Grants Office Welcomes New Grant Fellow

The Office of Grants Administration is pleased to welcome Maria Kasparova as the Grant Fellow for 2014-2015. The primary role of the grant fellow is to promote the work and services of the Grant’s Office, to serve as a liaison between faculty, staff, and the Office of Grants Administration, and to help provide grant development assistance to Bergen faculty and staff.

Maria is an Associate Professor in The American Language Program here at BCC and is currently working on the composition textbook for ESL and generation 1.5 students “Bridges of Communication”, which is due for publication by Wordsworth Cengage in January 2015.

Maria has served on various college-wide committees. She has also has participated in several grant projects. Please join us in welcoming Maria to the Grants team!

She can be reached at 201-493-3649, mkasparova@bergen.edu, or in Office L-333.

HPOG Service Learning and Networking Sessions

Bergen Community College is among 1,100 two- and four-year institutions that are committed to service learning and fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. BCC offers resources and training for faculty seeking to “incorporate community work into the curriculum, giving students real-world learning experiences that enhance their academic learning while providing a tangible benefit for the community.” (www.compact.org.)

Service learning is a core component of Health Professions Opportunity Grant (HPOG) with students being required to commit 10 hours to community work as part of their training and with community serving as a partner in education. Among the options are volunteering in local hospitals, serving in soup kitchens, helping as mental health first-aid responders, or participating in breast cancer awareness walks.

“The main goal of service learning experience under HPOG,” says Tenesha Lynch, a health professions counselor working with the eligible students, “is to encourage the students to give back to the community that invested in them while at the same time building skills necessary in any health profession.”

One of Tenesha’s priorities is to facilitate networking sessions during which students can talk to each other and share their experiences while at the same time discovering their interests and talents. She believes that students “shouldn’t wait to graduate in order to network. They can start immediately by learning from each other and gaining valuable networking skills by the time they complete their degrees.” The sessions improve interpersonal communication abilities and provide guidance for future career choices.

Sessions target a variety of needs in health professions. For example, those pursuing careers in nursing and end of life care often struggle with questions about how to handle life and death conversations and how to stay compassionate. The recent workshops on End of Life and Compassion Fatigue addressed some of these issues. Mental Health workshop was beneficial for students who wanted to get certification as mental health first-aid responders.

One of the HPOG students, Taryn Torsiello, has held several “Women’s Health Awareness” events in the Student Center at the main campus where she shared health awareness, prevention and treatment resources geared towards women and children. The last event of the spring semester will take place on Thursday, May 1st from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nyquist Foundation

We encourage you to visit the website of Thomas & Corinne Nyquist Foundation. On the 15th of each month, the foundation publishes a free Federal Funding Report, where they list all the upcoming funding opportunities specifically for two-year colleges. If you have a project in mind that might need funding, this website will guide you towards the right source.
**The WOW! Factor in Grant Development**

**Inspiration!**  
Is this a project that will generate follow up projects?

**Innovation!**  
Is the project transformative for the institution, the discipline, higher ed, or community?

**Collaboration!**  
Does the project build strong partnership?

**Contribution!**  
Is there evidence of resource leveraging?

**Fashion (what’s hot)?!**  
Does the project represent what is hot among grantor interests?

**Competition!**  
Does the project illustrate the advantages of a community college?

**Integration!**  
Does the project integrate two or more ideas into seamless activity?

**Contribution!**  
Does the proposal have a clearly demonstrated plan to continue the project after funding?

**Presentation!**  
Does it make effective use of dated tables, graphs, boldface type, bullets, and diagrams?

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**Upcoming Free Webinars**

Focus on Arts: Virtual Coffee & Conversation with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation  
Grantseeking Basics 5/8  

Focus on Higher Education: Virtual Coffee & Conversation with Lumina Foundation  

Proposal Writing Basics 5/3  

Introduction to Finding Funders 5/5  

Proposal Writing Basics 5/6  

Introduction to Finding Funders 5/10  

Proposal Budgeting Basics 5/6  

Introduction to Finding Funders 5/31  

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**Grants.gov**

Grants.gov is an online system that provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. Established in 2002 and managed by the Department of Health and Human Services, the website houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for 26 federal grant-making agencies.

Grants.gov makes it faster and easier to research and find federal grant opportunities with improved search capabilities from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant opportunity categories including eligibility, agency, funding, and instrument. You don’t need to be a registered user to use the system. You can search for available grants opportunities and receive regular updates if you subscribe to their e-mail notifications. The office of Grants Administration at Bergen Community College has a registered account with Grants.gov and can help guide you in your search.