3M Foundation Awards Vision Grants to Four Private Colleges

Four private colleges with programs ranging from the environment to community efforts that benefit youth and vulnerable adults will receive 3M Vision Grants totaling more than \$183,000. The grants are designed to foster the development of innovative, academically based programs that connect colleges and communities and also transform the basis of learning.

"We are pleased to recognize these colleges and their visionary programs that take student learning into the community to address local needs, while deepening their knowledge and experience," said Alex Cirillo, staff vice president, 3M Community Affairs.

In the 19 years of the Vision Grant program, 90 grants totaling almost \$4 million have been awarded to private colleges located in 3M communities across the country. This year's recipients will implement curriculum-based programs that apply theory to real-world situations.

2006 3M Foundation Vision Grant Recipients:

-- Alma College, Alma, Mich.

Linking Science Education and Community Empowerment Through a River Monitoring Project in Mid-Michigan

The grant links the college's science, policy and education students with local public schools and the broader community to create a long-term sustainable river monitoring project.

-- College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn.

Involving Health Science Students at the College of St. Scholastica in Designing and Implementing Personal Health Records for Vulnerable Populations

Health Informatics and Information Management and Social Work students will work with local agencies to develop PHRs assisting clients in communicating and managing their health care needs more effectively.

-- Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas

Student-Community Collaborative Research and Creative Works for the San Gabriel River Trail

In partnership with the City of Georgetown and volunteer community groups, students from all majors will design, lead and carry out research and special projects that enhance the use and future development of the newly developed trail connecting downtown parks and trails with Lake Georgetown.

-- Viterbo University, LaCrosse, Wis.

Healthy Bodies, Strong Minds: Teaching to Learn at the Mathy Center

This is a collaboration between a private liberal arts college and a Boys and Girls Club. Viterbo students will provide programming support and mentor youth from economically distressed neighborhoods.

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