

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Newsletter of the Office of Grants and Program Review

March 2004

Center for Applied Social Research Assists Local Organizations

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Many UTC units harness the intellectual resources of students and faculty to benefit the Chattanooga community at large. Dr. Barbara Medley, Director of the Center for Applied Social Research (CASR), exemplifies this application of UTC's intellectual capital and research capacity. Her work with the CASR supports the planning and evaluation needs of local organizations, thus enhancing services in our community. In recent months, Dr. Medley and the CASR Team have secured seven contracts worth more than \$27,800. These projects address the diverse needs of several local organizations, highlighting the CASR as a highly adaptable resource.

Informing Education Policy and Public Discourse: Dr. Medley received \$13,782 from Hamilton County Government to analyze data collected from the Hamilton County Government Public Education Opinion Survey. This survey evaluated public opinion and parental perspectives on the quality of education in the Hamilton County school system. The data evaluated by Dr. Medley

and her CASR staff supports the joint efforts of the Hamilton County Government and the Board of Education to improve achievement among county students. The CASR's analyses provide County policy makers with input from parents, school professionals and the general public. Policy makers will use this information to develop a shared set of priorities and facilitate public discourse about education in Hamilton County.

Evaluating Government Services: The CASR team also received two contracts to help the City of Chattanooga gauge the effectiveness of the city's new 311 Call System. The first grant was valued at \$1,236 and the second at \$1,650. A survey was created to gauge customer satisfaction with the 311 System. Dr. Medley and the CASR will perform the data input and analysis to monitor the City's success in implementing a beneficial call system.

Advocating Informed Social Supports: Chattanooga Endeavors, a community-based organization that helps recently released prisoners transition into society, has also called upon the services of the CASR. To support Chattanooga Endeavors' informational

needs, Dr. Medley and the CASR team will telephone 2,000 local businesses to evaluate their attitudes towards the hiring of ex-offenders and the conditions under which they would make such hires. This information will help Chattanooga Endeavors identify the types of businesses are most likely to provide employment for ex-offenders and which occupational areas are most open to ex-offenders. This contract was worth \$3,975.

Assessing the Economic Impact of Arts and Entertainment Options: The CASR team received \$2,617 from the Tivoli Theatre/Memorial Auditorium to conduct an Economic Impact Study of their performance offerings. This project will gather information through audience surveys. The CASR will enter and analyze the data and present a summary report of the findings to the Tivoli Theatre/Memorial Auditorium.

Monitoring Regional Population Shifts: The Chattanooga/Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency asked

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the CASR to perform data collection and analysis for a Housing Migration Survey. This survey will help the City identify the types of education, employment, and other factors that affected out-migration of Chattanooga Residents to North Georgia households in the past ten years. This contract was worth \$3,385.

Measuring Organizational Knowledge and Involvement: Dr. Medley received \$1,200 from the City of Chattanooga

to assist in a study examining City employees' knowledge of wellness, current involvement in wellness programs, wellness goals, and needs for specific wellness-type programs in order to identify their preferences for an employees' wellness program. The purpose of the study is to ascertain employee knowledge of wellness, current involvement in wellness programs, wellness goals, and needs for specific wellness-type programs.

CASR contracts also support the intellectual development of

UTC students by engaging undergraduate and graduate students in applied social research. The opportunity to provide data to local organizations gives the students' work relevance in the real world. Dr. Medley's and the CASR's efforts bring recognition to UTC as an engaged institution, empower local organizations to better serve their constituencies, and provide excellent applied learning opportunities for UTC students.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH

March 1, 2004 — March 31, 2004

FUNDED GRANTS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DR. GREG GRANT

Tennessee Water Resources Research Center	Removal of Toxic Heavy Metals from Wastewater Effluents	\$13,415
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DR. ROBERT KELLER

TN Department of Environment & Conservation	Total Maximum Daily Load Design and Implementation Support for North Chickamauga Creek Watershed	\$26,931
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COLLEGE EDUCATION & APPLIED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

DR. KAY LINDGREN

Erlanger	Nurse Anesthesia Clinical Affiliation	\$145,534
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

SIMCENTER

Intelligent Light	Research on Solver Algorithms	\$50,000
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