

NCCU Gets \$966,000 For Program Improvement

North Carolina Central University has been awarded a grant of \$966,000 for two years of program development and improvement by the United States Office of Education under the USOE's Strengthening Developing Institutions Program.

The grant will support curriculum development in the School of Business, the departments of education and English, the school's physical sciences departments, and the Academic Skills Center; will support the development of a system to keep track of the university's graduates; and will provide for improvement in student record-keeping and financial management.

Dr. Cecil L. Patterson, vice-chancellor for academic affairs, will direct the overall program.

George T. Thorne, vice-chancellor for financial affairs, will serve as program manager for administrative improvements; Dr. Walter H. Patillo, dean of the undergraduate school, as program manager for curriculum projects; and R. Norman Uhl, associate vice-chancellor for academic affairs, as program manager in project to update the university's planning model.

Dr. Uhl's project will involve developing a mechanism for updating the university's goals and a procedure for training departmental faculty and university administrators in planning techniques.

The planning model project is designed to complete a planning project developed under the United States Office of Education's Advanced Institutional Development

Program. The project was the basis for last year's institution of a new planning and budgeting process for the university, as part of a non-traditional self-study for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The administrative improvement project under Vice-Chancellor Thorne's direction include the alumni tracking system and the financial management project.

Goals of the financial management project are to improve the operational efficiency of offices handling special funds and grants, specifically the Special Funds and Grants Office and the Student Loans Office; to reduce equipment losses by the implementation of a fixed Asset Inventory Control System; and to decrease borrower defaults on Student Loans.

A computerized accounting and reporting system for financial information will be established, with the details of the program to be approved by the State Auditor. The financial management project will be directed by Mernoy Harrison, the university's comptroller.

The Alumni-Placement tracking system will permit the development of systems to improve the university's contact with and services to its graduates. The new program will enable the university to be tracking its future alumni when they enter as freshmen. Clerical staff will be added to maintain contact with all students leaving the university. Additional placement counselors will also be supported under the project.

William P. Evans, director of alumni affairs,

is the Associate Program Manager in charge of the Alumni-Placement Tracking System.

The Student Information System project is designed to speed processing availability of information needed for decision-making; in particular, the project will insure more rapid determination of student status, eligibility for financial aid, and the status of student financial accounts.

A Database Manager system will coordinate access to all relevant databanks in the university. These include student records, academic records, personnel records, financial records, and financial aid records. The Student Information System project will be directed by B.T. McMillion, Registrar, as Associate Program Director, under Dr. Patterson's direct supervision.



WASHINGTON — Black leader Jesse Jackson (R) greets PLO United Nations Observer Zaidi Terzi in Washington on September 13. Jackson said after the meeting the United States should immediately recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization and begin open contacts with that group. UPI Photo

The five curriculum improvement programs complete the university's package of projects under the Strengthening Developing Institutions Program.

The Academic Skills Center will add a component for the upgrading of reading skills. The project will involve the development of a package of diagnostic tests to pinpoint reading problems, the installation of techniques to attack those specific problems, and the coordination of the reading skills program with the English tutorial program already offered by the Academic Skills Center.

(A student assigned to the Academic Skills Center has one or more deficiencies in the basic skills required for success in college — generally language skills, mathematical skills, logical skills required in social science programs — but has shown evidence of motivation for academic success.)

The Academic Skills Center project will be directed by Dr. Lafayette Lipscomb as Associate Program Manager.

The School of Business will develop programs which will permit the simulation — through computers and case studies of administrative and financial problems business graduates may face after being employed.

The program recognizes that NCCU business students have difficulty with the more abstract aspects of management decision-making. They attempt to memorize theories of decision-making, and are affected by a faculty member's necessary concentration on one aspect of a problem in classroom lectures.

Computer simulation of business problems will enable the student to make a "decision" and receive immediate feedback on its effect. The simulation project will stress the interaction of various fac-

tors in the decision-making process.

Directing the project for the School of Business will be Robert Montgomery as Associate Program Manager.

The State of North Carolina is now instituting requirements that teachers be given human relations training. The department of education will develop new programs to enable teachers to achieve the competencies the state requires, which include "ability to facilitate, a caring, trusting relationship," "understanding different folkways and mores..." "ability to work with groups and not on or for groups..." and seven other described competencies.

Dr. Norman Johnson will serve as Associate Program Manager to develop the new human relations component of NCCU's teacher training program.

Dr. A.M. Secrest will serve as Associate Program Manager directing the establishment of a newsroom-laboratory for the Media-Journalism Program at NCCU's Department of English.

The newsroom will be equipped with electric typewriters which can be used with electronic typesetting equipment and with access to wire service equipment. It will give NCCU's students concentrating in news communications an opportunity to experience the new technology now being installed in newspapers throughout the nation.

A computer-assisted instruction program will be established for three NCCU departments — physics, chemistry, and geography — in the area of the physical sciences. The program will use computer equipment to perform — in essence — the role of an individual tutor, and will permit self-paced learning by the students to a large extent.

Dr. A. Soldi of the department of physics is Associate Program Manager for this project.

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The Hillside News

By Sidonie C. Jeffers

The Hornets are preparing for the North Carolina Competency Test which will be given October 9-10. "Cramming" is the word used by Mrs. Thelma Battle when she told the junior class that tutors will be at Hillside everyday after school to help students in the areas of math and English in order that they may prepare themselves to pass the test. Also, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) will be given periodically during the 1979-1980 school year. Tutoring for the SAT is given each Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph AME Church which is located on Fayetteville Street in Durham.

History has been made in the sports department at Hillside by the soccer team. The team won its first game of the season when it defeated Apex 4-1.

The girl's volleyball team again enjoyed another victory when it defeated Vance High School in "the best two out of three" competition, 15-5 and 16-14. The Junior Varsity football team also upset George Washington High School, 27-0.

The varsity football team, however, seems to have a losing streak this year. It was again defeated, this time by George Washington High School, 27-0.

Hillside students voted for class officers Friday, September 20. Results of this election have not been posted, but we the Hornets extend a hearty "good luck" to all candidates in the race.

"If you will please people, you must please them in their own way." — Lord Chesterfield