

UT Martin awarded three grants for improving teacher quality programs

The University of Tennessee at Martin was recently awarded three Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grants in physics, mathematics and technology and special education, totaling \$231, 292. Dr. Cris Whitlow, instructor of special education, will direct the activities associated with the "Mentoring in Inclusive Environments" program. It includes three components, a five-day mentor training of advisory board selected mentor trainees; application of mentoring, which allows trainees to mentor a mentee teacher from their own campus one hour per week; and in-service provided by mentor trainees in the fall of 2005 to their respective schools. The application of mentoring is supported by consultants from UT Martin, who will spend four hours per week assisting assigned schools. The students of the mentee will be monitored through curriculum-based measurements and the teaching targets of these students will be aligned with state curriculum standards. The ITQ grant program is operated through the state of Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The ITQ state grants represent the largest federal initiative for using professional development to improve teaching and learning. As a federal program, it operates under legislation known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. (Excerpts from December 13, 2004, UT Martin University Relations News)

UT Martin Grant for English Teachers

Dr. Kenneth Vogler, project director, Department of Educational Studies, and Barbara Hutcherson, co-project director and director of Education-Student Services, have a total project amount of \$56,288 to conduct the Highly Qualified Middle School English Teacher Summer Institute, sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) under its "Improving Teacher Quality Program." Excerpt from February 2, 2004, UT Martin University Relations News)

UT Martin claims education grant

The University of Tennessee at Martin was recently notified that it has received a Minority Teacher Education grant in the amount of \$79,392 from the Tennessee Department of Education. Dr. Claudia Joplin, assistant professor in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, will direct the activities of the one-year "Support, Mentor, Graduate #1" project. The Minority Teacher Education grant is a competitive matching grant program to support pilot projects to expand the recruitment pool for minority teachers and increase the likelihood of successful entry and completion of degree programs by minorities preparing to be teachers in grades K-12. The "Support, Mentor, Graduate #1" project will pair two low-performing minority education undergraduate students with two high-performing minority education graduate students to improve academic conditions through modeling. (Excerpt from the July 6, 2004, UT Martin University Relations News)