

# TITLE III

## ABOUT TITLE III

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The FY11 appropriation for Title IIIB Program was the lowest funding level in nine years (\$237 million), a reduction of approximately \$30 million compared to FY10.

The Title III program provides financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to establish or strengthen their physical plants, financial management, academic resources, enhancing technology and endowment-building capacity. For more information about [Title III click here](#)

Title III Part-B (Section 323) Discretionary	
FY 2003	\$214,015,000
FY 2004	\$275,863,744
FY 2005	\$238,576,000
FY 2006	\$238,095,000
FY 2007	\$238,095,000
FY 2008	\$238,095,000
FY 2009	\$238,095,000
FY 2010	\$265,624,000
FY 2011	\$236,991,068

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HATTIE FITZGERALD WILKINS  
 DIRECTOR, VSU TITLE III

### A MESSAGE FROM VSU TITLE III DIRECTOR MS. HATTIE FITZGERALD WILKINS

Greetings Colleagues,

Welcome to the premier issue of the Title III grant newsletter. The Title III Programs at Virginia State University are funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program. The funds are authorized under Part B, Sections 323 and 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended. Title III, Part B, provides funds to strengthen academic quality, institutional management, fiscal stability and student services.

Title III grant funds at Virginia State University support a variety of initiatives designed to strengthen various academic programs, administrative operations, faculty development, student support services and endowment building. Currently, there are eighteen activities funded under the Title III HBCU program and four activities funded under the Title III SAFRA (Student Aid Fiscal Responsibility Act) Grant for FY 2011-12. I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative.

### Program Highlights



*"The Title III Program has helped advance the quality of the educational experience at VSU for a number of years. Many of our talented faculty and staff continue to use Title III funding as we pursue excellence across our campus."*

*Dr. Keith T. Miller,  
VSU President*

### Enhanced Media WIFI

*Stephanie Hayes, Activity Director*

This activity supports the wireless "WIFI" network in order to assist students in the use of their mobile computing devices on campus, including both indoor and outdoor spaces, in order to increase learning collaborations with faculty, and students. The University works to provide a unified and modern wireless "WIFI" network solution that allows the students to move around



campus and obtain electronic information needed for academic instruction in the classrooms within Blackboard and/or Banner Self-Service for student registration, degree auditing, billing information, and other student-related areas. Full wireless network coverage on campus increases wireless usage in classrooms directly impacting academic performance and student persistence towards graduation. The IT teams are diligently working to modernize the campus.

Wireless Fidelity Network or better known as "Wi-Fi" is just one of many projects that are in the works to advance us forward. The Technology Services team has completed Phase I of the Wi-Fi Project in Singleton Hall, Gateway Dining Event Center, Hunter McDaniel, Wilder Building, M.T. Carter, Johnston Memorial Library, and Owen Hall. During the summer, wireless was installed in all residence halls. Dr. LaVerne Briggs said, "The students love it." There was so much excitement among the students about wireless. Three students Julius Haynie, Reggie Carter, and Tamara Calixte took the initiative and helped other students' set-up their wireless access in Moore Hall. Nakeya Peterson-Johnson also spent time helping students to setup their Wi-Fi in Eggleston Hall. Hubie said, "it is expected the entire campus will be running on a modernized network infrastructure by April 2012. The new infrastructure will be fault tolerant due to built in redundancy, providing high availability through fail-over capability which is built into the network architecture." With this new technology, students will be able to freely collaborate and communicate inside and outside the classrooms.

### Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Administration

*Dr. Emmett Ridley, Activity Director*

Institutional Effectiveness Administration consists of the well integrated components of planning, assessment, evaluation, program review, and budgeting for the University. Funding continues to support VSU to further solidify its IE infrastructure, and maintain and sustain the system as an ongoing long-term operation. Funding also enables the University to continue engaging faculty in the development of local assessment instruments and tests for general education, and other areas that are strongly aligned with student learning outcomes.

### Strengthening Professional Education Programs (PEP)

*Dr. Delores Greene, Activity Director*

Strengthening Professional Educational Programs support the University in moving towards an accreditation ready status. The PEP provides a steady supply of candidates and program completers to maintain the vitality of PK-12 classroom. The PEP Program Major element in the overall accreditation process is the pre-candidates/candidates on PRAXIS I, PRAXIS II and other required national and state assessments. Members must continue to conceptualize and revise the PEP's conceptual documents, to continue implementation of accreditation standards, and use data collected by the assessment system for program improvement, as well as evaluate the PEP's operation.

The PEP Unit has 27 pre-candidates that are eligible for admission to the Department of Teaching and Learning, and admission interviews will be held in November. Compared to the Fall of 2010 that is an increase of 162% in the number of pre-candidates to be interviewed. The current freshman class for the 2011-12 academic year, included five pre-candidates who meet the SAT requirement for exemption to Praxis I. The success of the Unit graduates is helping in the recruitment of quality high school seniors and transfer students. These students increase the pool of applicants for the Unit and is helping to maintain a steady flow of candidates completing the program.

Faculty from the PEP Unit work in the Assessment Resource Center helping pre-candidates/candidates prepare for the state required assessments. Faculty from the Department of Teaching and Learning conducted a workshop/review session for the New Reading Assessment for Virginia Educators (RVE) required for licensure.

### Quality Enhancement Program (QEP)

*Dr. Freddie Thomas, Activity Director*

Quality Enhancement Program supports the development of a University culture of writing (and thinking) to enhance students' academic and professional success. The major goals of the program are to: (a) provide students with a strong effective first-year writing program that emphasizes academic writing and Twenty-First Century literacies, (b) to create opportunities for students throughout their general education program to practice writing and critical thinking in a variety of contexts, (c) to provide opportunities for students to continue to develop writing competencies and critical thinking skills through discipline-specific and genre specific writing activities in their major courses, (d) and to develop a Writing/ePortfolio Studio to provide writing assistance and eportfolio support to students, faculty, and staff in meeting the writing demands of the QEP.

Faculty members in all areas of instruction are using information gleaned from participating in the various faculty development workshops sponsored by the QEP to enhance teaching and learning for all students. The most recent workshop, "Teaching Writing and Thinking in General Education and in the Academic disciplines," was attended by more than fifty faculty members across the disciplines. Participants revised their syllabi by incorporating objectives, activities, and writing assignments that address critical thinking. Faculty members are contributing to the development of a culture of writing and thinking by increasing the opportunities for students to write in discipline specific courses in most majors.

Faculty members (other than English faculty) are encouraging their students to utilize the service provided by the Writing/ePortfolio Studio. Students across the university are using the 24-hr tutorial services provided by Smarthinking, Inc. (WEP's online tutoring) in areas other than writing.

## Program Highlights



*The enhancement of the Writing/ePortfolio Studio makes it an ideal place for students to gather and seek the help they need in improving their writing, thinking, and technology skills.*

*Dr. Freddie Thomas, Activity Director*

*The PEP Unit had 65 candidates in the program. This represents the largest number of candidates since the beginning of the grant. The Unit has been producing an average of 15 Student Teachers per year during the current grant cycle.*

*The University's Orientation Program works with other units of the University to help reach a common goal of orientating new students and helping them transition smoothly into the University.*

### Associate of Science in Nursing

*Dr. Karen Faison, Activity Director*

This activity supports a five-semester associate of science in nursing program of study in preparation for professional nursing. The program of study requires resources for instruction in the classroom and practice skills Laboratory. Instruction is also required in the clinical setting. Funding assists with benefiting students with a variety of teaching learning strategies to include online curriculum enhancement, accessibility of practice skills lab, nursing tutor and clerical support. Graduates are eligible for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)

### Enhancing the University's Orientation Program

*Mr. Terrell Bratcher, Activity Director*

This activity is a comprehensive program designed to orient new students and their families to the University, to expose new students to the broad educational opportunities and to integrate new students of the University into the life of the University. This activity promotes student development by encouraging self-growth, and learning in understanding of their-own relationship to the intellectual, social, and cultural climate of the University. We aid the Office of Admissions with their University and Spring Open House as well as the Office of the Registrar with their Fall and Spring Registration. These programs help recruit and retain students.



