

# Title III Programs

November 30, 2012

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Volume I, Issue II

## FROM THE DESK OF THE VSU TITLE III DIRECTOR

**Hattie Fitzgerald Wilkins**

Greetings and welcome to the second edition of the Title III Newsletter. There are some exciting things happening that we would like to share with you.

We have completed another five-year cycle with the HBCU Title III, Part B Program (2007-2012), and have been approved for a new five year cycle (2012-2017). The authorized funding has allowed for several new activities during FY 2012-13. Inside this issue are a few highlights of the past year accomplishments and a list of the activities for the new fiscal year.



The responsibility of the Title III Program Director’s Office is to ensure the effective management and efficient allocation of federal resources and to provide technical assistance to Title III Activity Directors to ensure that they are meeting their objectives during the designated time period.

To keep abreast of the best practices, the Title III Staff attended the National Association of HBCU Title III Administrators, Inc., 2012 Technical Assistance Workshop which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 19-22, 2012. On September 25-27, 2012, we attended the White House Initiative on National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference which was held in Washington, D.C.

We would like to say: “Thank you” to our President, Dr. Keith T. Miller for his continual support in helping Title III meet its objectives and goals.

## New Title III Programs for FY 2012-13

### Title III Part-B

- Associate of Science Degree In Nursing
- Campus Technology Initiatives
- Enrollment Management
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Institutional Effectiveness Administration
- Library Resources for Academic Programs
- Quality Enhancement Program
- Strengthening Endowment Activity
- Strengthening Professional Education Programs
- Strengthening University Development
- Student Services

### Title III Part-F

- Academic Growth and Enhancement/SAFRA
- Concurrent/Dual Enrollment Program/SAFRA
- New Educational Programs/SAFRA
- University College/SAFRA

*“U. S. Department of Education Awards Nearly \$228 Million to 97 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)”*  
 (See List of colleges receiving funding on the [ED.gov website](http://ED.gov))



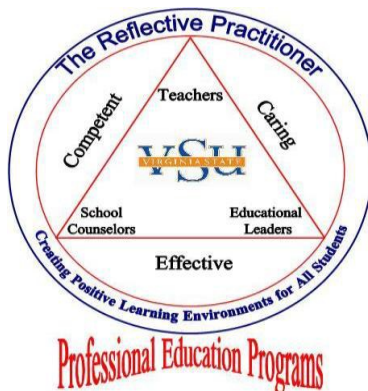
Reference: [press@ed.gov](mailto:press@ed.gov)  
 September 18, 2012

## *Title III Successes—Year in Review*

### *Strengthening Professional Education Programs (PEP)*

- The PEP Unit experienced a 27% increase in admitted pre-candidates, exceeding the target of a 25% increase as outlined in the grant objectives.
- The support and incentives provided by Title III also increased the number of pre-candidates taking the assessments required for admission to the PEP Unit.
- The Unit recruited and trained ten (10) classroom teachers to serve as Clinical Faculty. These teachers will work with the pre-candidates and candidates who complete classroom observations and mini teaching assignments as part of their teacher education coursework.
- The Unit hosted a joint National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Virginia Department of Education continuous accreditation visit in September of this year. The results from the reaccreditation visit were positive; the on-site team reported that all standards were met.
- Title III support assisted the Professional Education Programs Unit in maintaining national recognition.

