

## **Increased Funding for Diversity Grants: Application process now open**

The Office of the Provost announces that the application process is now open for the Women's Enrichment Fund Mini-Grants and the Diversity Grants Program. This year, for the first time, the application process for the two programs will run on parallel time frames, with a shared application form. The application deadlines are also being pushed from the fall to the early spring, so that funding will be available for a full academic year. For detailed information on the two programs see:

<http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/minigrant.html>

<http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/grants.html>

The Women's Enrichment Fund Mini-Grants (funded by the President through the General University Fund for Excellence) is in its fourth year; over the first three years of the program, funding has allowed students, faculty, and staff to develop exciting new events, courses, and research that have enhanced the experience of women at Iowa State. The Diversity Grants Program has just been in existence for one year, during which key support was available for eight research, scholarly, outreach, and curricular projects.

## **Enhancements in the Diversity Grants Program are the result of two 2006 Taskforces**

During the Academic year 2006-2007, Interim Provost Susan Carlson established two taskforces charged with reviewing various aspects of support for diversity programming, research, and curriculum on campus; the taskforces were in response to the Campus Climate Implementation Plan (<http://www.hrs.iastate.edu/diversity/impcom.htm>).

The Taskforce To Review Dialogues on Diversity, chaired by Dr. David Acker, found that the current program (Dialogues on Diversity, U St 150) provides valuable education for our students and suggested several measures to enhance the course. The Taskforce also praised the curricular work of Gender Justice (U St 160) coordinated out of the Women's Center; and it further recommended that the Provost find ways to increase support for diversity curricula and programs around the university. The Taskforce report is available at <http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/diversity.html>.

The Taskforce reviewing the feasibility of an Institute for Social Justice, chaired by Dr. Laura Rendon, found that such an institute was not feasible on campus at this time, but also found that related existing programs should have strong continued support. The Taskforce recommended increased funding of research and curricular initiatives to build on the work of programs like the Center for American Intercultural Studies, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women in Politics, and the Social Justice concentration in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. It also recommended the creation of a coordinating committee to provide enhanced communication among programs and departments with commitments to social justice. The Taskforce report is available at <http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/diversity.html>.

Provost Hoffman's response included an increase in funding for Dialogues on Diversity for the current year; the Provost also agreed that the course should move from the Provost's Office to the College of Human Sciences in fiscal year 2009, so that it can be better aligned with related curricular activities in the college. In support of the recommendations of both reports, she has nearly doubled the funding for the Diversity Grants program; in addition, the current funding cycle will include an increased focus on initiatives in line with the findings of the two Taskforces. (See Provost's response at [http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/Provost\\_Response\\_2007-07-16.pdf](http://www.provost.iastate.edu/fad/Provost_Response_2007-07-16.pdf))