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U.S. Department of Education

Office of Postsecondary Education Grantee Voices from the Field Summer 2022 Newsletter

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U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education

Grantee Voices From the Field

Summer 2022 Newsletter

President Biden Calls for 250,000 Volunteers for the National Partnership for Student Success



President Joe Biden meets with young students during a school visit. Andrew Caballero-Reynolds / AFP via Getty Images

Source: [The White House Briefing Room](#)

The Biden-Harris administration, led by AmeriCorps and the Department of Education (Department), [announced](#) an initiative to recruit, train, and place screened adults in high-impact roles as tutors, mentors, and student-success coaches.

The partnership is joining forces with leading national education, youth development, and service organizations, and the Johns Hopkins Everyone Graduates Center to launch the [National Partnership for Student Success \(NPSS\)](#).

NPSS will bring together higher education institutions, school districts, and non-profit organizations to recruit, train, and place screened adults in high-impact roles as tutors, mentors, student success coaches, integrated student supports coordinators, and post-secondary education transition coaches, to ensure an additional 250,000 adults serve in these roles over the next three years. This will also help build the pipeline of educators. As more Americans gain experience working in our schools, the hope is that more will seek out roles as teachers and student support professionals.

President Biden is calling on Americans to come together to support our students in several ways:

- Individuals, from young adults to retirees, can learn more about supporting youth through a range of volunteer and national service opportunities, through [AmeriCorps](#) and the [NPSS](#).
- Colleges and universities can learn more about and [sign up](#) to partner with K–12 schools and community-based organizations, providing their post-secondary students with meaningful opportunities to support K–12 students' success.

For more information about serving as a volunteer visit [Request Information About Service](#)

For more information about serving as a volunteer, visit [Request Information About Service Opportunities](#).

Learn About the Department's Role in NPSS

Secretary Cardona Announces Equity Action Plan for Higher Education



Education Secretary Cardona announces supplemental priorities.

Source: [U.S. Department of Education Press Releases](#)

Secretary Miguel Cardona announced an [Equity Action Plan](#) for postsecondary education. The plan addresses issues related to inequitable postsecondary attainment for traditionally underserved populations by focusing on the following supplemental priorities: accessibility, affordability, equitable funding, and value. The agency is helping under-resourced colleges and universities proactively use data and evidence and expand proven strategies to strengthen their commitments to diversity and accessibility by increasing graduation rates, improving career outcomes, and eliminating equity gaps.

[Learn More About the 2022 Supplemental Priorities in the Federal Register](#)

Strengthening Institutions Program Helps Nursing Program Implement Virtual Reality Simulations





Students use virtual reality equipment to simulate treating patients in a Moraine Valley Community College nursing class.

Submission by Theresa Pallanti, Ed. D., assistant director of resource development and Title III project director, Moraine Valley Community College

Funding from the [Title III Strengthening Institutions Program](#) enabled [Moraine Valley Community College](#) in Illinois to pilot virtual reality simulations for nursing students this spring. Wearing Oculus headsets, students could walk into a virtual hospital room, talk to a patient who responds and relays symptoms, and decide on treatment. Sometimes the simulated (SIM) would patient become unstable, and students would need to call the doctor or help the patient recover. They could also review charts and X-rays as if they were in the room with a patient.

Faculty customized the simulation modules with a multitude of patient responses and charts of various situations students might encounter in the real world. “Every student said it was realistic. They were having fun, but they were learning,” said Georgina Murphy, Moraine Valley nursing instructor, who helped program the software. “It gives them another tool to practice what we taught them.”

The students continue to use SIM patients, which are mannequins that demonstrate human functions, such as heartbeats and breathing, to practice techniques in class. This virtual option helps with critical thinking and assessing scenarios where these future nurses need to make critical decisions.

“I was really excited to be a part of the first cohort to experience virtual reality for the nursing program. I have never done virtual reality before, so I didn’t know what to expect,” said Natalie Wigginton, a student from Oak Lawn. “After doing the training session and the simulation, I actually grew very fond of it. It definitely helped me become a better nurse.”

Students can access the new equipment for any nursing class at any level through their online student account.

Watch Moraine Valley students discuss their virtual reality experience.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grantee Wins Robotics Championship



Winning Robotics team from the HSI-funded program at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology.

Submission by Kurrin Abrams, analyst at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions \(HSIs\)](#) and Hossein Rahemi, professor and chair project director of HSI-STEM Engineering and Technology Department at [Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology](#).

From May 3 to 5, representatives from 72 national and international universities and colleges attended the 2022 VEX U World Championship at the Dallas Convention Center. Invitations to the VEX U Robotics World championship will were only granted to teams that were a tournament champion or excellence award recipient of a regional competition. Hispanic-serving institution Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology's robotics team were the recipients of both the "Excellence Award" and the "Robot Skills" at the Vaughn College Regional Robotics Tournament, as well as an "Excellence Award" recipient at the [WPI VEX U Robotics Regional Tournament](#).

