

CAMPUS CONNECTION

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NSF Awards UT Nearly \$1 Million Grant to Continue Early Childhood Science Education Program

The National Science Foundation awarded the University of Toledo a nearly \$1 million federal grant to continue, expand and further evaluate its successful, innovative program that engages teachers and parents in supporting a young child's natural curiosity through interactive, inquiry-based science lessons.

The University's NURTURES Early Childhood Science program, which aims to improve the science readiness scores of preschool through third-grade students in the Toledo area, was originally supported with a \$10 million, five-year NSF grant. The new \$991,081 grant is part of a total of \$2.25 million in federal funding for the second phase of the program that extends it through 2021.

NURTURES, which stands for Networking Urban Resources with Teachers and University to enRich Early Childhood Science, is a professional development program and collaboration between UT, local daycare centers and nursery schools,

Toledo Public Schools, informal science centers and other community resources to create a complementary, integrated system of science education.

Project participants in the second phase of the project will include 120 teachers, 2,400 preschool through third grade children, and more than 7,200 family members in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

"We are pleased to receive additional funding from the National Science Foundation for the NURTURES program," said Dr. Charlene Czerniak, professor emeritus of science education and research professor in the UT College of Engineering. "Building on our previous success, we will simultaneously target early childhood teachers, families and children to create a broad support system for powerful and effective science teaching and learning. This program will help close the gaps in science, mathematics, reading and literacy for young children."

During the first phase of the NURTURES

program, 330 teachers of preschool through third-grade and administrators participated in a total of 544 hours of professional development in the teaching of science inquiry and engineering design for early childhood classrooms.

According to research published recently in the Journal of Research in Science Teaching, every year that a student has a NURTURES program teacher adds on average 8.6 points to a student's early literacy standardized test score compared to control students, 17 points to a student's mathematics score and 41.4 points to a student's reading score.

The program includes five primary components:

- A two-week summer institute for preschool through third-grade teachers in which they have access to both scientists and instructional coaches.
- Academic year professional development, including monthly professional learning community meetings and one-on-one coaching.
- Family science activity packets, sent

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Mercy College of Ohio Faculty Member Receives National Award

Quentin T. Moore, M.P.H., was recognized by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) as a 2016 winner of the Jean I. Widger Distinguished Author Award and the Harold Silverman Distinguished Author Award, honoring the best of the peer-reviewed articles published in the ASRT journals during the past year. Moore, who is director of the Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging and Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology programs for Mercy College of Ohio, earned the Widger award for his article, "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improving Radiation Protection in Digital Radiography," which was published in the September/October

2016 issue of Radiologic Technology.

His study aimed to determine which improvement approaches can be incorporated in digital radiography to ensure radiation protection practices are based on current equipment capabilities. Through a literature review, Moore found that the transition from film screen to digital radiography has resulted in confusion in applying appropriate techniques. Moore recommends that radiologic technologists and others working in medical imaging continually review and incorporate clinically effective research into practice. He argues that increasing interdisciplinary quality and implementing practice improvement projects will help

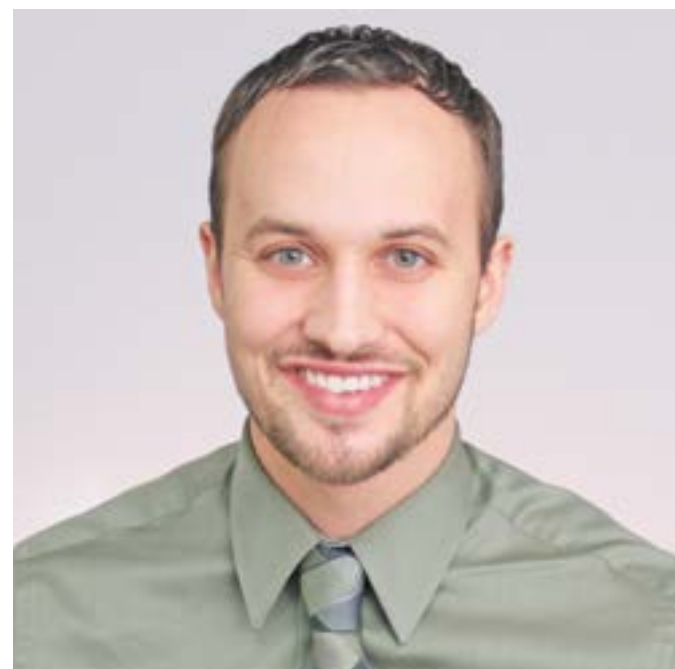
facilities improve imaging practices. Moore's study will hopefully inform other educators and healthcare professionals as they provide high quality care and training to those in the radiologic technology field.

