SCIENCE UPGRADES

Procter & Gamble Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation awards grant to Dodge City Community College.

Mary Scott will be using a recently awarded $10,000 grant from the Procter & Gamble Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation to purchase new microscopes for the Dodge City Community College science department.

Scott, a biology professor at DC3, is especially appreciative of the Foundation’s grant process. She says community colleges often fall into a gap when it comes to science grants.

“Many grants are aimed at K-12 schools,” she said. “A lot of grants go to large universities that are more research oriented. So at the community college level we can often get left out, but our students deserve good equipment to get them to the next step.”

The school will be purchasing four oil immersion microscopes which allow 1000x levels of magnification – enabling cellular and microbiology students to positively identify bacteria and other microorganisms.

As part of the package, DC3 will also get an adapter head that will display the scope’s image through a television screen – giving students an even larger look at specimens without having to stand in line to view a slide one at a time.

“That’s so helpful because now as a teacher I know that the students are seeing what they need to be seeing,” Scott said. “I can literally point out details on a screen versus wondering if they’re seeing the same thing I’m seeing.”

The adapter head also takes digital pictures for reports or PowerPoint presentations.

Scott is grateful for the direct funds. She says many larger corporate grants benefit community colleges more indirectly, often as ancillary beneficiaries of programs run through larger schools.

“Our supplier really worked with us to get what we needed within the grant budget,” Scott said. “The money goes right into what it was intended for.”

The timing is good. The department’s current microscopes are all at least a decade old. In addition, DC3 has seen a surge in microbiology enrollments, highlighting the need for updated equipment to keep up with growing demand for science and medical courses, as well as trying to keep pace with what may be offered at other institutions.

The successful grant application was very much a team effort. Scott applied for the grant through the DC3 Foundation’s status as a 501c3 organization, and Foundation director Christina Haselhorst provided valuable guidance regarding the overall grant process. Scott also received advice from Kathryn O’Neil, assistant professor of English at DC3.

“I cannot overemphasize the value of these four new microscopes to our school,” she said. “It may not seem like much, but little by little we can improve learning quality and availability.”

- By Scott Edger

Building Construction Technology Students Receive Scholarship

The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation presented five students from the Dodge City Community College Building Construction Technology program with academic scholarship awards on February 7, 2019.

The awards were presented at the duplex the DC3 students are building in conjunction with the Community Housing Association of Dodge City at 510 E. Brier.

The KHRC provides the majority of the funding for CHAD’s efforts to rebuild and revitalize affordable homes in Dodge City. The scholarship awards totaled $4,000.
Book Review

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

Gail Honeyman shares with us Eleanor Oliphant’s story in her book “Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine.” Eleanor Oliphant is an awkward, introverted loner who quickly forms a sort of friendship with Raymond, a new co-worker, when together they save an elderly man who has a heart attack on the street. As their friendship grows, both Raymond and Eleanor learn that she may not truly be “completely fine” like she once thought she was, and we get to join her on the journey to becoming fine.

When I started reading the book I never thought I would become as attached to her story as I did. Throughout the book I found myself wishing her the best as she continued to learn about and grow from her past. I greatly encourage people to read this book, but it may take a little while to warm up to the book and its characters.

- By Emma Wiebe, Sophomore

New Employees

Jennifer Acosta
Humanities Secretary

Lance Ziesch
Audio/Video Technician
DC3 Hosts Fifth Annual Career Exploration Day

More than 600 high school and middle school students from all over southwest Kansas funneled into the Western State Bank Expo Center on February 13, 2019, for the Dodge City Community College Career Exploration Day.

The event showcases all of the DC3 tech programs in stations around the Center, and also featured exhibits by the rodeo team, student housing, fine arts and admissions.

“I’m very grateful to all the staff and teachers at our area schools for bringing so many students together,” Ryan Ausmus, dean of Workforce Development, said. “I really get a kick out of watching them enjoy the hands-on activities and interaction with our instructors.”

Haircuts & Hot Dogs

Nearly three dozen kids received free hot dogs and haircuts from DC3 Cosmetology students on February 26, 2019, just prior to Friday’s Picture Day in Montezuma.

South Gray principal Kim Batman and Julie Taylor-Birney, director of the DC3 Cosmetology program, have known one another for quite a while, so when Batman heard of a similar event in northern Kansas she asked Taylor-Birney if her students would help out.

“This was an excellent opportunity for our students to show their talents and give to the community,” Taylor-Birney said. "It's a little out of our students' comfort zone, but it's a great experience for them.”

“This is great for our kids' self-esteem and helping them feel good about themselves,” Batman said. “Hopefully we can do it again next year.”

Jennifer Matson brought her kindergarten daughter. “This is really wonderful,” she said. “My daughter's haircut looks amazing. It’s really nice that they came to support the community.”

New Employees

Bonita Green
Academic Coach

Stephanie Herrera
SARC Assistant

Matt Dillard
Residence Hall Director

Josh Van Valkenburg
Sports Information Director