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Title III Strengthening Institutions:
Improving Academic Programs by
Infusing Instructional Technology
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From Dr. Debra Hoover, Project Director

I am writing with sadness as I close out a project that has required the time and attention of four full-time people for five years. In this final issue of Title III Talk, I will summarize the accomplishments of the project and take stock of the impact of the project at ATI. Even though the grant itself ends, the technology and the spirit of adopting useful technologies into instruction remains.

The 5-year, \$1.8 million US Department of Education project has met or exceeded all six goals. The project has a staff of four people, but with the support of all of the faculty and staff, the project has been successful.

Title III has provided:

- Computers for 27 classrooms, 34 faculty
- Renewed the computers in two student labs twice
- The Axis Communication system
- Classroom instructional technology including speaker systems, media managers, DVD/VCR players, 2 Sympodia, 2 Smartboards,
- Distance learning room
- Conference Room I-Panel and an additional I-Panel
- Two conference phones
- The wireless communication network throughout campus
- Strengthened Infrastructure
- 45 Technology Improvement Grants for faculty, totaling

AverMedia 300P Document Camera, one of several items now available for faculty use in most classrooms

Endowment:

- The Title III program offers an Endowment option with the grants, and ATI wisely availed themselves of this opportunity. This is rare in the grants world, because in most programs, the funding agency wants the funds spent meeting immediate goals. The endowment has limitations about its use, but within those limits, can be an asset to ATI for decades to come.
- Title III has contributed \$257,750.00 to the Endowment and ATI has matched each dollar, for a current total of \$515,500.00



Beloit College Mindset List

The link below is to the 2010 version of the now well-known Beloit College Mindset List, constructed annually to offer college faculty a reminder of who our incoming freshmen are, and possibly, why they think the way they do. This class was born in 1992. For the Class of 2014:

- John McEnroe has never played professional tennis.
- Clint Eastwood is better known as a sensitive director than as Dirty Harry.
- Parents and teachers feared that Beavis and Butt-head might be the voice of a lost generation.
- Doctor Kevorkian has never been licensed to practice medicine.

For the complete list:

<http://www.beloit.edu/mindset/2014.php>

 Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter. 

Faculty Development Offered has included

- Carmen Institutes, 2- or 3- days long, and shorter training sessions of about 2 hours. The Carmen training and support has resulted in an 85% full-time faculty usage rate, with those using Carmen continually increasing the number of features used.
- Training on use of particular technologies such as document cameras, Smartboards, Sympodia, wireless presenters, digital cameras, and the use of the carts in the classrooms; and software such as Microsoft Office products and Vox Proxy.
- Teaching techniques and approaches, such as effective Powerpoint, Teaching online, managing online discussions.
- Course Design, developed by University Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and offered at ATI, the only site outside of Columbus to offer it to date.

Year 1	2
Year 2	14
Year 3	44
Year 4	81
Year 5	<u>26</u>
Total:	167 on site, mostly by staff, a few by faculty or webinar. Of these, 5 were multi-day summer institutes

External Validation:

- As with any major grant-funded project, the Department of Education requires an external reviewer assess the project for compliance and to ensure that the money is spent wisely in pursuit of the goals of the project. The external reviewer for this project consistently offers positive evaluations of the grant performance.

Conferences where ATI faculty or staff presented:

- ATI faculty or staff have attended or presented at national and state conferences as a result of Title III funding.
- Faculty or staff have presented at 4 state, 3 national, twice at Desire-2-Learn Conferences

Faculty Support:

- Title III staff have consistently received high ratings for the promptness and effectiveness of faculty support offered, based on surveys submitted to faculty.

Needs Assessments:

- Two faculty needs assessments were completed, 1 quantitative, 1 qualitative, as well as ongoing assessments.
- Students needs assessments indicated that the students recognize and appreciate the use and effective integration of instructional technology.

Background:

Title III grants are awarded annually by the US Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program.

About 40 new grants are awarded each year. The average grants are nearly two million dollars.

This is one of the most competitive programs for two-year colleges because of the wide number of activities that can be funded.

Title III grants are often called “the president’s Grant, because of the institution-wide impact they usually have.

ATI can re-apply for the Grant in two years.

Assessments drive offerings:

- Formal and informal assessments have been completed throughout the project. Assessments of faculty skills and needs have been completed, and assessments of students’ views of the use of instructional technology at ATI has been ongoing.
- Data collected has been used to drive which training is offered, and to determine how funds are best spent.
- Data collected has been used in determining the professional development direction for the instructional development specialist, who in turn offers a variety of training sessions to faculty.

National Recognition:

- Debra and Steve have presented at two national conferences, presenting the processes and accomplishments of the project. One of the conferences was the Noel-Levitz Conference for Title III and Title V (similar project for minority-heavy colleges) recipients, and the second was the Title II Conference sponsored by the US Department of Education. Debra and Steve have heard from attendees who had questions about their own projects.

Comments about Title III

When asked about what Title III has meant to them and to ATI, Dr. Nameth, Dr. Neal and Dr. Hansen gave the following comments:

Dr. Steve Nameth:

“I try to think about where we would be without the Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant project, I can’t even imagine. I cannot conceive of how far behind we would be in technology without this project. The things Debra, Bethany, Alden and Lori have done for ATI has brought us up to speed in instructional technology in the classroom. The additional progress in specific technologies due to Technology Improvement Grants has helped the students prepare for today’s workplace, and that is what ATI is all about.

“I rank the Title III project among the top ten most positive things to happen for ATI in the history of this institution.”

Dr. Steve Neal:

“I am very grateful for the work of the staff of the Title III project, for what they have done for the future of ATI. I am also grateful to the faculty for the way they have accepted and supported the efforts to increase the use of instructional technology here. The learning environment has been dramatically impacted in a positive way.”

Dr. Nels Hansen:

“The funding for Title III was awarded to ATI just prior to my hire date, so I do not know what working at ATI is like without the added support the grant provided to faculty for technology improvement. We are a technical institute, after all, and the prospect of teaching technical information without access to computers, software programs, and other tools that reflect current industry standards would be daunting. The technology improvement grants, faculty training, and grant-funded support staff helped me deliver course content effectively and connect with students. People succeed when they have the tools to solve problems large and small. I feel the Title III funding provided me with the tools I needed to succeed here at ATI.”