



2016 Women United Grant Proposal Closing Summer Achievement Gap through STEM & Arts

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SUMMARY

Piedmont Virginia Community College requests \$20,000 from Women United to extend the impact of its successful KidsCollege Summer Academies by providing low-income youth with access to STEM & Arts summer enrichment programming. The funding will provide tuition support for low-income youth from the Southwood community and Fluvanna County, reliable transportation, and support personnel. Women United will bring meaningful benefits to kids in our community by allowing economically-disadvantaged youth to take significant early steps to break the cycle of poverty. By doing this, Women United will make a lasting and positive impact on our community.

COMMUNITY NEED

A national expert on education inequality, Sean Reardon, recently authored the book *Faces of Poverty*. In the book, he explores the widening achievement gap between low-income and high-income students and how the income achievement gap has even surpassed racial achievement gaps. As the gap widens, the future looks less and less promising for low-income students. This concerning trend has captured the attention of communities across the nation. It has captured the attention of the Region Ten service area.

According to Catherine Augustine, a senior policy researcher from RAND Corporation, summer is a critical time to address this achievement gap. More advantaged children tend to stay at the same achievement level, or even make gains, over the course of the summer because they are reading and learning while involved with camps. In contrast, poor children are less likely to attend camps and more likely to be playing video games, watching TV, and staying indoors, especially if they live in an unsafe neighborhood. These children are more likely to fall far behind their grade level (*Making Summer Count*, RAND Corporation, 2011).

In the Region Ten service area, we have faces of poverty. We have 350 students living in the 247-unit mobile home park of Southwood. In the Fluvanna County Public School System, more than 31% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, the income qualifier for KidsCollege scholarships. With the support of Women United, we can take early steps to break the cycle of poverty. We can engage these youth in summer enrichment programming that models the well-documented, research-proven characteristics of effective summer learning programs including, but not limited to, a safe environment, small class sizes, experienced staff, a blend of academic and enrichment activities, engagement of parents, and community partnerships. We can have faces of promise.

INTENDED BENEFICIARIES AND GEOGRAPHIC/DEMOGRAPHIC AREAS

KidsCollege@PVCC proposes to work with public school and community partners to provide tuition support for approximately 200 low-income rising 3rd-9th graders in the Region Ten service area. Participation will be prioritized to include students with limited summer program opportunities and financial and transportation barriers from the Southwood community and Fluvanna County. More than 80% of the Southwood residents are of Mexican, Salvadoran, or Honduran descent and many parents have limited English skills. Many low-income youth in the rural county of Fluvanna face significant transportation barriers. By engaging youth from these two communities, KidsCollege can provide customized Summer Academies and address the barriers specific to these populations. KidsCollege will engage with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville, Albemarle County Public Schools, Fluvanna County Public Schools, and Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation to provide this target population with summer enrichment programming that

has successfully developed a pipeline of underrepresented students who continue their education at PVCC after high school. Since 2010, 30% of KidsCollege participants have enrolled at PVCC post high school.

OBJECTIVES

KidsCollege@PVCC will provide increased opportunities for academic success and exposure to future educational opportunities for students from economically disadvantaged families through participation in hands-on Summer Academies in Fluvanna, Southwood and at PVCC. The Summer Academies focus on STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Health Sciences) and the Arts through fun, intensive, project-based educational Academies that include topics such as 3D Printing, Sculpture, Kitchen Chemistry, Make an App, Robotics, Graphic Shoe Design, AV Audio, Jewelry-making and more. The Summer Academies will provide students who have multiple barriers to high-quality summer program participation with educational enrichment and skills training affiliated with a college campus. This will set the stage for continued academic success and a greater feeling of belonging and achievement in higher education.

TIMELINE

January-May

1. Develop the summer program schedule and Academies with Habitat for Humanity, Albemarle County Public Schools, Fluvanna County Public Schools and Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation.
2. Conduct family and student outreach and recruitment events and meetings.
3. Register students for Summer STEM-H and Arts Academies.

June-August

1. Conduct weeklong KidsCollege Academies at Fluvanna and Southwood and on campus at PVCC.
2. Provide Southwood students who participate in Summer Academies at PVCC with transportation.
3. Provide individual student support to enhance student's learning experience.
4. Engage parents/guardians in programs to support their children in Summer Academies, at student presentations and continued learning opportunities.
5. In collaboration with community partners, provide parents with transportation to attend Friday student presentations.
6. Conduct pre- and post-evaluations with students and parents/guardians.

FUNDS

Item	Budgeted Amount
Personnel – Coordinator support for 80 hours @ \$13.68/hour.	\$1,094
Fringe Benefits @ 7.65%	\$84
Mileage between PVCC and Partner sites; total of 140 miles@\$.56/mile	\$78
Student transportation from Southwood to PVCC	\$70
Tuition support for Academies (approximately 200 Academy slots at up to \$115 scholarship/Academy)	\$18,674
Total	\$20,000

CLIENTS SERVED

From 2014 to 2015, KidsCollege@PVCC Summer Academy enrollment grew by 60% with 1,330 enrollments and scholarship funds increased by 130%.

SOURCE OF REVENUES (KidsCollege@PVCC)

Government – 0%	Faith-based – 0%
Individuals – 1%	Client Fees –94%
Corporate – 0%	Other Fundraising efforts (private foundations for scholarships) – 6%

EVALUATION

KidsCollege@PVCC will conduct pre- and post- evaluations with students and their parents/guardians to determine program impact, content and skills learned.