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MSCC Receives \$350,000 for Allied Health Facility

Mid-South Community College has been awarded \$350,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Economic Development Initiative to cover costs associated with expansion of the College's Allied Health facility.

MSCC recently added 6,000 square feet of technology-intensive classroom and laboratory space to increase capacity for its training programs for medical assistants, pharmacy technician, certified nursing assistants, and respiratory therapists (program to begin in fall 2011).

In announcing the award, Congressman Marion Berry and U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor said the funding meets the needs of the college, the community, and the region.

"Having highly-trained workers in these health care professions not only helps our economy, but ensures patients are treated by the best in the field," Berry said. "This is another great opportunity for us to reinforce our students' educational programs and keep Arkansans competitive."

"A skilled workforce is crucial to fostering job creation and encouraging long-term economic growth," Lincoln added. "These funds will not only help students at Mid-South Community College prepare for their future, but they will also keep our state competitive by ensuring Arkansans have the necessary skills for high-demand industries."

"It is crucial for our colleges and universities to have strong healthcare training programs to prepare students for positions in this high-demand industry," Pryor said. "These funds will allow Mid-South Community College to give students the skills they need to get good jobs in the local community."

Only three public agencies received Economic Development Initiative grants, and MSCC is the lone college to be awarded funding through the program. Overall, the EDI has made 400 grants this year to organizations in 48 states.

“These funds have helped us create a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility that is opening up a whole new world of opportunity for students in the Delta,” said Dr. Glen Fenter, MSCC President. “There are many great healthcare jobs readily available in our region, and now even more students will have the training and skills they need to be a success in the workforce.”

MSCC’s Allied Health building includes technology-intensive classrooms, a dedicated pharmacy technology laboratory, and a medical assisting clinical simulation lab. Funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, and now the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has helped the College create a first-class training environment.

“The building represents significant growth in educational opportunities to the people of our region,” said Jason Sparks, M.Ed., Academic Program Coordinator of Allied Health and Life Sciences at MSCC. “We have purchased some of the finest simulation equipment available, and our students will benefit greatly from the technology that we have been able to assemble on our campus.”

“All of our programs have state-of-the-art clinical simulation laboratories so students can apply their skills in a controlled learning environment prior to going into a live clinical rotation. By practicing and perfecting their skills at MSCC, our students will be among the better qualified personnel available in the healthcare workforce today.”

For more information about a career in these rapidly-evolving and professionally-rewarding fields, please call MSCC’s Allied Health office at (870) 733-6038, email alliedhealth@midsouthcc.edu, access the college’s website at www.midsouthcc.edu, or visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis.