By Michael Sukowski

This year saw changes in the awarding of grants by the CTRE. The biggest change came in the number of times grants were awarded and the total dollars available. From awarding grants once per year, this year grants were awarded in every fiscal quarter. The maximum amounts awarded also increased in the faculty enrichment grants and the seed grants and two new categories were added, Student Engagement Grants and Program Enrichment Grants. Department chairs are also eligible to apply for grants, and full-time academic advisors are eligible to apply for the student engagement and program enrichment grants. Priority is given to full-time faculty in all categories of the grant applications. 137 applications were received for the various grants this year and 97 applications were approved in the amount of $315,523.00 (Enrichment Grants: $100,202; Seed Grants: $133,098; Student Engagement Grants: $36,994; and Program Enrichment Grants: $45,169. See side graphs for a visual breakdown of each grant category.).

Grant applications are reviewed by a faculty committee, the members of which are from the biological sciences and non-biological sciences. After review, the committee notifies the director of the CTRE of their decision and the amounts approved. Previous grant awardees are asked to serve as members of the review committee.

In order to make the grant application process more convenient, the CTRE is tentatively looking to change the due dates of applications to the following for the 2013 fiscal year: July 2, September 17, December 14, and March 1. Electronic submission of applications and supporting documentation is encouraged.

The CTRE is always looking for input and encourages you to share your thoughts and ideas to help us improve the CSU community’s teaching and research. To do so, contact Mike Sukowski at 773-995-2501 or msukowski@csu.edu. Grant review committee member volunteers are always welcome.

**Michael Sukowski is the Director of Chicago State University’s Center for Teaching and Research Excellence.**
Looking Forward

Wednesday Workshops

On Wednesday, June 6, Dr. Mel Sabella, Interim Chair of Chemistry and Physics, and Professor of Physics, will kick off the first of the CTRE’s new Wednesday series of faculty workshops.

Dr. Sabella will be presenting on “Engaging Students in the Content and Culture of Science Through Experiments, Discussion, Observations, and Community Consensus Building.” As he will discuss, simply having students engaged is not enough; rather, they must be engaged in the types of activities that help them confront specific ideas, build confidence in their abilities as science learners, and build community in the classroom.

This workshop will take place on Wednesday, June 6 from 11:00 to 1:00 in SCI 108. If you are interested in attending, please click on the RSVP link below. Questions can be directed to James Kowalski at jkowalski@csu.edu or x2498.

Click here to RSVP

“Fuel Up for Finals” Faculty Breakfast

Be sure to stop by the CTRE tomorrow morning for a delicious breakfast as you fuel up for the week ahead.

The Good Earth Catering Company will be on hand to serve up scrambled eggs, French toast casserole, apple-wood bacon, turkey sausage, breakfast potatoes, mini pastries, and fresh fruit, all complemented by Chicago’s very own ace roasters, Intelligentsia Coffee.

But if that isn’t enough fuel for you, the CTRE will also be raffling off gift cards for gasoline and Starbucks coffee. Of course, in order to play, you’ll need to attend!

“Fuel Up for Finals” Faculty Breakfast will take place on Tuesday, May 8 from 8:00 to 11:00 in LIB 301. It is a joint effort of the CTRE and the Service Excellence Committee.

Click here to RSVP

Moving Day

Beginning the week of May 13, the CTRE’s weekly newsletter, This Week in the CTRE, will be moving its scheduled release from Monday morning to Tuesday midday. This is intended to be a friendlier release for faculty to peruse the news within a less hectic timeframe.