Research that Reaches Out
Faculty and Staff Newsletter - June 2018

Fall Project Funding Due July 1

We modified the dates of the QEP Semester Project Funding cycle in order to provide faculty with planning time ahead of the semester. Applications for semester project funding will be due on July 1 for the Fall 2018 semester and November 1 for the Spring 2019 semester.

Research that Reaches Out is looking to fund course-related projects that work toward sustainable, high-impact Explore and Express opportunities for students. Please note that a syllabus draft is now required with all applications. An updated funding application is available on the Research that Reaches Out website. Kathy is happy to provide feedback on proposal ideas or drafts, but you are encouraged to request feedback before June 20, 2018.

Spotlight: 17-18 Funded Projects

**SOC/WGS 350 with Dr. Elaina Behounek**

Dr. Elaina Behounek, Assistant Professor of Sociology in CLA, was awarded QEP project funding in Fall 2017 to implement a project that created Express-level learning opportunities for students in her SOC/WGS 350 course, Women, Crime, and Justice. Students worked in small groups to develop public education initiatives to raise awareness and combat problems including child sex trafficking, recidivism, and rape myths. As a result of the course, one group launched a social media awareness campaign, Rock2Stop, around the state of Georgia. They paint small rocks with sex trafficking facts and a link to their facebook page, and they place the rocks in public places at the five cities in Georgia with the highest trafficking rates. As people find the rocks, they take a photo, post online, and relocate the rock to spread the message. You can check out the Rock2Stop initiative here.

**IGS 380 with Dr. Lisa Vu**

Dr. Lisa Vu, Assistant Professor of Global Development Studies in CLA, piloted a new course project in Spring 2018 with support from her QEP project funding award. The special topics course, Entrepreneurship Practicum, trained students in developing educational exhibits that demonstrate the effects of globalization on our daily lives and highlight the importance individuals can play in their roles as global citizens. The exhibits were displayed at the Washington Memorial Library, the Ruth Hartley Mosely community center, and on Mercer’s Macon campus. Dr. Vu is further developing this type of student learning experience in her work as a 2018 Summer Faculty Fellow with the QEP Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

2018 Summer Research Students

- Tiffany Alexander and Addison Robinson are working for Dr. Chester Fontenot and Mr. Adam Griggs to create a digital archive of historical records housed in the Macon-Bibb County Clerk’s Office.
- Maria Avramova and Tarna Zander-Velloso are working for Dr. Chris Grant to develop a program model for international students and local host families.
- Kaila Banker and Sarah Harris are working for Dr. Lisa Vu to design a curriculum for cultural awareness programming for K-12 children and youth.
- Zainil Charania and Savannah Grunhard are working for Dr. John Lee to design low-cost physics lab experiments for high school physics education in public schools.
- Meghan Duffy and Cassie Outlier are working for Dr. Deneen Senasi to write a book to help college faculty teach writing to undergraduate students.
- Lauren Fowler and Katharine Warner are working for Dr. Andy Pounds to continue the development of a virtual reality surgery simulator for neonatal brain surgery training.
- Griffin Murphy and Hart Warner are working for Dr. Philip McCreanor to expand the gray water collection project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Save the Date for QEP: The Workshop

Tuesday, August 14