### Program Highlights

*Title III funding has been utilized to upgrade the University's Fundraising Database Blackbaud Raiser's Edge, which works to ensure the continuity and accuracy of alumni, donor and prospect information.*

*WEP opportunities are designed to promote both professional and personal growth for VSU's high performance workforce, and address the strategic goals of the University (20/20 Vision as updated), improve organizational performance of the University employees and develop employee behavioral skills.*

*The University provides remote access and a campus wireless infrastructure so students and faculty can access electronic resources anytime regardless of location. In addition, the Library has a 24/7 computer lab for the convenience of students.*

### Strengthening University Development

*Dr. Robert Turner, Activity Director*



Strengthening University Development assists the University's efforts to increase contributions from alumni and the private sector by purchasing fundraising software, consultant services, and staff training and professional development. Funds assist with related non-admissions advertising, supports travel that involves visits to alumni and corporations in face-to-face meetings, and hosts planning seminars in various localities where large groups of alumni reside. Establishing and improving the Office of Development through the use of Title III funding has lead to the following accomplishments:

- Acquired and retained personnel and technical resources required to build an effective Development Team.
- Members of the Development staff have been able to attend training, conferences and seminars on team development, fundraising, alumni & donor cultivation and other duties associated with their job responsibilities, and building a cohesive team unit.
- Title III funding provided resources to secure a fundraising consultant firm to assist in the successful implementation and completion of the Capital Campaign.
- Establishment/Operation of student staff Call Center which provided job opportunities to over 18+ students per quarter and increased contributions to the Annual Fund.
- Increased percentage and contributions from alumni and private sector.
- Increased marketability and visibility through publication efforts i.e. VSU Alumni Magazine, Annual Fund Mailers and membership to the American Marketing Association, Association of Fundraising Professionals

### Workplace Efficiency Program (WEP)

*Dr. Elliott Wheelan, Activity Director*

Workplace Efficiency Program provides professional development training sessions, workshops, and programs for University employees while enhancing leadership skills. These opportunities are designed to promote both professional and personal growth for the University's high performance workforce. Staff members need enhanced skills to effectively address the strategic goals of the University (20/20 Vision Plan) and improve organizational performance of University employees. Thirty-two (32) employees at various levels attended external conferences/seminars to gain and enhance new skills and knowledge through the funding of this activity. Results are the increased knowledge and skills specifically related to job performance for University employees. The expected improvements will be reflected through an affirmative experience and the knowledge gained would have a positive effect on job performance.

### Library Resources Academic Programs

*Dr. Elsie Weatherington, Activity Director*

Library Resources Academic Program provides significant, comprehensive scholarly research materials, and renews access to electronic serials and subject specific databases. These resources will enrich the collection of the University and complement access to resources provided by the Virtual Library of Virginia. 100% of funds will be used to renew electronic serials and databases for all programs. New databases will be purchased to support all programs. Use of electronic resources will grow by 5% annually. There will be significantly more core resources added to the library's existing collection of online materials. The goal is to see an increase in usage of these resources through examination of Google and EZ-proxy statistics. Comparison statistics will be provided in the next quarterly report period. A wide range of databases in different subject areas have been ordered to enrich new Master's and Doctoral programs. The resources are integral to the reaccreditation of degree programs.

### Enhancement of the Honors Program

*Dr. Gladys Nunnally, Activity Director*

The Enhancement of the Honors Program is dedicated to supporting the University's promotion of knowledgeable, perceptive, and humane citizens, and seeks to maintain a rigorous and challenging Honors Program for academically talented and motivated students. Funding continues to support student's to acquire the skills and attitudes for leadership development, including both intellectually, emotional, moral and social maturity, as well as cultural awareness. Faculty members will receive dedicated training in advising honor students. Participants in the Honors Program have access to the *Honors House*, a meeting place for study/study circles, seminars, colloquia, tutorials, guest/faculty lecturers, and social activities.

### Students With Disabilities Program/ Wellness Center

*Mrs. Rosezelia Roy, Activity Director*

Students With Disabilities Program/ Wellness Center provides equal opportunities to students with disabilities through equal access, empowerment, support, resources, advocacy, collaboration and outreach throughout the University campus and community, as mandated by Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 and the American with Disabilities Act reauthorized in 2009. The activity also makes available assistive technology, adaptive equipment, website accessibility, and holistic health and wellness activities through the University's Wellness Center. The Wellness Center provides a healthy place which will be utilized by students, faculty, staff, and families by providing fitness workouts and interactions.

*Virginia State University  
Title III Office*

The Office of Title III Coordination reports directly to the University President and supports the efforts of the University with improvements in academic quality and program development, programs of teacher education, management of fiscal operations of the institution, instructional facilities, construction/ renovation, student services, building endowments, and effective use of technology. Further, the Office of Title III Coordination serves as an administrative center which fulfills all Federal and University policy and procedure reporting requirements, represents all activities under the grant, communicates with the U. S. Department of Education and administers federal guidelines, and ensures effective monitoring of the overall Title III Program.

### Strengthening Endowment Activity

*Dr. Robert Turner, Activity Director*

The purpose of the Strengthening Endowment Activity is to provide matching funds to institutions of higher education to establish or increase their endowment funds. Endowments provide predictable sources of income for various institutional initiatives, such as scholarships, faculty chairs, Centers of Excellence and Capital improvements of vital programs and services. This funding support for endowment fosters increased University independence and self-sufficiency. The University has matched its endowment with Title III funds by 20%, and increased the University's endowment during the last four years. The endowment match for FY 2011-12 is \$724,673.

### Infrastructure Enhancement for Faculty



*Dr. James Hunter, Activity Director*

This activity supports faculty members to participate in professional conferences, seminars, and workshops to enhance their professional experience. Faculty members hence share their knowledge and experiences gained from these conferences with their students. At least 30% of the faculty will participate in professional growth activities, workshops, seminars, symposia, and retreats per year. The staff in the Office of the Registrar will increase their efficiency rate in performing key functions under directions of the Registrar. An effort of collaboration with professors at other universities has resulted in enhanced opportunities for obtaining additional grant funding to conduct research. Several faculty members have reported that students are more attentive in class due to the technology being used in teaching.

### Program Highlights

*Funding will assist in providing a training program to transform faculty teaching skills to online teaching techniques and tools.*

*VSU currently has partnership agreements to offer dual credit courses in the Petersburg, Dinwiddie, Prince George and Richmond School Districts.*

## NEW TITLE III F ACTIVITIES FOR FY 11-12

### STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT (SAFRA)

#### SAFRA—Distance Education Online Program

This activity supports the University's purpose to create a system for the development and delivery of distance education programs which will extend beyond the physical boundaries of the campus. Distance based courses and degree programs will be developed that will serve both traditional and non-traditional students who can benefit from the accessibility and

flexibility in scheduling which distance learning programs provide. A comprehensive campus-wide infrastructure for distance education and a solid base will be put in place to support the development of undergraduate and graduate classes and degree programs using a variety of distance based technologies. Funding will assist in providing a training pro-

gram to transform faculty teaching skills to online teaching techniques and tools.



Hubie Harris  
Activity Director

#### SAFRA— CONCURRENT/DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM



Dr. Muriel Hawkins,  
Activity Director

The Concurrent/ Dual Enrollment Program provides the opportunity for qualified high school students to enhance their education by enrolling in early college courses. This allows students to transition from high school to college easily without being overwhelmed with a whole new environment, while providing a wider range of courses so that they have the opportunity to explore different fields before declaring a major.

Students will have the benefit of accumulating credits prior to entering college in order to graduate from college early or on time. Funding of this activity will assist the University in creating a partnership program with local and regional high schools and school districts. Such partnering is critical to increasing the number of post-secondary degrees earned by residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT “SAFRA”

### Banner 8 Upgrades

This activity provides support for the upgrade of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) SunGard HE Banner system from version 7.x to 8.x Migration project, and technical training sessions. In addition, funding will assist in meeting State requirements that the University's systems remain current, and completion of the technical upgrade will provide the foundation of providing enhanced academic services to our students and improved monitoring of performance tools for our faculty and staff. This activity assists in the education and documentation provisions for the technical support area to further enhance the ability to manage and maintain a stable Banner Reporting environment. Technology Services received a large amount of funding from Title III for the Banner 8 Project which included the Banner version 7 to 8 software



