



THINK JUSTICE

Special points of interest:

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Title III Impact

Quarterly Newsletter of the Philander Smith College Title III Program

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From the Desk of the Title III Director

Greetings!

Welcome to the *Inaugural Issue* of the Philander Smith College Title III *Newsletter*. This quarterly *Newsletter* is designed as a communication tool that will share Title III news, information, and updates with the Campus community and other stakeholders.

As part of the *Newsletter* format, articles will be featured from the twelve (12) *Activities* supported by the Title III Grant and include information about all facets of Title III. Therefore, please feel free to contact the Title III Office in providing feedback or suggestions on how the delivery of Title III news and information can be improved.

We look forward to continually providing faculty, staff and students with cutting edge resources and meaningful opportunities needed to prepare Philander Smith College students for success.

Alvin Anglin

Title III Director

GET TO KNOW TITLE III

What is Title III

The Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, often referred to as Title III, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the *Higher Education Act of 1965* (HEA), as amended. The *Higher Education Act* was legislation signed into United States law on November 8, 1965 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's *Great Society* agenda.

The *purpose* of Title III, Part B, is to provide financial resources to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to assist these institutions in **establishing and strengthening their physical plants; academic resources; fiscal management; and endowment building capacity** for continued participation in fulfilling the *goal* of equal educational opportunity.

The current Title III *Activities* include: *Academic Success and Student Retention; To Improve Academic and Co-Curricular Services Through the Center for Student Services; To Strengthen and Enhance the Music Department; To Improve the Quality of Teacher Education by Implementing a Model Classroom and Lab; Strengthening Institutional Accreditation; Strengthening Campus Information Services; To Improve Academic and Student Services through Scholarship and Study Abroad Opportunities; Construction of a New Multi-Purpose Campus Center; Title III Project Management; Improving Academic Quality through Library Collections, Archives and Information Competence; Strengthening the Development Office; and Strengthening the Computer Science Degree through Accreditation.*

The Center for Student Services Hosts Fall 2014 College/Career Fair

Activity II – HBCU: *To Improve Academic and Co-Curricular Services Through The Center for Student Services*

Ms. Rhonda Lovelace, Activity Director



On **Tuesday, September 30, 2014**, the Office of Career/Volunteer Services and Leadership Development hosted its *Fall 2014 College/Career Fair* in the newly built Campus Center. The purpose of the event was to provide students an opportunity to meet with a number of businesses and graduate schools to explore the next step after graduating from Philander Smith College. The businesses and colleges, in return, had the opportunity to interview and recruit candidates for employment, graduate school programs and internships.

This year, over thirty (30) businesses/organizations were represented on our Campus, to include, but not limited to: University of Arkansas Fayetteville School of Law; University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey's School of Law; Non-Profit Organizations; World Services for the Blind; United Family Services; Retzer Resources, Inc. (representing McDonald's); Verizon Wireless; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; and Little Rock Fire Department. Many of the vendors expressed their joy of interacting with PSC students and looked forward to returning to future PSC Career Fair events.

Title III Helps with Funding the New Campus Center

Activity IV – SAFRA: *Campus Center Construction*

Mr. Terry Wallace, Activity Director



New Campus Center

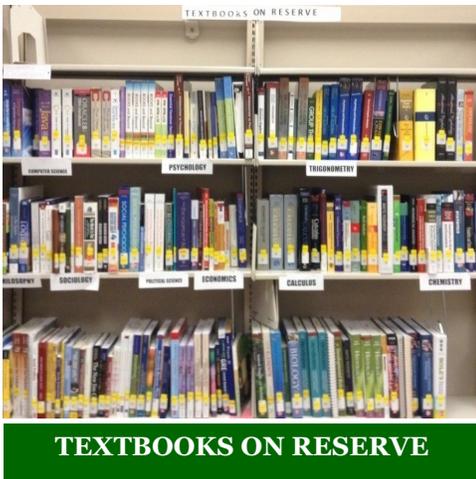
Title III, in collaboration with the Capital Financing Corporation and the Philander Smith College Office of Institutional Advancement, has been instrumental in providing the funds to make it possible for the College to complete the construction of Phase One of the College's new Campus Center. This state-of-the-art, \$5.3 million, 16,000 square-foot facility, is designed to enhance the student experience at Philander Smith College.

The Campus Center contains a full-service student dining hall, bistro, audio video equipped and technology-ready classrooms, and a Student Center (for students and Student Government related activities). The centerpiece of the facility is the Conference Center, which boasts a wall of floor-to-ceiling glass panels that provide a scenic view of the Little Rock downtown skyline. Title III is proud to have been a part of this significant contribution.

