

PATHFINDERS MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review
December 2006

Dr. Barbara Medley Champions MLK Community Revitalization Efforts

In 2004, Dr. Barbara Medley, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Applied Social Research, secured a \$149,811 "New Directions" grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue operating UTC's Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC). This grant has enabled Dr. Medley and the COPC staff to undertake several important initiatives to encourage housing revitalization and economic development in the M.L. King community.

The Live Near Your Work initiative, an incentive program to encourage UTC faculty and staff to purchase homes in the M.L. King community, has been enormously successful, exceeding expectations for participation. Since 2003, sixteen UTC faculty and staff members have moved into MLK as part of this incentive program, and most have become active in the neighborhood association. In conjunction with community partners, COPC also continues to provide housing information and pre-purchase counseling, as

well as advice about predatory lending, for community residents.

In order to encourage community engagement among new residents, COPC has collaborated with the MLK Neighborhood Association to distribute welcome packets containing vital information to all new residents. COPC has also continued to support the Arts in the Park Concert Series, which brings together residents, business persons, and students in Ted Bryant Park for music, food, and fun several times each year. Recent Arts in the Park events have been attended by as many as 80 community residents and have greatly contributed to a growing sense of community.

Dr. Medley and her colleagues in the department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography have also continued to conduct vital research for the community, developing a housing database and obtaining valuable data on transient populations in the community and the agencies and services available for their support.

To encourage economic development in the MLK community, COPC has

developed a database of all businesses in the neighborhood and engages UTC students to conduct marketing research in conjunction with local companies. In addition, COPC continues to encourage the growth of the MLK Merchants Association and to work with business owners to address the commercial development needs of the community.

This spring, Dr. Medley and COPC staff held a Leadership Institute/Interactive Symposium on homelessness in the MLK community to raise awareness of the problems of homelessness as well as discuss possible solutions to those problems. The results of this forum were developed into a report and submitted to the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness for the City of Chattanooga.

Since its inception, the Community Outreach Partnership Center has truly been a university effort. Championed by Vice Chancellor Richard Brown and strongly supported by Chancellor Roger Brown and his predecessors, this community revitalization effort continues to rely heavily on

UTC faculty, staff, and students dedicated to strengthening the vital partnership between the university and the MLK community. The Community Outreach Partnership Center has

already had a tremendous impact on the M.L. King neighborhood, helping to build community, bolster the housing market, and encourage economic development in the

area. In their continued dedication to community revitalization, Dr. Medley and the COPC staff exemplify UTC's mission as an engaged metropolitan university.

FUNDED GRANTS AND RESEARCH

DECEMBER 1, 2006 – DECEMBER 31, 2006

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DR. TIM GAUDIN

National Science Foundation	Resolving Mammalian Phylogeny with Genomic and Morphological Approaches	\$28,000
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DRS. RON SMITH AND OSSAMA SALEH

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Applications of Algebra and Statistics III	\$73,000
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DR. HENRY SPRATT

Tennessee Valley Authority	Assessment of Microbial Processes Occurring in a Constructed Wetland Treating Acidic Seep Waters at Widows Creek Fossil Plant	\$19,986
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

SIM CENTER

Tennessee Centers of Excellence	Center for Computation Engineering and Computer Science	\$817,300
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COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

DR. KAY COWAN

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Vocabulary: A Critical Component of Comprehension	\$72,000
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DRS. LINDA JOHNSTON AND SANDY WATSON

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Differentiated Instruction in Science for General and Special Educators	\$64,500
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DR. DEBORAH MCALLISTER

Tennessee Higher Education Commission	Mathematics Navigations and Number Sense	\$73,000
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