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Meredith awarded a prestigious Kresge Science Grant

\$300,000 grant will primarily provide money for new equipment for Science and Mathematics Building.

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Staff Reporter

Meredith College has been awarded a \$300,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation's Science Initiative program.

This grant will give the college funds to purchase advanced science equipment and technology for the Science and Mathematics Building. The grant will also be used to establish an endowment to maintain the equipment and to purchase new equipment in the future when these pieces become outdated.

According to Cindy Godwin, director of corporate and foundation relations, Meredith took the initiative to apply for the grant. Meredith contacted

the foundation, and the application process was set in motion after President Maureen Hartford participated in a conference call with the foundation.

Hartford "reported our dedication to math and science, detailing our plans for the new building," Godwin said. "After this phone call, we were invited to submit a full proposal."

According to Godwin, an official proposal, totaling \$1.2 million, was submitted and followed up with more information as needed.

Godwin said that Meredith was notified in December 2002 that the college had won the grant. The news was "a cause for celebration," Godwin said.

The grant money is expected to add to the large impact on the college's science program that was created by the new Science and Mathematics Building.

"With this Kresge grant, Meredith's students will have experiences with scientific instrumentation and equipment that are generally not available to under-

graduate students - it will set them apart from others in quality experiences," stated Rosalind Reichard, vice president for academic affairs.

Hartford added, "The equipment funded through this challenge grant supports Meredith's new undergraduate research requirements for students with majors in the sciences."

Hartford said that the grant would assist in the college's focus on improving its science and mathematics programs.

"With the opening of the college's new state-of-the-art Science and Mathematics Building, Meredith confirms its commitment to academic excellence in scientific studies," Hartford said.

"The grant will have a multi-fold effect," Godwin said. "The prestige of being awarded a Kresge will carry a lot of weight with other foundations and corporations. The students will benefit by having more specialized study, research,

and learning spaces.

"The faculty will have the opportunity to work with students one-on-one in an environment that doesn't require the set up and breakdown of materials all the time," Godwin added.

Through the grant, the college receives \$150,000 up front, and this money will be used to buy high-tech equipment such as a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, and a scanning electron microscope.

In order to receive the other half of the grant money, Meredith must raise \$600,000 by Apr. 1, 2004. The Kresge foundation releases its grant money in two stages and requires this fundraising commitment from schools that receive its money in order to ensure that the grant money will be used properly.

Reichard stated, "This recognition by Kresge of the quality of our institution should provide great momentum for our fundraising efforts."

Overall, the grant is expected to help Meredith in reaching its fund-raising goal of \$1.2 million to spend on the college's science needs.

The Kresge Foundation, a private, independent organization, gives money to colleges that are making facility renovations, purchasing real estate, or purchasing major equipment to better their programs.

"The Kresge Foundation is a very prestigious organization, one of the few that support science equipment and endowment funds for the maintenance for that equipment," Godwin said.

Other schools that have received grants from the Kresge Foundation include Vanderbilt University, Purdue University, Cornell University, Columbia University and Furman University.

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