

Grants at Landmark College: An overview of the Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects

By Kelly Fadden

Since 2005, Landmark College has experienced a marked growth in the number of extramurally-funded grants awarded to the College. Much of this success is due to the efforts of the Landmark College Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP). In addition to supporting the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training's (LCIRT) pursuit and implementation of grants, OGSP engages faculty and staff in developing and pursuing grants through the mini-grant program and seeks funding for the College as a whole.

In 2004, the College hired Kelly Fadden as Director of OGSP to increase the College's grant-seeking efforts, specifically within LCIRT. At that time, the College had two active grants that were soon to conclude and no new grants on the horizon. Ms. Fadden joined Landmark College after having run a successful grant consulting business in Washington, DC, where she helped clients such as the University of Utah, the Child Welfare League of America, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry obtain approximately \$20M in grant funding.

OGSP plays a major role in grant seeking for the College, including identifying funding opportunities, establishing grant seeking priorities, leading and coordinating grant writing efforts, conducting literature searches, creating project budgets, and submitting grant applications. All grants at Landmark College are submitted through OGSP. OGSP also leads post-award activities for the College, which includes ensuring that grants are administered according to funder guidelines, writing and filing reports with the funding agencies, and tracking progress toward project goals. When one considers LCIRT's diverse projects, each supported by a different grant with its own unique requirements, it becomes clear that OGSP is crucial to the success of these projects.

Since 2005, LCIRT has been awarded nine grants totaling \$1.4M. The largest grant is a \$1M-funded project, entitled *A Needs-Based Best Practices Professional Development Program for Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities in the Community College Setting*, funded by the Department of Education's Demonstration Projects to Ensure Students with Disabilities Receive a Quality Higher Education program. The grant will conclude in 2009, but another grant submission is planned for 2008 to build upon and expand the work of the current grant through 2012. Additionally, in 2007 OGSP led efforts to submit a grant to the National Science Foundation's Research in Disabilities Education program, which resulted in a \$100,000 demonstration grant to LCIRT to conduct a research project, entitled *Universal Design in College Algebra: Customizing Learning Resources for Two Year Students with Learning Disabilities*. This grant, which will take place through 2010, represented a major win for Landmark College as the College's first extramurally-funded research grant.

Another way in which OGSP is supporting the College is through the Mini-Grant Program. (See separate article in this issue). Mini-grants provide seed funding, typically ranging from \$100-\$500, to Landmark College faculty and staff for small projects that support innovation and improvement in instruction, student support services, and scholarship. There have been a wide variety of projects undertaken under the auspices of this program, including usability testing of a redesigned website, a study examining the effects of yoga on the symptoms of AD/HD, and a project to evaluate assistive technology for students. To apply for a mini-grant, faculty or staff complete a two-page application, describing the proj-



Kelly Fadden and Diane Parton - Landmark's Grants and Sponsored Projects Team

ect, funding requirements, and an evaluation plan. The mini-grants program has been a great success and ten grants have been funded to date.

Given OGSP's success and expanded scope of work, we have added a new staff member to the team. In January 2008, Diane Parton joined OGSP as Grants Administrator. Ms. Parton worked previously at World Learning as Senior Contract Administrator for eleven years. In her new role, she is primarily responsible for post-award activities, including managing all grant budgets, invoicing funders, and grant accounting.

The OGSP is planning several federal grant submissions in the upcoming year to Department of Education and National Science Foundation grant programs.

Additionally, several foundation grants are planned to supplement funding for LCIRT projects and operations. However, OGSP's main task and primary concern continues to be administering LCIRT's current grants and ensuring that Landmark College meets all of its obligations to its funders. With \$1.4M in grant funding, this will continue to be a high priority. The work of LCIRT and its importance to the mission of the College guarantee that OGSP will be busy seeking, winning, and supporting many more grants.