Title III Impacts Library Services

Activity I – SAFRA: *To Improve Academic Quality through Strengthening Library Collections, Archives, and Information Competence*

Mrs. Teresa Ojezua, Activity Director



Title III funding has spearheaded initiatives to strengthen the D. W. Reynolds Library, which serves as the focal point for providing traditional and electronic information resources for the campus. The Library's *Activity* is centered on increasing the collection; improving access to library resources; staff development; outreach services and professional partnerships; and development of archival resources. This *Activity* provides students with academic support tools that ensure a successful learning process; smooth transition into campus academic life; improved rates of satisfaction; and increased degree completion rates. As a result, the impact of Title III funding has been crucial in three main areas: (1) Increase in Library holdings

across the College's academic spectrum; (2) Textbooks on Reserve (to ensure the availability of textbooks for students); and (3) Library resources.

With the active support and collaboration of the faculty, the Library is using carryover funds from the Title III budget to purchase recommended textbooks. The goal of this service is to assist students who are unable to afford purchasing textbooks or whose financial situations prevent them from buying required texts until several weeks into the semester. These measures grant PSC students access to textbooks as needed. Circulation records show that these textbooks are heavily used by the students who express appreciation for the availability of the textbooks.

Title III funding has facilitated the provision of the following library services and public programming: Acquisition and maintenance of a new library automated system; exhibit equipment to enhance display of resources and outreach to the campus community; and sponsorship of public lectures and literary events. With grant

funds, there has been an increase in the Library's ability to maintain membership in the following professional organizations: ALA, ArkLink consortium of academic libraries in Arkansas, AMIGOS, OCLC and HBCU Library Alliance. The benefits of our organizational partnerships include opportunities that help us meet professional challenges, opportunities to develop leadership skills, discounted purchases of library resources, workshops and training discounts and continuing education opportunities for Library staff.



PSC Seeks Re-Accreditation

Activity V – HBCU: Strengthening Institutional Accreditation

Dr. Annie W. Williams, Activity Director

Philander Smith College (PSC) is preparing for a re-accreditation site visit on November 3-4, 2014 by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA). There are five (5) NCA criteria that the College must meet – Criterion 1: Mission; Criterion 2: Integrity; Ethical and Responsible Conduct; Criterion 3: Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support; Criterion 4: Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement; and Criterion 5: Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. To assist in meeting this challenge, Title III is helping with the re-accreditation process by providing financial and personnel re-

sources to carry out the mission of the Institution *to graduate academically accomplished students, grounded as advocates for social justice, determined to change the world for the better.* The ultimate goal of the Title III support is for the College to be re-accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (NCA) for the maximum ten (10) year period.

Title III will continue to assist the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning with the College's achievement of academic excellence through accreditation. This includes ensuring that aca-

demical programs meet and/or exceed the quality standards for accreditation set by NCA for existing and new development areas within each academic division and for future program development; providing technology, resources, personnel, and consultants needed to grow and sustain academic excellence; helping to improve the collections of documents for the Campus-Wide Resource Room; and helping to improve preparations for Special Program Re-Accreditation in Business, Education, and Social Work.

Title III Activity Director and Computer Science Student Attend Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

Activity III – SAFRA: Strengthening the Computer Science Degree through Accreditation

Dr. Samar Swaid, Activity Director



Jasmine Dehart and Dr. Samar Swaid at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Jasmine Dehart, PSC Computer Science major, received a full scholarship to attend the 2014 Grace Hopper Cele-

bration of Women in Computing Conference (GHC14) in Phoenix, Arizona. This multi-day international event (attended by 6,000 individuals from 50 countries), October 8th-10th, was presented by the Anita Borg Institute for Women in Technology and the Association for Computing Machinery. It is purported to be one of the biggest events in the world dedicated to women technologists. Ms. Dehart was accompanied by Dr. Samar Swaid, Title III Activity Director and student mentor.

“Women in Computer Science” is a series of conferences designed to bring the research and career interests of women to the forefront. To promote women in computing, conference presenters were selected based on leadership in their respective fields – industrial, academic and government. Leading researchers presented their current work, while special sessions focused on the role of

women in today's technology fields, including computer science, information technology, research and engineering.

Describing her experience, Dehart says, *“While there, I attended the leadership sessions; opening ceremony; career fair; and newcomers’ session. I was dumbfounded about how many opportunities were available. The last thing I did before leaving GHC14 was to present at the Poster Session. I received many compliments on my research as well as my oral presentation, attire, and personality. Some people even said that my research was upper level (Junior) instead of being a Freshman presentation.”*

Title III salutes Ms. Jasmine Dehart for representing Philander Smith College and the Computer Science Division in such an honorable fashion. Indeed, Philander Smith College students are the new face of change for Philander and Computing.