The Vaughn College Robotics team went on to win the highest award, the "Excellence Award" at the 2022 VEX U Robotics World Championship. The judges noted that Vaughn's team best exemplified "the best overall robotics program" and that they "want the team be emulated by other teams. Vaughn's robotics team is now the third top world team in the robotics skills challenge competition and the first in autonomous programming.

Vaughn College extended its thanks to the staff of the Department federal grant staff (Title III, Part F, HSI-STEM, and Articulation grant) who provided the necessary support to engage Vaughn's students in STEM-related scholarly and professional activities.

International Foreign Language and Education Funds Haitian Creole Language Course





Nyya Flores Toussaint is a Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship alumnus within the International Foreign Language Education (IFLE).

Submission by Carolyn Collins, analyst in [International and Foreign Language Education \(IFLE\)](#), and Lindsay Dudley, program manager for the [Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center](#) at Florida International University (FIU)

[Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies \(FLAS\) fellowship](#) alumnus Nyya Flores Toussaint worked with Florida International University (FIU) faculty member Nick Andre to develop the first [Haitian Creole language course that was recently launched through Duolingo](#). Toussaint graduated from FIU in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in international relations and certificates in Haitian studies and Latin American and Caribbean studies. He studied Haitian Creole with the support of a FLAS fellowship through FIU's Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center (LACC).

Toussaint's advice for foreign language speakers is to bravely speak their new language.

He shares more, "We live in a society that is obsessed with being correct, yet language learning is all about being loud and wrong! Although we may receive feedback about our mistakes, we must keep at it, embrace the feedback, and allow that feedback to be our *feedforward* towards honoring the truth of the language."

Toussaint is currently a scholar of linguistics, international affairs, and the sociology of religion. Under the mentorship of André, he continues to leverage his interest in using educational technology to formulate pedagogy for students of Haitian Creole via Duolingo. The Duolingo course teaches over 2,500 Haitian Creole words through over 23,000 translation exercises. The FIU/Duolingo project is the only free online Haitian Creole course that follows the standards of the Akademi Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole Academy).

Policy, Planning and Innovation Updates



NACIQI members meet to provide recommendations regarding accrediting agencies that monitor the academic quality of postsecondary institutions and educational programs for federal purposes.

Submission by George Alan, Ph.D **The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity**

The [National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity](#) (NACIQI) was authorized and reconstituted by the [Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008](#). NACIQI provides recommendations regarding accrediting agencies that monitor the academic quality of postsecondary institutions and education programs for federal purposes. The committee complies with all requirements of the [Federal Advisory Committee Act \(FACA\)](#) and the [Government in the Sunshine Act](#).

During fiscal year (FY) 2021, NACIQI reviewed 17 applications from accrediting agencies for renewal of recognition, one compliance report from an accrediting agency; and one (1) agency during the period of recognition. NACIQI also heard from 30 oral commenters in FY 2021.

At its winter 2022 meeting, NACIQI reviewed five accrediting agencies, including the American Podiatric Medical Association's, Council on Podiatric Medical Education, the

North Dakota Board of Nursing; the Council on Chiropractic Education; the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation; and the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The committee recommended recognition renewal for all five agencies.

The summer NACIQI meeting occurred virtually, July 19-22, 2022. Information on NACIQI meetings is posted on the [NACIQI website](#).

OPE Employee Spotlight with Elizabeth Daggett

Elizabeth Daggett is an analyst in the [Accreditation Group in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Innovation](#) division of in the Department's Office of Postsecondary Education. Elizabeth works with 64 accrediting agencies and state agencies and presents reports to maintain standards across higher education. Daggett finds purpose in her work knowing that all students that attend an accredited institution or program are affected by it.

Says Daggett, "If we find an agency non-compliant with the regulation, they have to make a change. [Agencies] are required to review institutions and programs for student achievement, curricula, faculty-student support services, financial aid, program length, and even student complaints."



When she is not working on accreditation for higher education, Daggett enjoys visiting the South of France and exploring the variety of French beverages and cuisine.

Announcements

American Rescue Plan Funds Higher Education Institutions

The Department of has awarded the final \$198 Million of American Rescue Plan Higher Education Funds to support students at community colleges and rural, and minority-serving institutions.

The Grantee Satisfaction Survey Results

The Department invites you to view the results of the 2021 Grantee Satisfaction Survey. Thank you to the 900 OPE grantee project directors for sharing feedback and suggestions for improvement with the Department. Our programs use the feedback you provide in the survey to improve the delivery of services to our grantee community. Contact your program officer to learn more about the survey. Look out for the 2022 survey results this fall!

OPE peer review opportunities

Ongoing opportunities to serve as an OPE peer reviewer. The Department provides opportunities for individuals to participate in its peer review process, reviewing applications for competitive grant funding. Learn how to become a peer reviewer by reading the Department's peer review guidelines.

Share Your Good News With the Grantee Community

Email photos, stories, updates and other news to OPE Management Support Unit, at OPEcoms@ed.gov



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