

PATHFINDERS MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review
October 2006

Dr. Hunter Huckabay Secures GEAR UP Grant to Serve Hamilton County

Dr. Hunter Huckabay, Director of UTC's GEAR UP initiative in Hamilton County, has secured \$537,845 from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the first year of a new six-year cycle of GEAR UP activities. UTC's award is one of only twenty-seven made throughout the entire United States--and one of only two made in Tennessee. In the extremely competitive funding climate at the U.S. Department of Education, this is a noteworthy accomplishment for Dr. Huckabay, the College of Health, Education & Professional Studies, and UTC. Dr. Huckabay's success in securing grant funds is due to a strong proposal, well-established partnerships, and a documented track record of success in enhancing the college readiness of low income students in Hamilton County through two previous GEAR UP initiatives.

Over the life of the project, federal grant funds will total more than \$3.2 million – 50% of the total funding for the project. The GEAR UP initiative in Hamilton County is a collaborative effort involving UTC, the Hamilton County

Department of Education, and community partners, including the Tennessee National Guard, Chattanooga State, the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Girls Inc. Because of the demonstrated success of the project, Dr. Huckabay leveraged local resources valued at \$3.7 million. These contributions from UTC and its local partners will enrich the project and produce long-term benefits for the students, schools, and communities to be served.

This year, Dr. Huckabay and the GEAR UP staff will serve 1,820 sixth and seventh grade students at Chattanooga, Dalewood, Howard, and Orchard Knob Middle Schools and East Lake Academy. GEAR UP will follow this cohort of students to Brainerd High School and the Howard School of Academics and Technology, schools where Dr. Huckabay and the GEAR UP staff are working to improve graduation and college enrollment rates. Dr. Huckabay and the GEAR UP staff will provide tutoring, mentoring, college visits, and after-school programs for participating

students. Students will also have an opportunity to participate in summer camps, a career fair, several academic competitions between schools, and field trips sponsored by GEAR UP community partners. Near the end of their high school careers, participating students will also receive expert assistance with the college admissions and financial aid application processes.

In addition to improving academic performance, graduation rates, and college enrollment, Dr. Huckabay and the GEAR UP staff will facilitate sustainable systemic improvement at all of the participating schools. In order to achieve long-term benefits for participating schools, GEAR UP personnel will engage mathematics and reading teachers in professional development and provide them with additional classroom resources, including year-round support in literacy instruction. Further, all GEAR UP teachers qualify for mini-grants to pursue projects that will help their schools continue to meet GEAR UP objectives long after the project's funding has expired.

UTC implemented its first GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) in Hamilton County in 1999. The program, designed to help at-risk students get to, pay for, and succeed in college, was expanded in 2001 and

eventually served over 2,500 Hamilton County students. The new GEAR UP program in Hamilton County will continue to provide at-risk students with the skills and resources they need to excel in high school, college, and beyond. The efforts of Dr. Huckabay and the

GEAR UP staff in securing funding to continue this important project exemplify UTC's commitment to maintaining its vital role in improving K-12 education in our community.

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH

OCTOBER 1, 2006 – OCTOBER 31, 2006

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DR. SHELA VANNESS

HHS Administration on Children and Families	Mentoring Children of Prisoners	\$ 136,972
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DRS. AMYE WARREN AND RICH METZGER

United Way of Greater Chattanooga	Services for Project Ready for School and Child Care Consortium	\$ 33,803
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

DR. IGNATIUS FOMUNUNG

Planning Solutions Group	Congestion Management Process Travel Time Survey	\$ 9,476
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

DR. LUCIEN ELLINGTON

Freeman Foundation	National Consortium for Teaching about Asia	\$ 99,889
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DR. VALERIE RUTLEDGE

Teachers for a New Era Learning Network	Teacher Preparation – A Shared Responsibility	\$ 9,130
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DRS. VALERIE RUTLEDGE AND BETH DODD

Tennessee Department of Education	Governors School for Prospective Teachers	\$ 80,400
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