

the TITLE IIIB NEWSLETTER

SHINING A LIGHT ON TITLE IIIB PROGRAMS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, FORREST E. HARRIS SR.

The prospect of Title III funding at our historic campus first became a possibility more than 10 years ago in 2012, from the collaborative efforts of Mrs. Regina Prude, Congressman Jim Cooper, and Congressman John Lewis. Since its inception, Title III B/F funding has continued to strengthen the College's ability to live out our mission of educating and graduating students. Title III funds ensure we maintain 21st century practices and remain competitive with other higher education institutions. Our focus on student outcomes ensures we utilize these funds to increase our retention, course completion, and graduation rates. These indicators ultimately inform the workforce and graduate institutions of how well we prepare each student for servant leadership and social justice in the world. The funds awarded to the College from the Department of Education -Office of Postsecondary Education are imperative to the continual growth of the institution.



WHAT IS TITLE IIIB?

Title IIIB authorizes the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) program to award grants to eligible institutions to strengthen their academic, administrative, and fiscal capabilities. (www.ed.gov)

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MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR *Demetria McCroskey*



For almost a decade, Title III funding has positively impacted the campus and mission of American Baptist College. The Department of Education has awarded the College more than \$10 million since 2013. With these funds, ABC has been able to create and sustain programs, projects, resources, and services that increase academic quality and decrease transactional distance for students, staff, and faculty.

The College's current Comprehensive Development Plans for both the Title III Part B and Title III Part B/F programs address the key focus areas of institutional management, student outcomes, and financial stability. Our Title III B program houses five grant activities that create more inclusive and accessible campus learning environments, consistent campus assessment, and opportunities for stakeholders to match endowment scholarship funding.

The Title III B/F FUTURE (Fostering Undergraduate Talent Unlocking Resources for Education) program is composed of three grant activities that improve quality and fiscal stability, support institutional advancement initiatives, and addresses key infrastructure needs on the campus. It is an honor to provide oversight and program management for Title III.

Please review and enjoy this inaugural newsletter, which outlines Title III grant activities, accomplishments, and goals. I look forward to sharing more ABC Title III news with you in future issues, which will be published each quarter.

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

American Baptist College (ABC) has established strategic priorities through planning, evaluation, and assessment. The College's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) advances the mission of teaching, learning, and service as outlined below:

“The mission of American Baptist College, a Historically Black College with a liberal arts emphasis, is to educate, graduate, and prepare diverse students for Christian leadership, service, and social justice in the world.”

The 2022-2027 CDP aligns with the College's current strategic plan, which highlights four major pillars:

- Excellence in Education
- Excellence in Stewardship
- Excellence in Student Engagement
- Excellence in Community Partnerships

ABC recognizes its unique niche in the higher education universe to educate and serve students who have a unique set of skills, knowledge, and backgrounds that prepare them for community, national, and global leadership. Thus, the College adopted and integrated S.E.A.L. (Social Justice, Equity, Advocacy, and Leadership) initiatives into the fabric of the College's academics, operational policies, and guiding principles. As submitted to the Department of Education in October 2020, “S.E.A.L. initiatives emerged from the historical relevance of the College, along with the current academic outcomes across disciplines.”



2019 Summer Bridge Student Participants and Director attend HBCU Day on the Hill 2020



2019 Summer Bridge Students After Class

TITLE IIIB PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Two activities are related to the Institutional Management focus area.

Activity 1: Project Administration and Evaluation dedicates resources to the administrative management and program evaluation efforts required for high-quality stewardship of the Title IIIB, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Grant Program at ABC. This activity supports ongoing administrative work, federal reporting compliance, evaluation, and other duties as required of the program to demonstrate progress on objectives. In conjunction with the Data Strategic Services Team, this activity also provides resources, tools, and trainings to support activity directors as needed to meet and measure their individual activity objectives.

Activity 4: Facilities Enhancement, Renovation and Construction engages in a facilities assessment process to identify how the College's classroom and instructional square footage may be extended to meet the needs of anticipated enrollment and academic growth. An additional goal of this activity is to increase equitable access to and within facilities across campus to all persons.

For the 2022-2027 grant cycle, there is one activity related to the Academic Quality focus area.

Activity 3: Strategic Services for Learning, Measurement, and Evaluation Assessment combines institutional resources and federal grant funding to facilitate a data integration pilot program that allows the institution to leverage information technologies to enable the storage and integration of various institutional data systems to produce automated, specialized reports that strengthen institutional assessment efforts and establish a culture of evidence.

One activity for this grant cycle is aligned with the Student Services and Outcomes focus area.

Activity 2: Strengthening Student-Centered Learning Community Systems provides resources for a comprehensive set of student support programs designed to increase retention and graduation rates of intervention participants and the institution overall. A portion of this activity focuses on facilitating the integration of technology into teaching and learning and leveraging data systems relevant to Academic Affairs to monitor the progress of intervention participants.

TITLE IIIB PROGRAM ACTIVITIES (continued)

One activity for this grant cycle aligns with the Fiscal Stability focus area.

Activity 5: Increasing Scholarship enhances the growth and sustainability of endowed scholarships at ABC. The overall objective of this activity is to match an equal amount of federal funds to increase scholarships for students during matriculation.