Stephanie Hayes, Activity Director

upgrade, functional training and consulting services, and new software enhancements business processes in order to improve operational efficiency, automate manual processes, and streamline existing business processes. More importantly, Technology Services wanted to ensure that the University had the latest Financial Aid software updates for compliance with all federal laws and regulations related to student Financial Aid packages. We also wanted to ensure that we have a secure Oracle 11g environment by complying with the Commonwealth's IT Security Standards and industry best Practices. In April 2011, the Banner 8 team members successfully completed the Banner 8 software updates and user acceptance testing of the system. With this upgrade, new features and functionality were added such as identity and security management, accepting Admissions Offer letters online through Self-Service, Athletes Compliance and Mass Sports Roster Updates, Internationalization enhancement, Race/Ethnicity Tracking, Algorithmic Packaging, Financial Aid holds by terms, and many others. New Banner 8 projects are on the horizons such as Degree Works, Travel & Expense, Electronic Workflow Approvals, and Hobson. These software enhancements will be beneficial to faculty, staff, and students. For example, DegreeWorks will foster student success with more personalized academic advising, course transfer articulation, real-time advising and counseling, and degree auditing. Another example, Travel and Expenses enhancement will allow us to automate a manual process with electronic approvals and document imaging. Overall, these software enhancements will improve student retention and graduation rates and operational efficiencies.

## SAFRA Program Highlights

*Technology Services received a large amount of funding from Title III for the Banner 8 Project which included the Banner version 7 to 8 software upgrade, functional training and consulting services, and new software enhancements in order to improve operational efficiency, automate manual processes, and streamline existing business processes.*

### Improve Campus Security

*Mrs. Stephanie Hayes, Activity Director*

This activity supports the information security and technical support professionals to insure that the University's Information Security program meets the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) Information Technology Security Policy (ITRM Policy SEC519-00) and Information Technology Security measure for the University. COV policy dictates that agencies must protect COV information against unauthorized access and insure its integrity and availability while complying with appropriate federal or state legislated and regulatory requirements. To augment the staff, a Technical Writer and Information Security Officer were hired to assist with the project activities. Improvements to the Commonwealth's Information Security Programs in the following areas will take place: Risk Management, IT Contingency Planning, Information Systems Security, Logical Access Control, Data Protection, Facilities Security, Personnel Security, Threat Management, and Asset Management. These components will allow the University to build framework for the information security programs and allow the University to accomplish its mission to serve and educate students in a safe and secure environment. A Sr. IT Security Analyst, Infrastructure Project Manager, and System Administrator to build the IT Security Program were also hired to assist with this project.

### Academic Growth and Enhancement

*Dr. W. Weldon Hill, Activity Director*

This activity supports the University's continued enrollment, and growth and expansion of academic offerings with an anticipated total enrollment of 10,000 students by year 2020. Funding is needed in order to support the maintenance of academic quality as the growth of the University's expansion takes shape, particularly in the general education core program. Internal research findings show that a student's proclivity for persistence increases from 70% to 86% from freshman to junior years, respectively. The University has identified fundamental general education courses in English, Mathematics, and Science as courses needing smaller class sizes to facilitate student achievement, and in order to facilitate retention (ultimately graduation) rates.

*We are building a secure computing environment that will be in compliance with the Commonwealth of IT Security program.*

*Funds for this activity during grant year 2010-11, were allocated to assist the Banner 8 Upgrade Project for technological upgrades to further enhance the academic services to our students and improved monitoring of performance tools to our faculty and staff*