### **Congratulations to the VSU Education Program's Successful Accreditation Review!**



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## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### *Concurrent/Dual Enrollment Program (SAFRA)*

- VSU has agreements for the 2012-13 academic year with the following School Districts:

- ◊ Charles City County
- ◊ Chesterfield County
- ◊ Dinwiddie County
- ◊ Franklin City
- ◊ Henry County
- ◊ Martinsville City
- ◊ Petersburg City
- ◊ Prince George County
- ◊ Richmond City
- ◊ Surry County
- ◊ Sussex County

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**Dr. Muriel A. Hawkins**

**Associate Provost of Partnerships and Engagement**

- Credit course menu includes courses in the following disciplines: English Composition, Spanish, Mathematics, Biology, Introduction to Teaching, Engineering Technology and Political Science.
- There is currently no tuition charge for high school students who take the college-level courses. Textbooks are usually purchased by the high school system hosting the classes.
- Students who participate in the program, on average, accumulate a semester worth of credits enabling them to reduce the cost of earning a four-year college degree.
- Currently over four-hundred (400) students are enrolled in this Program.
- VSU and New College Institute (NCI) are collaborating on manufacturing degree and certificate programs. The advanced manufacturing education program could attract more high-tech companies to the region.

### *Associate Degree in Nursing*

- Title III support has afforded the Department of Nursing to purchase simulation mannequins in order to replicate real life case scenarios to enhance critical thinking for student nurses.
- The Department of Nursing also uses funding from Title III to purchase needed equipment to simulate the hospital environment and ensure students learn safe and effective practice standards.
- In order to prepare the graduate nurse from VSU to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), Title III funds are used to provide additional resources from ATI, Inc., which provides a comprehensive program to assist students in becoming successful within the nursing program and ultimately on the NCLEX-RN. Students are also offered additional preparation via a Kaplan review course. Each of these resources is generously funded via Title III.
- Several of the program graduates have furthered their education, moving toward bachelor's and master's degrees. Many of the graduate nurses have stayed in the community and are working at local hospitals and other health care agencies, such as dialysis centers, home health agencies, and rehabilitation centers.
- Title III funding has afforded the Department of Nursing to continue to build its program and graduate nurses who work and live within the community, thereby increasing the health of those within their communities.



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## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### Enhancement of the Financial Aid Office

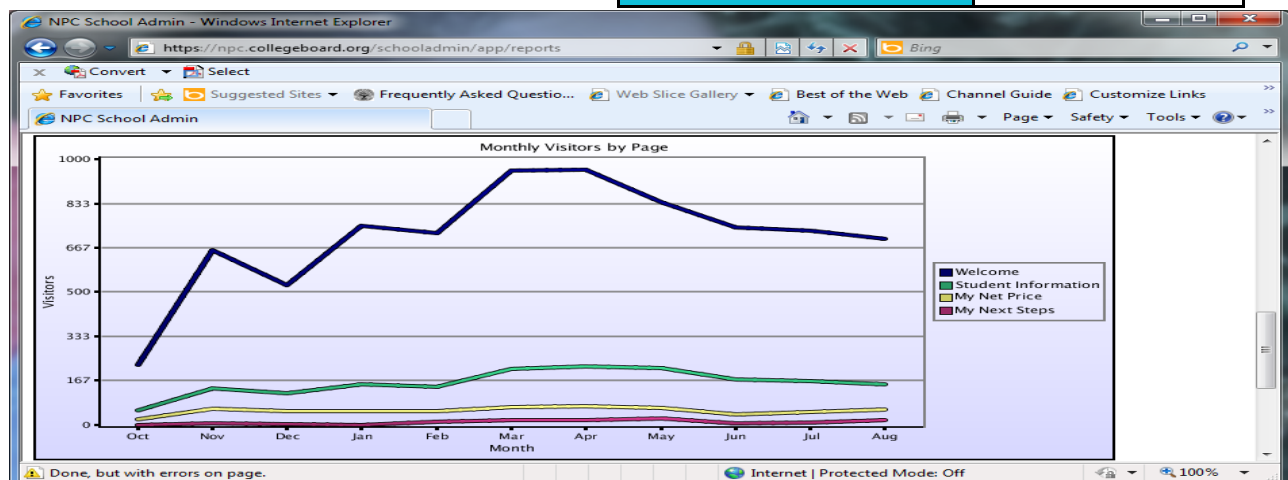
- Title III funding provided the Trojan One Stop Shop (TOSS) which is fully operational with extended hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The TOSS advocate services five departments under the Student Affairs and Enrollment Services. The TOSS Center has been an asset to the Enrollment Services’ department; as well as, the reception areas of the Registrar and Financial Aid Offices.
- Financial Aid Staff has attended mandated workshops and annual travel for updates on new Federal and State policies and procedures.
- An Annual Financial Aid Expo was held for the first time, and funding assisted with acquiring 2,500 convention bags to support the student body, and 6,000 reminder postcards, which generated a larger turnout.
- The Client Service Manager’s position, funded by Title III, continues to operate in a very professional and sufficient manner in controlling a high volume of traffic area, and in addition, has been assigned the new tasks of the Students Accounts Payable (SAP) Coordinator.
- The Hourly employees were hired and designated primarily to assist in areas of loan reconciliation, the Financial Aid website regarding the Net Price Calculator and Financial Literacy. This has been of tremendous assistance to the regular work load.