For Mercy College students, faculty members like Moore are putting effective research into practice and providing the next generation of healthcare professionals with a strong foundation for success. Mercy College offers state of the art laboratory facilities and in-depth online learning across a multitude of healthcare programs.

Mercy College graduates choose from dozens — if not hundreds of unique settings and applications. Their education provides them with confidence to work in any healthcare setting. Mercy graduates are known for their ability to quickly start solving problems and making decisions for the greater good of those in need.

Mercy College of Ohio is a Catholic institution sponsored by Mercy Health with a campus in Toledo and a location in Youngstown, Ohio.

(MERCY — cont. on page 11)



Quentin T. Moore

TARTA Offers Transportation Options for 7 Toledo-Area Communities

Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority — TARTA — has been moving forward with the Toledo region since 1971. With over 30 interconnected routes carrying 3.1 million passengers

per year in and around the Toledo area, TARTA serves the communities of Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, Toledo, and Waterville.

College students and faculty ride TARTA to connect with several different Toledo-area colleges and universities including the University of Toledo — all area campuses, Lourdes Uni-

versity, Mercy College of Ohio, Davis College, Heidelberg University at Arrowhead Park, Herzing University, Professional Skills Institute, and Stautzenberger College.

School route information for grades K-12 is available at TARTA.com/schools.

TARTA fare is \$1.25 per person; 60 cents for persons with disabilities and senior citizens age 65 and over. Children under age 6 ride free with an adult.

With monthly, unlimited ride passes for just \$50, TARTA riders can save on their transportation costs by using any of eight TARTA Park-N-Ride locations throughout the Toledo area. Households that take public transportation, and live with one fewer car can save hundreds — even thousands — of dollars per year.

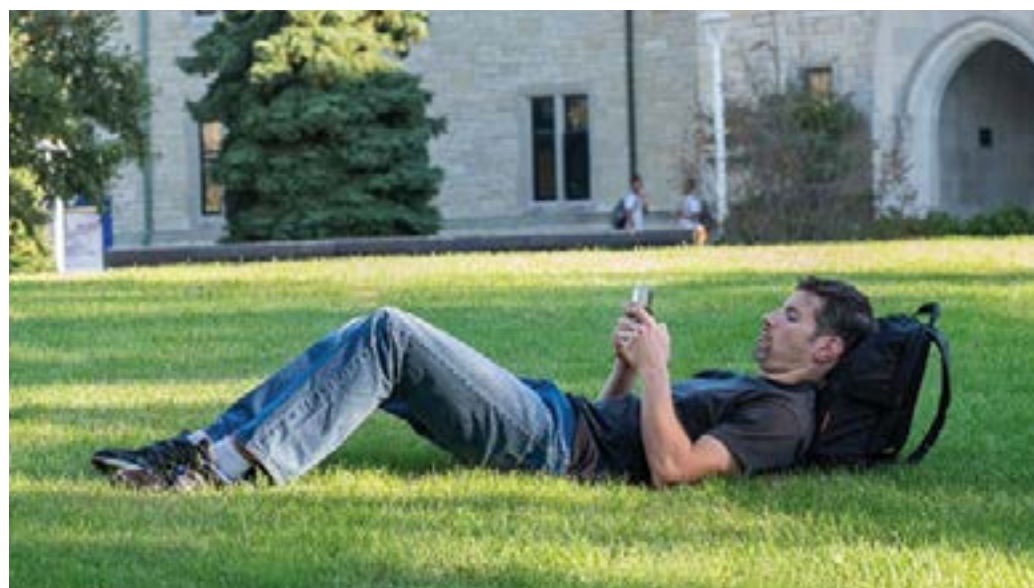
All TARTA buses are equipped with lifts or ramps making them 100 percent wheelchair-accessible. TARTA also has bike racks mounted

on the front of all of its buses holding two bicycles independently.

TARTA curb-to-curb Call-A-Ride service operates in Maumee, Ottawa Hills, Rossford, Sylvania, Sylvania Township, and Waterville. Passengers may connect to and from TARTA regular line service and other nearby Call-A-Rides.

For persons with disabilities preventing them from using regular TARTA buses, there's TARPS. TARPS operates in compliance with the Americans with

(TARTA — cont. on page 11)



How To Earn a College Scholarship

By Metro Creative

The cost of a college education continues to rise. The College Board says the average cost of tuition and fees for the 2015-2016 school year was \$32,405 at private colleges, \$9,410 for state residents at public colleges, and \$23,893 for out-of-state residents attending public universities. In 2013 and 2014, the average cost of a year's tuition at a Canadian university was \$5,772. The high cost of education compels many students to find ways to finance their educa-

tion. For many, that means exploring available scholarships. Scholarships come in different forms and are usually offered to students as a gift to be put toward college or university costs. Some schools offer scholarships, while other scholarships are sponsored by outside organizations.

