

5 projects awarded Public Service Endowment Grants

Faculty-led projects in five diverse fields are sharing \$74,162 in funding this year through the Public Service Endowment Grant (PSEG) program. Interim Vice Chancellor for Research Fred Byron recently announced the winners of this year's competitive grant cycle, who were recommended by a selection committee composed of community and academic leaders.

The recipients and their projects are:

Anne Carter, assistant professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, "From Garden to Farm: Expanding Urban Vegetable Plots to Increase Produce Sales at the Holyoke Farmers' Market," \$15,000.

Daniel Gerber, assistant professor of Community Health Services, "Bringing Businesses, Business Students and At-Risk and Low-Income Franklin County Young People Together Through Mentoring Partnerships," \$17,325.

Noy Holland, assistant professor of English, "Writers in the Schools Project: Mohawk Trail School District," \$15,000.

Henry Lu, associate professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, "Lower Longhill Neighborhood Master Planning Project, Springfield," \$12,300.

Marge Magouirk-Colbert, lecturer in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, "An Inventory and Analysis of Youth Workforce Development Programs in Springfield and Holyoke," \$14,537.

The PSEG program provides an excellent way for faculty to obtain research funding for projects that respond to community-defined priorities in the Pioneer Valley region, according to Michael D. Wright, associate director of the Office of Economic Development. Projects must specifically address one or more issues identified in the Pioneer Valley Plan for Progress, a regional economic blueprint for Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties prepared with broad community input by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Administered by the Office of Economic Development, the PSEG program

helps faculty make a positive difference locally with practical community-based research and demonstration projects, said Wright.

"This year's recipients have some meaningful projects designed with community partners that we think will contribute to the vitality and quality of life for residents in the Pioneer Valley. We're grateful to all the faculty who submitted proposals and we would like to see even more funds available to support this kind of work," commented Jaymie Chernoff, assistant vice chancellor for Economic Development.

The application deadline for the next round of PSEG grants is April 8, 2002.

Any Amherst campus faculty or professional staff member may submit proposals, which can range in cost from \$5,000-\$15,000. Information about identified community needs, community partners and PSEG guidelines is available online (www.umass.edu/oed/pseg.html).

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