## TITLE III CARRY-FORWARD ACTIVITIES

## CF—Enhancing the VSU Web Presence

Stephanie Hayes,  
Activity Director

The VSU Web Presence provides information about the University as it relates to donors, prospective students, alumni, faculty, staff, prospective employees, peer institutions, etc. Funding will continue to provide enhancement of the VSU web-site by creating individual and professional web pages for branding and marketing VSU as a multi-cultural and diverse University, in addition to supporting the University's mission and strategic goals. Upon his arrival, one of President Keith T. Miller's priority was to design a new VSU web site. Technology Services management team was very supportive and went to work in order to accomplish the task with support and funding provided by the Title III Office. In July 2011, Technology Services and University Relations departments began collaboratively working with Digital Wave, a strategic web and

architect design company, to design our new VSU web site. For the kick-off meeting, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends were invited to discuss "what is important to you in a web site?" and "how would you define VSU?" Overall, branding and imaging are very important to all attendees. In the initial design phase, Digital Wave is capturing our slogan "Dream. Explore. Succeed." as a marketing strategy. The new web site will be easy to navigate, have featured photo stories and events, a section on "New to VSU," and stay connected section for social networking. Kindal Williams, a Senior Management Information System major and Technology Services Intern, attended the initial design meeting with the VSU staff members. She talked with the Digital Wave Marketing Strategist. "Students would like to see a web site that is new and exciting, as well as, on the cutting-edge of

technology" said Kindal. Other students, who attended a later session, really want us to focus on a new web site that is easy to navigate, have a news and events section, and up-to-date content. As a wrap-up to the initial design phase, the Web Strategists will incorporate all our feedback and redesign a proposed web site for another viewing with the VSU community. The new VSU Web site will be launched in April 2012.

Chief Michael Wallace  
Activity Director

## CF—Campus Security Phase III

Campus Security Phase III supports the Department of Policy and Public Safety area which is the policing arm of the University. The department provides professional and contemporary police services of security which emphasizes community involvement and educational initiatives. Funding will provide the structuring of office privacy walls with "white noise" mechanisms for meetings and discussions of sensitive issues, and also construction of firewall protection and security of the communications center will help reduce bureaucratic layers in response to processes needed to facilitate protective control over the campus community's safety. A ribbon cutting and open house tour of the

updated Campus Security Facility was held on August 11, 2011. Title III has assisted with Phase I, II, and III of Campus Security and has enhanced the overall safety in securing the gates for entrance points, fencing around the open areas surrounding the campus, proper recording/archiving of video records, audit reporting to enhance security and safety, the development of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the police department. The EOC is used as the primary command center to handle all campus emergencies. An adequate facility enhanced with fireproof walls and white-noise mechanisms for the command center has provided the police department with a faster response time for 911 calls, is conducive for privacy and sensitivity in emergency response situations, while protecting the comments of those who have sensitive complaints and conversations. Fireproof walls and white-noise mechanisms are new innovations for Campus Security...these enhancements provide faster response time and protection of sensitive and private conversations.

## CF— Enhancement of Student Financial Aid

Mr. Henry DeBose  
Activity Director

Enhancement of Student Financial Aid provides support for the positions of Client Services Manager, and Office Assistant. These key positions will have the responsibility for interpreting various departmental and University policies and procedures governing student's daily transactions. The Financial Aid department was faced with transitioning from the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) to Direct Lending. Funding will assist the Financial Aid staff to receive professional training in the areas of Department of Education's Direct Lending process. The training of staff will give support with Direct Lending, newly developed Federal compliances, and policies and procedures.



### TITLE III CARRY-FORWARD ACTIVITIES

#### CF—Gaining Real Opportunities with Students (G.R.O.W.S.)

Ms. Shandra Claiborne  
Activity Director

G.R.O.W.S. supports the teacher preparation summer program to allow students exposure to the teaching profession. The Professional Educations Program (PEP) Unit in attempt to increase the awareness of the dynamics of the teaching profession will organize a one week summer program for students in the surrounding counties focused on collegiate awareness, teacher preparation, and leadership training. Funding will sup-

port the positions of Summer Activity Directors, Counselors, and Presenters, as well as instructional materials, travel for cultural experiences, and teambuilding activities. During the closing banquet of the Summer Camp it was easy to see that the children dropped off by their parents only a week prior had changed. There was a new sense of purpose, a new confidence and passion that was easy to see. Each student took a



part in sharing their experiences. It was evident that these were the future leaders and students of VSU's Professional Education Program Unit!

