

# PATHFINDERS MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review  
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## Ms. Sandy Cole and CCCE Implement Educational Talent Search Program

Despite the increasing emphasis on higher education, high school graduation rates across the nation dropped during the last decade of the twentieth century. This drop was especially steep in southern states, where a high percentage of the population is economically disadvantaged. To address this trend, the U.S. Department of Education administers the Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program, which was designed to increase the number of youths from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in postsecondary education.

This year Ms. Sandy Cole, Director of the Center for Community Career Education (CCCE), has secured \$219,999 from the U.S. Department of Education to implement an Educational Talent Search program in Hamilton County schools. The ETS program is highly competitive and extremely demanding. The

program only funds new projects every fourth year, and the competition is heavily weighted towards existing projects; less than one third of ETS grant awards are made to new projects. This grant award thus marks a noteworthy accomplishment for the CCCE and will provide substantial resources to enhance academic achievement in Hamilton County.

Ms. Cole and CCCE staff designed the Educational Talent Search program, which will be operated under the leadership of Ms. Karen Vann, to improve high-school graduation and post-secondary enrollment rates among low-income, potential first-generation college students in Hamilton County. Through the Talent Search program, Ms. Vann and the ETS staff will work with eleven community partners to offer academic and career counseling, college exposure, and financial aid awareness services to 600

students in Orchard Knob, East Lake, and Chattanooga Middle Schools as well as Brainerd High School and Howard School of Academics and Technology.

Ms. Vann and the two ETS education specialists, Tara Mathis and Cairon Castleberry, will assist participating students in developing academic and career goals, developing individual plans for achieving those goals, and securing academic placements that will prepare them for postsecondary programs. The ETS staff will also ensure that these students and their parents are aware of the requirements for college admission and technical training and help them develop a strategic plan for college admissions that includes guidance on high school coursework and other steps needed years before high school graduation.

In addition to serving students at local middle and high schools, Ms. Vann, Ms.

Castleberry, and Ms. Mathis will work with the Educational Opportunity Center to identify community members who have not completed secondary or postsecondary programs and to

encourage them to re-enter those programs.

The efforts of Ms. Cole and the ETS staff in developing and implementing the Hamilton County Educational Talent Search program will ensure that

at-risk students have the resources and support they need to succeed in high school and college. Their efforts exemplify UTC's commitment to improving the outlook for preK-16 education in Tennessee.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW PANEL SERVICE 2006-2007

The Office and Grants and Program Review would like to extend our thanks to all of the UTC faculty members and administrators who have represented or are scheduled to represent UTC as proposal review panelists during the 2006-07 fiscal year. By serving as proposal review panelists, the following faculty members provide an important service to their disciplines, gain valuable knowledge about the review process and funding priorities, and bring recognition to UTC.

<b>DR. RONALD BAILEY</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. IGNATIUS FOMUNUNG</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. JOHN GRAEF</b>	Tennessee Higher Education Commission
<b>DR. STEPHEN HALPERIN</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. GREGORY HEATH</b>	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Institutes of Health
<b>DR. JOSEPH KIZZA</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. DEBORAH MCALLISTER</b>	U.S. Department of Education
<b>DR. JONATHAN MIES</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. JOE OWINO</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. DAVID PITTENGER</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>DR. MANUEL SANTIAGO</b>	National Science Foundation

If you have served as a proposal review panelist since July 1, 2006, and your name does not appear on this list, please notify the Office of Grants and Program Review.