

Date: July 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Diversity in Teaching Grant Awards, 2011-2013

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 1989, the General Assembly passed HJR 36, which called for a variety of remedies to correct the underrepresentation of African-Americans and Hispanics among public school teachers in Tennessee. The resolution reflected the legislature’s belief that bringing more minorities to the teaching profession would supplement the education of students through diverse instruction and would provide role models for minority students. One of the suggested remedies to the underrepresentation was the development of a matching grant to support pilot projects designed to expand the recruitment pool of minorities preparing to be teachers.

With the settlement of the *Geier* desegregation lawsuit, and in light of current federal laws, the Minority Teacher Education program has evolved into the Diversity in Teaching program. THEC remains committed to the overarching goals of the program as previously administered, though some operational elements of the program must shift to ensure proper compliance with federal law. Race can no longer be used as the primary criteria in determining program eligibility. Additionally, the proportionality of minority teachers to minority students can no longer be a governing principle of the program.

Although changes to the program are necessary by law, there continues to be a need to address the shortage of underrepresented groups among the teaching ranks and to nurture teachers who embrace diversity as an instructional tool. Therefore, Diversity in Teaching grants were awarded to institutions whose proposals demonstrated a commitment to achieving that ultimate end, regardless of race.

Project directors convened at THEC on July 1, 2011 for a mandatory technical assistance workshop.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED: A list of recommended institutions and funding levels is provided in Attachment B. The General Competition projects will be funded for the period August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2013.

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE: All grant proposals are available for review at the Commission office.

ATTACHMENT A

DIVERSITY IN TEACHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **Art Fuller**
State Board of Education
2. **Patrick Meldrim**
Tennessee Independent Colleges & Univ. Association
3. **Terrance Gibson**
Tennessee Education Association
4. **Kay Clark**
Tennessee Board of Regents
5. **Katie High**
University of Tennessee
6. **Vanita Lytle-Sherril**
Volunteer State Community College
7. **Wesley Hall**
Tennessee Higher Education Commission

**ATTACHMENT B
RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR 2011-13**

Austin Peay State University \$80,000
MORE: Mentoring Outstanding, Responsible Educators
Project Director: Moniqueka Gold

Lee University \$100,000
STEPS: Systematic Techniques to Equalize Personnel in Schools
Project Director: Gary Riggins

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga \$95,784
"Each One, Reach One"
Project Director: Sandy Cole

University of Tennessee-Knoxville \$100,000
"Diversity in Teaching Intern Program"
Dr. Beverly Hearn