elementary school. She was already employed full time and taking classes. For Joan, this meant night school at Angelina College. She signed up for some of the Community Service classes at Angelina College.

"With Mom, it was never 'if' you go to college. It was 'where you're going.' Eventually, the girls followed their mother's footsteps. They began taking classes at Angelina College. They all had the same English instructor, Lois Murphy. Then, they moved on to Stephen F. Austin State University. All three began their careers as educators. Joan became, and still is a fifth-grade teacher in the Beaumont Independent School District. Brandi teaches English at Lufkin High School. Vaneia is a pre-K teacher at Hackney Primary, also in Lufkin.

Joan is the one who suggested that all three of them obtain their master's degrees, together. "Mom was really the catalyst for everything that happened, as far as getting as far as we did," Brandi says. "It was her idea, and she pushed us to make it all happen." The lessons Joan taught her girls regarding making sacrifices came into play. The courses necessary to complete the master's program, requ-

ried them to leave Lufkin at 5 a.m. to be on time for 8 o'clock classes at Prairie View in Houston. Then there was the overall stress of juggling a working life with student life. "At times, it was just stressful," Joan says. "For so long, it was like the rest of our lives were just on

the mother/sibling situation." It was always, "Brandi, get your kids out of my room," Brandi laughs. "I got that from Mom and Vaneia both. "My daughter Jaia loves flip-flops, so every morning we're getting ready for class, Vaneia's like, 'Did your daughter take my flip-flops again?'"



Vaneia Williams, Joan Woodson Mathews and Brandi Moreland receive their masters of education degree from Prairie View A&M University.

hold, as far as having any time for anything else. We all worked Monday through Friday, teaching. And teaching in TAKS-area subjects — that's stress enough in itself. "But we had each other. Whenever it was really stressful, or when one of us got down, we had the other two to pick us up and keep us moving. I think that was the biggest blessing we could have asked for." Then the ultimate test for a family's love came this summer when they had to finish their course load, all three women would have to live together for the final month of school. In a hotel on the campus, Joan, Vaneia and Brandi — with all three children in tow — lived together for the first time in years.

They were asked to describe the experience, and all three looked at each other and laugh. "It was an experience," was all that Brandi could say. Joan swears there was never any occasion to separate her two daughters, as she'd had to do when they were small. Instead, there was a new wrinkle to

Vaneia says there was a big plus to having them both around full-time. "One of the things I enjoyed was getting to bond with them again," she says. "And Mom's meals. I really missed her cooking."

Along the way, Joan realized something hadn't quite sunk her mind. Her daughters had become young women focused on making a difference in their communities. "One of the most impressive things I was able to see was sometimes during classes, when they would do presentations," Joan says. "Sometimes our professors allowed us to work together, but sometimes they split us into different groups. So I was able to sit back and watch my daughters speak about educational issues and other topics, and it would hit me, 'Wow, this is my daughter, and she's grown into such a young lady concerned about her community.' "It was hard at times to hide my own sense of pride in my children, that they'd become such dedicated educators speaking from an intellectual standpoint." ★

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