

Welcome to the latest issue of the Grant Office's newsletter.

## Grant Highlights



Renton Technical College will receive \$1 million to create educational tracks to help students design their education around their interests and graduate sooner. Known as Guided Pathways, the approach simplifies the number of choices regarding course selection and directs students into intentional, comprehensive programs of study.

Five colleges, of 17 that applied, will receive Guided Pathways implementation grants from College Spark, which funds programs across Washington that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. In addition to the grant, each college will receive a \$500,000 allocation from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, over five years.



Thanks to \$15,000 in funding from a Perkins Innovation Grant and \$3,000 from Bristol-Myers Squibb, RTC Massage Therapy Program Director Zefire Skoczen will be working this quarter to develop an English Learner Bridge to Success Biology course parallel to BIOL 105 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology to help our growing non-native English speaking student population overcome the language barrier they face in entering programs in RTC's Health and Human Services (HHS) Area of Study. By creating a parallel Bridge to Success Biology Course, RTC can offer non-native speakers a course that scaffolds content, provides native language translation, and builds English language development to help them successfully complete BIOL 105, laying the groundwork to then successfully complete their program of choice.

BIOL 105 is a prerequisite or first-quarter required course for four HHS programs (Anesthesia Tech, Surgical Tech, Medical Assistant and Ophthalmic Assistant) and is a barrier for many students wanting to pursue a career in the healthcare field and those interested in science careers. Last year, only 61% (of 112) passed this course (considered a 2.0 or C- in the course), which is 25% below the overall RTC course success rate. Another 23 withdrew within the first two weeks. This bridge course will help address this barrier and should be available for students to enroll in it by fall quarter.

## **Did you know?**

RTC conducted an annual student survey in fall, which will help inform instruction and support services moving forward. Particularly of interest, of the 149 students whose self-reported income was less than \$30,000, 31% needed assistance with food expenses and 28% with bills in the last 30 days. RTC's Foundation and Elijah's Pantry are here to help!

## Contact Info

Marta Burnet  
Director of Grants  
[mburnet@rtc.edu](mailto:mburnet@rtc.edu)  
(425) 235-2352 ext. 2103

Susie Rather  
Grants and Contracts  
Coordinator  
[srather@rtc.edu](mailto:srather@rtc.edu)  
(425) 235-2352 ext. 5699

Neal Parker  
Institutional Research  
Analyst  
[nparker@rtc.edu](mailto:nparker@rtc.edu)  
(425) 235-2352 ext. 2201

[Grant Website](#)

### Tips from Susie

Grant Travel – When travelling on a grant, whether on a regular basis or infrequently, it's important to turn your paperwork in to the Business Office by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month travelled (for travel on or after the 25<sup>th</sup>, submit by the next month). This helps us keep current with spending, monitor the budget and stay in compliance. Thanks!

## Grant Office News

At a recent Cabinet meeting, Marta presented a grant management needs assessment and unit priority funding list aligned to the new strategic plan to guide her in identifying new funding. The needs assessment recommendations include better coordination amongst units that work with grants (HR, IR, Business Office, Grants Office); increase training on grant management and college processes; further development of grant compliance infrastructure; and bolster awareness about the benefits and responsibilities of grants around campus.

## Grant Glossary

**S.M.A.R.T. Goals:** SMART is a mnemonic device to remind you to develop goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused and time-bound. This combination will help you craft goals for your project or program that are clear, concrete and designed to answer the who, what, when, why and how questions associated with your hopes for your project.

RTC was successful in its Guided Pathways proposal, which will bring \$1 million to campus as described above. The Road Map Project Rapid Resource Fund (RRF) proposal for \$20,000 also was funded to enable the College to utilize the Intercultural Developmental Inventory across campus to assess faculty and staff intercultural competence and to inform future professional development that will build a more inclusive campus environment. RRF Partners are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Boeing Company, College Spark Washington, Medina, Satterberg, Stolte Family and Seattle Foundations, and Social Venture Partners. In January, we submitted a \$50,000 proposal to restructure our math pathways to College Spark; a \$64,000 1000 Aerospace FTEs Expansion proposal for our new Mechatronics program; and a \$15,000 proposal to Key Bank for our Men of Merit mentorship program to better support male students of color.

So far this fiscal year, \$1.78 million in grant requests have been submitted and \$1.39 million has been awarded including about \$20,000 in indirect funds. The remaining 6 grant requests (about \$400,000) are all pending with only two grants denied so far this year.