

PATHFINDERS MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review
May 2007

Dr. Deborah McAllister Champions Math Excellence

The *No Child Left Behind* federal education initiative challenges our nation's schools to equip students with the mathematics skills required for global economic leadership and homeland security in the 21st century, and schools across the nation continue to strive to meet this challenge. However, recent national and international studies demonstrate that mathematics continues to be a stumbling block for many of our nation's students; an estimated 30% of eighth graders still perform below proficient on examinations. In recognition of the urgent need for teacher professional development in mathematics, Dr. Deborah McAllister, UC Foundation Professor in the Teacher Preparation Academy, has offered Mathematics Navigations and Number Sense workshops for area teachers since 2003. This year, Dr. McAllister has secured a grant of \$73,000 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program to implement three summer workshops on mathematics for elementary grades teachers in Polk, Hamilton, and Sequatchie County school districts.

These workshops will each last one week and will focus

on different areas of content knowledge, enabling a total of seventy-two area teachers to engage in valuable professional development activities. In the first workshop, Dr. McAllister will focus on concepts in algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and probability which have been covered in several previous highly-successful THEC-funded workshops, offering a "best of" selection of *Navigations* series activities from those workshops. Participants in the second workshop will explore the *Navigations* series of problem solving and reasoning activities designed for grades 3 and 4. In the third workshop, participating teachers will have an opportunity to hone their knowledge and skills using a series of number sense tasks from the updated *Math Matters* text, focusing on developing an understanding of the underpinnings of the mechanics of mathematics. All workshop activities are carefully designed to address local, state, and national standards for mathematics education.

All three workshops will emphasize hands-on activities, offering participating teachers the opportunity to work with calculators and manipulatives as well as the latest software and relevant internet sites.

Constructivist strategies, including problem-based learning, group work, and exploration of open-ended questions, will be employed throughout the workshops. In addition to these valuable skills and strategies, each participating teacher will receive classroom materials including textbooks and activity kits that they can use to enhance their students' understanding of mathematics. Participating teachers will also have the option of receiving graduate credit for a follow-up course in the fall related to workshop topics.

Dr. McAllister's efforts in implementing these workshops will enable seventy-two regional elementary grades teachers to enhance their content knowledge and instructional skills in mathematics, ensuring a strong foundation for mathematics instruction in regional elementary schools. Dr. McAllister's continued efforts to offer high-quality professional development activities to our region's mathematics teachers place UTC at the forefront of the national movement to enhance mathematics education for the 21st century.

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH
MAY 1, 2007 –MAY 31, 2007

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DR. TIM GAUDIN UNCF/Merck	Student Scholarship and Department Support	\$19,271
MR. MATT GREENWELL Benwood Foundation	Funding for a Full-Time Lecturer for the Art Department	\$75,000
Hunter Museum	Services of Nandini Makrandi as Chief Curator	\$33,660
DR. RICHARD JACKSON Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga	Meacham Writers Workshop	\$2,000

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

DR. RONALD BAILEY Advanced Transportation Technology Institute	Supplemental Funding for ATTI Program	\$24,542
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

DR. LUCIEN ELLINGTON Association for Asian Studies	<i>Education About Asia</i> Journal	\$65,250
DR. KAY LINDGREN Various	Clinical Site Agreements for Nursing Students	\$200,000

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

MS. REXANN BUMPUS Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation	Counselor Intern Program	\$3,200
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