

# E Echoes of Excellence

News For Friends Of Philander Smith College

WINTER 2001 - SPECIAL EDITION

## NEW GRANTS HELP PSC CLOSE IN ON \$30 MILLION GOAL

Philander Smith College President, Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, recently announced the receipt of two significant grants from the Teagle Foundation and the Bush Foundation that will enable the college to meet the demands created by a changing global market.

A \$264,000 grant award from the Teagle Foundation will directly support the college's efforts to engage in a comprehensive planning and implementation process that will facilitate a radical transformation in the student population and college culture.

"The Teagle grant will help PSC continue to improve our academic rating as well as to assist the college in strategic growth areas such as marketing, recruitment and retention," said Reed.

Reed reported that the Teagle Foundation has been integral to the current success of Philander Smith College. A 1998 grant from the Foundation laid the groundwork for improvements to PSC's Office of Institutional Advancement. In fact, during the initial phase of the capital campaign, started in late 1999, PSC broke all records by raising over \$23 million toward a campaign goal of \$30 million. Prior to 1998, the most funds ever raised at the then 121 year-old college were only \$3 million.

"This particular grant is very important to the future of Philander Smith College," said Dr. Stephen Schafer, Dean of PSC's Institutional Advancement Office. "It will enable us to consult with professionals from a peer institution that formerly faced similar challenges. As a result, we expect to transform Philander Smith College within four years. This innovative change will enable PSC to regain its reputation as a premier institution of higher learning with a student body that will model global diversity."



*Philander Smith College faculty and staff celebrate on the steps of the historic James M. Cox Administration Building.*

### Bush Grant benefits PSC Faculty and Staff

Reed was especially excited about a \$1 million matching grant awarded jointly by the Bush Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The gift will allow the college to establish its first faculty/staff endowment program.

Reed explained, "One of my first promises was a raise for the faculty and staff. Although the salary adjustments won't be immediate, since the gift must be matched by eligible donations to the college, I am much closer to being able to reward our wonderful faculty and staff for their incredible dedication and commitment to Philander Smith College."

An essential component of the Bush grant is that it must be matched

dollar-for-dollar before the actual money is disbursed to the college. The matching terms approved for the grant include: a) gifts or written pledges of at least \$100 must be designated specifically for the capital campaign and received on or after March 7, 2001 and before January 1, 2003; b) gifts will be matched up to a maximum amount of \$250,000; c) eligible donors include former and current members of the College Advisory Board, former and current staff and faculty members, Philander Smith College Alumni, corporations, foundations and individuals. Reed is hoping to raise at least \$5 million to allow for salary adjustments that will mirror peer

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## TWO NEW GRANTS FOR PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

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institutions, citing a recent study whereby PSC salaries were at the bottom of salary ranking for historically black colleges.

"I am especially appreciative of the great work of Dr. Schafer, who made it possible for PSC to receive this grant," said Reed. "This particular grant application process is very rigorous, but through his excellent proposal and vision for the college we will be able to retain our current outstanding faculty and staff members as well as recruit even more talented individuals."

As the only Arkansas institution listed in the recent publication of *The 201 Best Colleges for the Real World*, Philander Smith College has re-established a national reputation for academic excellence. For example, PSC boasts a strong science curriculum that results in 90% of its pre-med students being accepted into medical schools across the nation. Increasing numbers of PSC students are also pursuing graduate and professional degrees as well. With increased faculty scholarship, enhanced diversity management, and higher ratings

from national accrediting agencies, PSC is well on its way to achieving its vision for the future.

Philander Smith College, located near downtown Little Rock in the historic Quapaw Quarter, is a privately supported, four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. As one of the nation's 103 Historically Black Colleges and

Universities (HBCU), the college first opened its doors in 1877 to educate former slaves. Dr. Reed, inaugurated in February 1999, is PSC's 11th and first female president. Under her direction, the college has developed a progressive new vision that is attracting national attention and has established an environment that embraces academic excellence.



Grant team members are from left: Dr. Marinelle Ringer — Department of Humanities Chair, Dr. William Lindsey — Dean of Instruction, Dr. Stephen Schafer — Dean of Institutional Advancement and Dana Fisher — Marketing Director.

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