

PATHFINDERS MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review
May 2006

Ms. Anne Gamble Directs Regional Early Childhood Education Initiative

Research studies have shown that learning begins long before children enroll in school and that parents play a vital role in preparing their children to enter school with a foundation of skills to support learning. During the first five years, children are learning the rules of relationships and how the world works, as well as developing the oral language and early literacy skills necessary for reading and writing. Parents and early childhood educators are the teachers of those vital lessons. Children whose parents offer nurturing and supportive environments that encourage exploration and those who attend high quality early childhood programs are more likely to succeed in school. To ensure that parents and early childhood educators in our area have the necessary resources to prepare their children for a lifetime of learning, the United Way of Greater Chattanooga has established Project Ready for School.

Since 2004, Ms. Anne Gamble of UTC's College of Health, Education and Professional Studies has served as Director of Project Ready for School. Ms. Gamble served as Director of the UTC Children's Center for twenty years, and she serves as Co-Director of Project REEL and Early SUCCESS. Ms. Gamble also serves on numerous community boards, including Hamilton County Reading Initiative and the United Way Community Impact Committee. Ms. Gamble's expertise in early childhood education and her outstanding record of community leadership make her an ideal leader for this important regional initiative.

Ms. Gamble and Project Ready for School personnel recognize that parents are their children's first teachers and most passionate advocates. To enrich parents' involvement in early childhood learning, Project Ready for School offers information and practical strategies that enable parents to enhance

their children's developmental skills and to monitor their progress during the critical early childhood period. Participating parents can also take advantage of annual learning checkups to assess their children's developing language, cognitive, and motor skills. These checkups and monitoring skills empower parents to quickly identify and take steps to prevent developmental delays or learning difficulties.

The partnership with parents is a critical element of Project Ready for School, but Ms. Gamble and project staff have also developed partnerships to enrich the learning environments in the homes of participating families. Through a partnership with Governor Bredesen's Books from Birth Foundation and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Project Ready for School provides each enrolled child with a free book every month from birth until the fifth birthday. Participating parents are encouraged to read the books

with their children and to visit the agency's website to learn about activities to accompany the books. These simple activities offer opportunities for children to broaden their vocabulary and develop early literacy skills such as linguistic awareness, print knowledge, and numerous other cognitive and social skills. More importantly, they provide opportunities for parents to spend time talking and playing with their children.

Forty-six community partners including child care

providers, home visit programs, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Center work with Project Ready for School to implement activities in three areas: Literacy and Education, Parental Engagement, and Community Awareness and Involvement. Under Ms. Gamble's exemplary leadership, Project Ready for School is continuing to make a difference in the lives of area preschool children and their parents. Since 2004, United Way of Greater

Chattanooga has raised over \$900,000 to support Project Ready for School, which now serves more than 10,000 children. Ms. Gamble's continued service to this high-profile regional initiative enhances United Way's capacity to succeed with Project Ready for School objectives and brings recognition to UTC's prominent role in early childhood education in the greater Chattanooga area.

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH MAY 1, 2006 –MAY 31, 2006

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DR. GREG GRANT

American Chemical Society

Summer Research Fellowship: Complexation Studies of Heavy Metal Ions by Crown Polythioethers and Related Macrocyclic Ligands

\$8,000

DR. NICK HONERKAMP

National Park Service

Fort Sumter National Monument Ferrous Metals Artifact Treatment Program Design Project

\$18,717

DR. RICHARD JACKSON

Chattanooga State Technical Community College

Support for Meacham Writers' Workshops

\$1,200

DRS. JOEY SHAW & J. HILL CRADDOCK

American Chestnut Foundation

A DNA Sequence-Based Inquiry into Putative Hybrid Populations

\$6,500

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

DRS. CECELIA WIGAL & ED MCMAHON

Tennessee Department of Education	Technology Designed to Benefit	\$35,000
-----------------------------------	--------------------------------	----------

SIM CENTER

General Dynamics	Extension of DARPA Drag Reduction Program	\$30,000
------------------	---	----------

SIM CENTER

Radiance Technologies, Inc.	Numerical Simulations for Electromagnetic Applications	\$250,000
-----------------------------	--	-----------

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MS. NANCY GEREN

NCCEP / SBC	Supplement #2 to the GEAR UP Partnerships in Bradley and Walker Counties	\$48,507
-------------	--	----------

MR. DAVID BAKER

Tennessee Department of Education	Tennessee Early Intervention System	\$220,793
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------

PROGRAM REVIEW

Engineering Graduate Program

The reviewer for the Engineering Graduate program praised the program's highly qualified faculty, noting that more than 95% are Registered Professional Engineers. The reviewer was also impressed with the Sim Center, applauding its emphasis on funded research and collaborative projects as well as its potential to attract new students to the program. The reviewer found that UTC's graduate program in engineering has a strong infrastructure, noting as an example that the new Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science Building has contributed significantly to the program's academic environment.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PANEL SERVICE 2005-2006

By serving as proposal review panelists, the following faculty members have provided an important service to their disciplines, gained valuable knowledge about the review process and funding priorities, and brought recognition to UTC.

DR. ANIEKAN EBIEFUNG	National Science Foundation
DR. RON GOULET	U. S. Department of Education
DR. GREG GRANT	National Science Foundation Research Corporation
DR. PAM GUESS	U. S. Department of Education
DR. STEPHEN HALPERIN	National Science Foundation
DR. JOSEPH KIZZA	National Science Foundation
DR. JONATHAN MIES	National Science Foundation
DR. JOSEPH OWINO	National Science Foundation
DR. SEAN RICHARDS	Environmental Protection Agency
DR. MANUEL SANTIAGO	National Science Foundation
DR. CECELIA WIGAL	National Science Foundation

If you have served as a proposal review panelist during the 2005-2006 academic year, and your name does not appear on this list, please notify the Office of Grants and Program Review.