



DELGADO, SOUTHEASTERN SIGN COMPUTER I.T. ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

A \$965,000 Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (PKSFI) grant awarded in 2007 from the Louisiana Board of Regents to Delgado Community College in a partnership with Southeastern Louisiana University has been put to use over the past two years to fund workforce-related upgrades in computer technology curricula and equipment at both institutions. Those efforts most recently include the signing of a joint articulation agreement that allows certain students earning an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Computer Information Technology (Technical Specialist Concentration) at Delgado to easily transition to pursue a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Computer Science (Information Technology concentration) at Southeastern.

“The program enhancements being achieved under the PKSFI grant in cooperation with Southeastern, including this important articulation agreement, are providing tremendous opportunities for students to take advantage of the most cutting-edge Information Technology (IT) education to gain relevant knowledge and skill sets for today’s growing job market,” said Dr. Warren Duclos, Jr., chair of Computer Information Technology at Delgado and PKSFI grant principal investigator.

Under the agreement, students who complete the AAS degree program in Computer IT (Technical Specialist Concentration) are admitted to Southeastern and will have only the remaining two years left to complete the BS degree in Computer Science (IT concentration) at Southeastern. Delgado degree program completers meeting Southeastern admissions requirements are guaranteed transferability of 60 Delgado degree credits toward Southeastern’s 120-credit baccalaureate degree program.

“The signing of this agreement is a testament to the dedication of our institutions to work more closely than ever to offer our students the very best educational opportunities,” said Deborah Lea, Delgado vice chancellor for Learning and Student Development. “Being able to seamlessly advance from Delgado’s two-year program to enter Southeastern’s four-year program as a junior will give students the best – and most time and financially efficient -- education and training to succeed in some of the region’s hottest industries.”

The agreement officially establishing the program was signed by John Crain, Southeastern’s provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Lea, Daniel McCarthy, dean of Southeastern’s College of Science and Technology, Warren Punecky, Jr., dean of Delgado’s Division of Business and Technology; Dr. Cris Koutsougeras, Southeastern’s department head of Computer Science and Industrial Technology; and Duclos. The agreement is immediately effective as of fall 2009.

Representatives signing the agreement agreed that the articulation program is a key part of the mission of the PKSFI grant, which aims to enhance Delgado’s IT services to academic programs and to further update, refocus and modernize the IT-related curricula at Delgado and Southeastern to meet the needs and challenges of the region’s workforce.

Complementing the establishment of the agreement and also part of the grant has been Delgado’s development of a new IT curriculum that focuses on meeting market need within high-

growth professions that are in greatest demand during the region's rebuilding process and beyond. As part of this curriculum restructuring, Delgado has added new degree concentrations in critical employment-focused areas of Web design and IT services and continues to develop multi-disciplinary concentrations in the strategic areas of information security, e-commerce, multimedia production, computer game design and production, and creative/digital media.

To support the upgraded program curricula, Delgado has applied grant funds to the development of cutting-edge new labs. In 2009, Delgado completed a new Computer IT/Digital Media Production Lab on its City Park Campus; the lab features 20 Dell Precision 5400 workstations, 3 Dell Precision 7400 rendering stations, scanners and color printers, and Dell UltraSharp 24-inch flat panel high resolution monitors. Delgado also offers three Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) Engineering Technology Labs, two Visual Communication Labs for graphic design, and a Television Production/Digital Media Lab.

At Southeastern, a grant-funded Networked Systems Administration Laboratory (NetSal) computer lab provides server support for web development instruction at Delgado while enhancing systems administration and web technology instruction at Southeastern. NetSal is a state-of-the-art Web server lab with 32 server machines to support Web design, administration and other courses at Delgado and will also support many courses in Southeastern's IT program, including Internet programming, information systems, software engineering and database systems.

In addition, Southeastern will develop and run a Transitional Student Mentoring and Tutoring program – called TransMAT -- that uses the NetSal lab to provide support to students transitioning from Delgado's associate program to Southeastern's four-year bachelor's program.

PKSFI funding extends over four years, through 2010, and will proceed in several cycles, all involving research, planning, building and implementation. Duclos is the principal investigator for the grant and Koutsougeras and Dr. Troy Kammerdiener, Southeastern assistant professor of computer science, are co-principal investigators.

For more information about the IT articulation agreement between Delgado and Southeastern, related IT curricula or the employment of PKSFI grant funding by the institutions, please contact Duclos at (504) 671-6107 or wduclo@dcc.edu. For more information about Delgado Community College, its programs and admissions, visit www.dcc.edu.

About PKSFI Grant Funding

The PKSFI initiative came into being in December of 2005 when the Regents voted to set aside \$26.8 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund to 1) underwrite scientific projects targeted to advance science in Louisiana at national and international levels, accelerate economic development and lead to the establishment of nationally-recognized research centers, and 2) fund educational reforms which strengthen Louisiana's scientific student pipeline. Delgado's award falls under the PKSFI education subprogram, which specified that proposals provide plans for the improvement of undergraduate science education that feature broad impact/workforce development potential, institutional leveraging, sustainability and scalability and a provision for assessment.

About Delgado Community College's Computer Information Technology (CMIN) Program

Delgado's Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Computer Information Technology (CMIN) is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in information technology and information systems, with sufficient knowledge of the overall environment to advance along several career paths, including application programming, systems analysis/design, Web design and IT support, and to provide the appropriate foundation for further studies in computer information systems and information technology. The program is offered with four concentrations: programmer/analyst specialist, Web design specialist, e-commerce specialist and technical specialist.