Twenty-five Honored at Retirement Celebration

Over $233,000 has been awarded to 17 interdisciplinary projects in the second round of the Futures Ventures Fund grants program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University for academic year 2003-04. The grants program was initiated in the spring of 2002 by Chancellor James C. Renick to develop N.C. A&T into a preeminent interdisciplinary university by connecting the unique resources available within the university community and providing start-up funds to develop its intellectual capital. Listed are the award winners for 2003-04. The average award is $13,500.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drs. Chi Anyansi-Achibong</td>
<td>Developing, Writing and Teaching through the Case Method: An Interdisciplinary Approach</td>
<td>$14,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty L. Brewer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ayani Boyd-Williams</td>
<td>Teaching Effectiveness Training Program for Graduate Teaching Assistants</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dominic P. Clarence</td>
<td>A Model Interdisciplinary Program in Computational Science</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ipak Goktepe</td>
<td>An Interdisciplinary Initiative to Organize Workshop Series in Environmental Health and Education</td>
<td>$11,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shamsuddin Illias</td>
<td>Equipment Support for Development of Low-cost Water Filtration Systems/Materials from Nutshells</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Abebe Kebede</td>
<td>A Proposal to Institutionalize the National Ronald E. McNair Symposium for Science and Technology Frontiers</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Vereda King</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Environmental Education and Leadership Program</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michelle Levy</td>
<td>Resisting Empire: The Struggle for Identity in the Age of Globalization</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Emmett Lodree Jr.</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Consortium for Operations Research and Management Science</td>
<td>$11,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Daniel Moonpily</td>
<td>Framework for Interdisciplinary Collaborative Studies in Intuitive Teleoperation</td>
<td>$14,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Thomas Porter</td>
<td>A&amp;T in Russia, 2004</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gudigopuram B. Reddy</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Program in Soil and Water Quality Research and Education</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Keith Schimmel</td>
<td>Formation of an Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Student Organization-International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineering</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gouqing Tang</td>
<td>Building the Pipeline for the New Interdisciplinary Computational Science Program through Undergraduate Research</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. E. Monica Ward-Murray</td>
<td>An Interdisciplinary Perspective on Health Care: The Role of the Nursing Preceptor in Barbados</td>
<td>$14,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Sandiea Williamson</td>
<td>Beginning with the End in Mind: The Honors Freshman Year Experience</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Yuqi You</td>
<td>Remote Manufacturing Control Solutions</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Awards $235,664
Campus Goes to Blackboard for Online Learning

Blackboard is the campus software system for managing online learning. Last fall, Blackboard became the sole e-learning platform for Web-enhanced and fully online courses.

Among the most significant developments in the new version of Blackboard, is the ability to automate user enrollment, plus the timed release of course materials and assessments. Instructors and students involved in both traditional and fully online courses like Blackboard for its ease of use and numerous features that can enhance learning, which include the virtual classroom, discussion forums, document exchange, group activities, online assessments and grading. Blackboard is used by several campus organizations to better coordinate activities such as file sharing, online discussions and teamwork—all of which enhance work flow.

Why use Blackboard?
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How do I get an account?
Blackboard accounts are set up for faculty and students are automatically generated at the beginning of each semester. Blackboard requires users to have a campus email ending in @ncat.edu or @campus.ncat.edu. To receive email, users must activate a new account by logging in at least once.

How do I log in to Blackboard?
To get started, contact the Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATL) at (336) 256-0210, or the Center for Distance Learning (CDL) at (336) 256-0355 for scheduled workshops. A self-paced multi-media presentation on ‘Introduction to Blackboard Basics’ is available in the ATL office, which is located on the lower level of Bluford Library.

Instructors can access the Blackboard online support guide at http://products.blackboard.com/gs/training/bi05.0g. The student site is http://support.blackboard.com/products/Student/550B560LevelTwo/Three-Student.pdf.

The Division of Information Technology publishes regular updates in The Aggie Report about the latest developments in technology on campus. This article was written by Besse Nkonge, Blackboard administrator.

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