*The following chart depicts the number of visits the Net Price Calculator has received since its conception in October 30, 2011:*

**Results for October 2011—August 2012**

Page Name	Monthly Visitors
Welcome	7828
Student Information	1807
Parent Household	1069
Parent Income	877
Parent Assets	503
Student Finances	606
My Net Price	664
My Resources	365
My Next Steps	205
My Information	133
Print	44
Saved Data	267

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## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### *Gaining Real Opportunities With Students (G.R.O.W.S.)*

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS UNIT

- GROWS welcomed twenty-four students from across the state of Virginia into their 2012 summer residency camp at VSU.
- Dr. Trina Spencer, Coordinator of Elementary Education, held the attention of students in the Professional Education Programs, Session I. During this presentation students were introduced to the Conceptual Framework used within the Education program at VSU.
- Ms. Cynthia Reid spearheaded Session II and discussed the emerging trends of special education and how this may impact the job of a professional educator.
- The Teaching with Technology Session was led by Dr. John Blackwell, and to the surprise of students, each were given new Toshiba tablets with their names on the boxes. The laptops will be used for future activities including college applications, essays, and review for the SAT prep and Praxis. Students were able to build websites and online “glogs” at: <http://edu.glogster.com/> which helps support the learning of their potential future students.
- Students were given a pretest to determine basic readiness for the SAT Prep. Using these scores Mr. John Travis and Ms. Shawn Fitzgerald met with students each day to work on the top three weakest areas for the summer group. They were also bulk registered for the test in the fall at the expense of the GROWS program.
- Students were taken to Washington, DC where they were offered the opportunity to meet with Virginia Congressman Representative Robert “Bobby” Scott. They were allowed to sit in on the judiciary committee floor and listen to a hearing about gang violence.
- While in Washington, students were also taken to the U. S. Department of Education, and were given an overview of the educational process and afterwards there was a question/answer period. Normally quiet and reserved students were transformed into advocates for the future.
- Special Projects such as the Dispositions Workshop, where Mrs. Jones-Miles quizzed the participants on what they felt exemplified the attitude of a great teacher. Answers varied, but the prevailing response seemed to be that a teacher is ever-mindful of his/her attitude and how it may appear through the eyes of the student and the public.
- Mrs. Shandra Claiborne-Payton, Activity Director for GROWS, conducted impromptu etiquette and style consultations with students in an effort to help them put their best faces (and styles) forward. She also took students on a field trip to Southpark Mall, and they were able to use their imaginary budgets of \$100 to sort outfit selections of their liking based on what they had learned during disposition training.

**CONTRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2012!**

*Another Summer Year of GROWS Success*

*(Continued on the next page...)*



## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### *Gaining Real Opportunities With Students (G.R.O.W.S.) Continued...*

### **IN THE WORDS OF THE GROWS SUMMER CAMP STUDENTS:**



The Gaining Real Opportunities With Students (G.R.O.W.S) program inspired me in many ways. I was undecided about what I wanted to do my Senior year of high school. One of my teachers introduced me to the Dean of Admissions of the Education program at Virginia State University (VSU). She then introduced me to the G.R.O.W.S program in which I was qualified for because my G.P.A was above average and I was a Senior in High School. This program took place on the campus of VSU. After going through the program I was highly amazed by the things I learned and the hands-on course was where they took us to a day-care center to work with some kids. I was convinced from that day forward that I wanted to work with kids and I wanted to go to VSU. I am now enrolled as a Full time Pre-Candidate for the Education program at VSU and I am learning how to become a Caring, Competent, Effective, and Reflective Practitioner which is a part of the Conceptual Framework at this institution of higher education. This program basically molded this framework in our minds, so that we can be the best practitioner we can.

**2012 Graduate, Ke'Ron Johnson**

The Summer G.R.O.W.S Program encouraged me to become a Trojan because of the care and encouragement received from the practitioners who sponsored the program. I was given the opportunity to adapt to the conceptual framework imposed by the Virginia State University Education Program of molding competent, caring, effective, and reflective practitioners who create a positive learning environment for all students. With the G.R.O.W.S Program, I received firsthand experience in the education field as well an opportunity to explore education outside of the classroom and inside of politics on a trip to our nation's capital. The G.R.O.W.S Program taught me that I can make a difference in a child's life by conforming to the conceptual framework. As a freshman pre-candidate in the preadmission stage of my educational career, I am eager to move forward on this journey. I aspire to assist students who suffer from disabilities and learning disorders as well as starting my own program for underprivileged youth and adolescent girls. The G.R.O.W.S Program allowed me to network with successful practitioners of whom I now attend classes with on a daily basis. The connections I made with the G.R.O.W.S Program have extended well beyond my imagination as many of my fellow peers are also students in the Professional Education Program. I am a proud graduate of the G.R.O.W.S Program and I sincerely thank each and every one of the practitioners who mentored me and inspired me to become a Trojan.

**2012 Graduate, Tynisha Smith**



*"Creating positive learning environments for all students."*

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## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### *Students With Disabilities Programs (SWDP)*

- With Title III assistance the SWDP has increased enrollment by 67% in Fall 2011-Fall 2012.
- The establishment of the student driven leadership Team (Academic in Motion) to promote disability awareness and academic enhancement was accomplished.
- Enhancement training by Video Conference capacity—Smart Board and polycom spider phone interactive webinars were held.
- The establishment of a Students With Disabilities Honor Society at VSU and Membership of the National Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society were recognized. First HBCU Membership, (2010-11 to 2011-12) and members were increased by 50%.
- With Title III assistance, the SWDP has garnered employment opportunities—Students were placed in federal government jobs (interns, summer employment, full-time and part-time jobs) - Only students with disabilities were able to participate.
- Title III assistance has helped the SWDP with Housing a state-of-the-art Assistive Technology/Learning Lab in Memorial Hall, First Floor.
- Provision of the VSU website accessibility and availability for individuals with disabilities through mirrored text is now available.
- Enhancement of SWDP collaborations of interagency and external agencies, universities and the community-at-large was accomplished.
- Increased student usage of services from 1,777 in 2010-11 to 2,682 in 2011-12.
- Increased student graduation in SWDP—Students graduating 2011-12 — Total 18 students; In December 2011—12 graduates and May 2012—6 graduates. Of the 6 students in May, five graduated with honors and one with a doctoral degree.