### Program Highlights

*"The most unforgettable experiences of the program helped us learn new things about ourselves. Furthermore, the improvement of our skills will be helpful and the hands-on learning sets our minds toward the future as educators."*

Gabriela Quiroz  
VSU Student

*"Every day I woke up to an unpredictable day. The teachers are caring, effective, competent and reflective. The mentors are likewise there to help and tend to our every need. Attending G.R.O.W.S. summer camp was the best way to spend a week of my summer!"*

Raven Parham  
VSU Student

#### CF—Summer Enrichment Series

Dr. Silas Christian, Activity Director

Summer Enrichment Series supports the University's Professional Education Programs (PEP) Unit, Department of Teaching and Learning to conduct professional summer enrichment series. Implementation of the series will include expert assistance for oriented growth through the use of keynote presenters with the latest theories and practicum's for learning differences, reframing differentiated instruction, and transformation learning aimed at correcting teaching and learning needed to help close the achievement gap for students from deprived socio-economic and linguistically diverse settings. Funding will assist in collecting data in the form of pre and post-tests analysis, revised school action plans, and improved student performance.

#### CF—Enhancing Campus Security

Mrs. Joanne Taylor, Activity Director

Enhancing Campus Security purpose is to obtain an objective and independent assurance that Virginia State University's information technology security program meets the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) Information Technology Security Policy (ITRM Standard SEC500-02) and Information Technology Security Standard (ITRM Standard SEC501-01) through augmentation of IT audit professionals under the general direction of the Chief Audit Executive and direct supervision by the IT Audit Manager. With a resource of one IT Audit Manager to perform security reviews of sensitive systems, audit coverage of the nine security components outlined in the ITRM Standard SEC501-01 is a critical performance measure for the University.

#### CF—MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Ishmail Conway, Activity Director

Mass Communications supports the University's upgrade of the Department's Communication and Broadcast Media Center (CommCenter). The core components of the CommCenter are the radio station; the campus broadcast channels, the desk-top publishing lab, the Pro-Tools facility, the Anderson Turner Auditorium, and the Daniel Gymnasium. Funding assists in purchasing mid and high-end produc-

tion equipment for the radio station and the adjacent broadcast studio, and create television broadcast capability across the University and surrounding communities. These upgrades will provide opportunities to expand and improve the quality of radio and broadcast projects for instruction and extracurricular learning in the University's largest learning venues. One Media Service Technician graduate student was hired to set-up and tests

equipment as well as assist with class instruction. The Communication Center has provided opportunities for students and faculty, especially in Engineering and Music, to use applications of radio and broadcast production applications in a real-time media laboratory. Thus upgrades will also provide expansion and improvements to quality radio and broadcast projects for instruction and extracurricular learning in the University's largest learning venues.



*VSU Title III Newsletter*

*Volume I, Issue I*

## ABOUT TITLE III

Under the **Higher Education Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-315) (HEOA)** was enacted on **August 14, 2008, and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)**, began the inception of Title III. The Aid for Institutional Development programs, commonly referred to as the Title III programs, are designed to strengthen institutions of higher education that serve high percentages of minority students and students from low-income back-grounds. Federal grants made under these programs to eligible institutions are to support improvements in the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of the institutions. Specifically, the Title III programs provide financial assistance to help institutions solve problems that threaten their ability to survive, to improve their management and fiscal operations, to build endowments, and to make effective use of technology. Funding is targeted to minority-serving and other institutions that enroll a large proportion of financially disadvantaged students and have low per-student expenditures.

In addition, from its inception in 1965, one of the primary missions of Title III programs for the Nation has been to Strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) (Part B, Section 323); Authorizes 5-year formula-based discretionary grants to help HBCUs strengthen their infrastructure and achieve greater financial stability.

A Part-B eligible institution is defined as any accredited, legally authorized HBCU that was established prior to 1964 and whose principal mission was, and is, the education of African-Americans. Part-B, Section 323, appropriations are allocated based on the number of Pell Grant recipients enrolled, the number of graduates, and the percentage of graduates who are attending graduate or professional school in degree programs in which African Americans are underrepresented. There are a total of 105 HBCUs under the Department of Education.

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