Students who meet certain requirements may be eligible for scholarships. While academic or athletic skills are the first criteria associated with scholarships, they are

not the only avenues by which students can pursue scholarships. Scholarships may be offered to students of certain ethnic groups; children of employees at particular companies; or to students who live in particular states. Local branches of organizations like the Rotary Club or Kiwanis also may give out scholarships. To improve one's odds of getting a scholarship, consider the following tips.

• **Get involved with the community.** Many

scholarship sponsors seek individuals who are committed to volunteerism. Plus, volunteering for various groups puts students in the path of information about scholarships from these organizations.

• **Use scholarship search engines.** Those who search for scholarship sponsors should find plenty of results if they peruse scholarship search engines such as Scholarships.com, CollegeBoard.com and FastWeb.com.

• **Check the local newspaper.** The coupon

section of the Sunday newspaper may feature scholarships, as might the classified section. This is a great resource for finding locally based scholarships.

• **Use networking contacts.** Students should ask anyone they know if they are aware of any scholarship opportunities. Students who develop a rapport with guidance counselors or the financial aid department at their prospective colleges or universities may learn about scholarship opportunities that are not highly publicized.

These people may have the inside track on scholarship information. • **Apply for all available scholarships.** Now is not the time for students to become lazy. Students should apply for as many scholarships for which they meet the eligibility requirements.

Scholarships can help students offset the rising costs of a college education. Those who are willing to put in the research, time and effort to apply may find a wealth of scholarship opportunities at their disposal.



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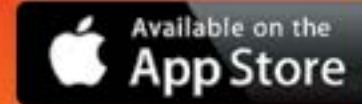
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(UT — continued from page 9)

home from school four times a year, that each include a newsletter with directions for the investigation, necessary materials for the activity and a journal sheet for children to record data or visually represent understanding.

- Family community science events, such as engineering challenge simulations, and observations and demonstrations at a park, zoo, science center, library or farm; and
- Public service broadcasts on television that promote family science activities.

According to the National Science Foundation, an important facet of this follow-up project is the research effort to understand how each component impacts student learning. Project leaders plan to use control groups and standardized tests to measure the effect

of teacher professional development compared to family engagement activities.

“What a tremendous opportunity for the young children, their families and teachers in our region to participate in a project that will enhance their understanding of science and the natural world around them,” said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. “It is so important for the project team at the University of Toledo to continue to study the impact that family engagement has on a young child’s education. We know that spending time reading to child exposes them to 1.8 million words a year. What other things could families be exposing to their children to set them on a pathway for success in life? The NURTURES project at

the University of Toledo aims to find that out.”

The additional grant award comes one week after the American Association of State Colleges and Universities honored UT with its Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education in recognition of the NURTURES program.

Czerniak oversaw the development of the NURTURES program along with Dr. Joan Kaderavek, professor of early childhood, physical and special education in the UT Judith Herb College of Education; Dr. Susanna Hapgood, associate professor in the UT Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the Judith Herb College of Education; and Dr. Scott Molitor, associate professor in the UT Department of Bioengineering in the College of Engineering.

(MERCY — continued from page 9)

It focuses on healthcare and health science programs in both on-campus and online formats. Mercy College offers a Master of Science in Nursing; Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology, Healthcare

Administration, Medical Imaging, and Nursing; Associate of Science degrees in General Studies, Health Information Technology, Nursing, and Radiologic Technology; and Credit Certificates in Commu-

nity Health Worker, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Coding, Ophthalmic Technology, Paramedic and Polysomnographic Technology. More information is available at mercycollege.edu.

(TARTA — continued from page 9)



Disabilities Act and covers the same service area as TARTA. Registered TARPS users may ride TARTA regular line and Call-A-Ride services free of fare.


TARTA Game Shuttles offer Park-N-Ride service from several area locations for all Mud Hens baseball games at Fifth Third Field and Walleye hockey games at Huntington Center. Fare is \$1.25; no game ticket is required to ride. Return trips leave 20 minutes following each game’s conclusion.

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3 p.m. Visit TARTA-tracker.com for details. Every year, public transportation reduces our nation’s carbon emissions by 41 million tons — equivalent to the electricity used by 4.9 million households. In fact, riding public transportation is one of the most significant actions one can take to reduce their household carbon emissions. For more information about TARTA and all its services, visit TARTA.com or call 419-243-RIDE.

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