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## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### University Enhanced Media/Banner 8 Upgrade Projects

- Title III assisted in the collaboration with Digital Wave, a strategic web and architect design company, to design the new VSU website. Branding and imaging were major concerns, and in the initial design phase, Digital Wave captured the new slogan “*Building A Better World,*” as a marketing strategy. The new website is easy to navigate, has featured photo stories and events, as well as sections on “New to VSU” and “Stay Connected” for social networking.
- With the assistance of Title III funding, Technology Services has modernized the VSU campus with Wireless Fidelity Network, “Wi-Fi” access which has been deployed in 18 Residence Halls and 58 Academic and Administrative buildings. “The students love it,” says Dr. Laverne Briggs of VSU Residence Services. The excitement among the students is evident. Three students, Julius Haynie, Reggie Carter, and Tamara Calixte took the initiative to help other students set-up their wireless access in Moore Hall. Nakeya Peterson-Johnson also spent time helping students set-up their Wi-Fi in Eggleston Hall.



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### IT PROJECTS

#### On The Horizon

- Blackboard Mobile
- DegreeWorks
- Travel & Expense
- Hobson

### *Upcoming 2012-13 Projects:*

The University's **Campus Technology** activity will perform **Business Processes Modeling** in the following areas:

- ◇ Managing Student Registration (Registration and Records)
- ◇ Processing Financial Aid Applications (Financial Aid)
- ◇ Assessing Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges (Student Accounts Receivables)
- ◇ Purchasing Goods and Services (Finance)
- ◇ Processing New Hires (Human Resources)
- ◇ Managing Campaigns and Designations (Advancement)



## *Title III Successes—Year in Review (Continued)*

### Quality Enhancement Program (QEP)

- Title III funding has assisted the Writing/ePortfolio Studio (WEPS) to support the development of writing competencies by offering the following services and resources for students, faculty, and staff which includes:
  - \* Individual and Group Tutorials
  - \* Online Tutorial Assistance in Writing and Other Academic Subjects
  - \* ePortfolio Assistance
  - \* WEPS Design Room
  - \* Printed and Visual Resources
- Faculty members throughout the University are implementing and teaching writing intensive courses in the major and are requesting special instructional sessions by WEPS personnel to address critical issues in writing across the disciplines.
- Students enrolled in the writing intensive courses are attending tutorial sessions in the Writing/ePortfolio.
- An increased number of faculty members in the Department of Languages and Literature are requiring their students to schedule tutorial appointments and to take advantage of other services provided by the WEPS.
- The number of students submitting their eportfolio through Blackboard has increased significantly. The senior eportfolio is a requirement for graduation from VSU. Students' eportfolio will be an online presentation of selection from their work produced throughout their time in college.
- The research design for the QEP is designed to support the five-year SACS review. Data is being collected to be analyzed during the fifth year, academic year 2012-13.
- Students are using the Writing/ePortfolio on a more regular basis to assist them with their writing throughout the University
- The University has its first fully operational Writing/ePortfolio Studio to support writing instruction across the disciplines. The WEPS has the potential, when fully staffed, to serve a student population of approximately 6,000 students.
- Smarthinking tutors are certified professional tutors who review submitted assignments and provide personalized and detailed feedback regarding development, organization, and syntax within 24-48 hours.



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*Free 24-hour access to SMARTHINKING,  
an online tutoring service that is available  
to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*

# "QEP"

**The Writing/ePortfolio Studio at Virginia State University**

*Developing a culture of writing to enhance academic and professional success*

Harris Hall, Room 113, Studio Hrs.: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Mon-Thurs. and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

## 2012 HBCU Week Conference



The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) hosted a two-day national conference commemorating National HBCU Week and highlighting the significant contributions which HBCUs have made to the nation. Additionally, the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs met on **Thursday, September 27, 2012.**

The Title III Staff attended the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Conference, held in Washington D.C. on September 25-26, 2012. The conference was very informative and offered best practice principles, effective leadership, and stewardship of resources.

The Title III staff and Grants and Contracts staff attended the National Association of HBCU Title III Administrators Technical Assistance Workshop held in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 21, 2012.



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See: *The White House Press Release dated September 21, 2012... A Proclamation by the President of The United States of America, Titled: "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2012"*

Visit: <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/whhbcu/>

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*"Building our institution stronger for student academic success"*