ABC students, Mondai Smiley, Mondale Smiley, Linda Bowling and Yolonda Beech (WQQK)



Two generations of ABC Alumni — (L to R) David V. Clark, Mark Clark, and Brandon Clark

TITLE IIIB/F ACTIVITIES

For the 2020-2025 Title III B/F FUTURE Comprehensive Development Plan, the College selected three activities.

Two activities are related to the Fiscal Stability focus area.

Activity 1: Strengthening Financial Management Systems is rooted in creating more sustainable fiscal management practices. This activity ensures the College will develop, administer, and ensure the quality of its financial resources in support of student learning. This activity is consistent with the College's Strategic Plan and will increase the institution's infrastructure capacity to maintain healthy, progressive educational practices and programs. The institution will review other strategies to improve financial stability in support of the College's mission.

This activity will also aid in the institutional commitment to fiscal and personnel management, student accounts, and endowment investments while keeping with global "best practices" in technology. These efforts and the improved processes will establish a strong foundation for the sustainability of the College's anticipated growth.

Activity 2: Enhancing Institutional Advancement is consistent with the College's four strategic institutional priorities. This activity allows the College to continue to develop, implement, and maintain operational opportunities relevant to its mission, vision, and student learning objectives. It further undergirds the S.E.A.L. initiative of social justice, equity, advocacy, and leadership. Institutional advancement activities will embrace justifiable partnerships and opportunities, increase visibility and endowed support, and identify relationships and funding opportunities that support the College's academic goals and objectives.

One activity is aligned with the Department of Education's outcome for institutional management.

Activity 3: Addressing Key Infrastructure Needs prioritizes much of the work done by the College's administrative, finance, and legal affairs units. This activity is aligned with the strategic priority of Institutional Advancement (Stewardship). These units provide support for the College's academic efforts by working to assure a comfortable, safe, and conducive environment within which teachers teach and students learn. In order to do so, the resources of the College must be wisely managed and carefully monitored. Facilities must be maximally maintained within the College's meager resources. Every effort is made to enhance the sense that employees and students can fully engage in rigorous academic activities without the need to worry about the intrusion of criminal disruption, and that they are not "walled off" from the surrounding community.

THE IMPACT

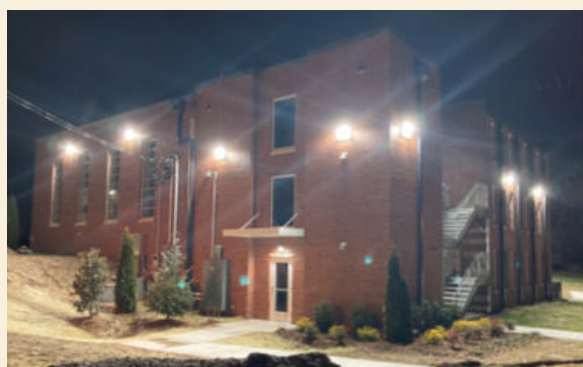
As a designated HBCU and Title III recipient, the College has been awarded more than \$10 million since 2013, including approximately \$8 million in the 2017-2022 CDP cycle.

TITLE III ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.

Renovation of Campus Facilities

The Susie McClure Library renovation has included increased accessibility for equitable access in academic and instructional spaces (2020-2022)



Library Lighting was Installed for Better Accessibility and Security on Campus



Upgraded Library Learning Space



Library renovations before



Library renovations after

TITLE III ACCOMPLISHMENTS

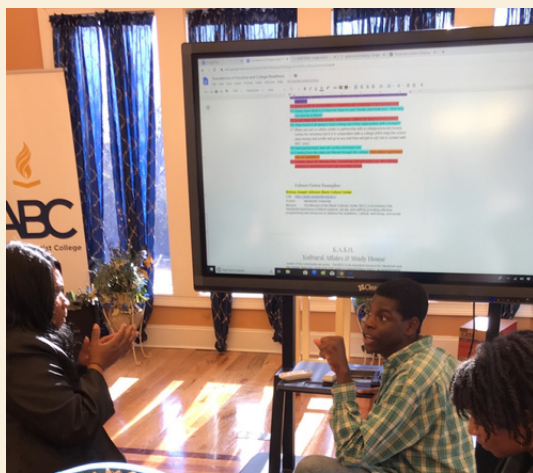
2.

Student Success Services

- The Writing Lab (2017-2022)
- First-Year Experience Program (2017-2022)
- Summer Bridge Program, co-sponsored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (2018-2019)
- Summer Bridge Program, sponsored by Title III and the institution (2019-2020)



Summer Bridge Students attend HBCU Day on the Hill February 2020 Tennessee State Capitol



Students during Foundations of Vocation and College Readiness class (a First-Year Experience)



Newly Renovated Library Computer Lab

TITLE III ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3.

Data-Informed Evaluation

- Optimized utilization of institutional data management systems (2020-2021)
- Creation of the Data Strategic Services Team (2021-2022)
- In conjunction with student account management and student learning management systems, the Registrars' Office and Director of Institutional Data and Research were able to create a more sustainable data management system for the College.

4.

Institutional Advancement

- Identified and cultivated nine private, non-federal contributions to establish endowed scholarship funds for Title III match (2020-2022)
- Non-federal contributions were \$362,000 and, with interest and matching, totaled \$815,689 through December 2021 (2020-2022)



HBCU Success with Tennessee Higher Education Commission Board Meeting — Tennessee HBCU Administrators and Leaders and THEC Administrators



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