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News Release
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ICC Foundation Awards Thomas C. Long Faculty Grant

The Independence Community College (ICC) Foundation has awarded the Thomas C. Long Faculty Grant Program to help launch the new ICC “Learning Community – Focus on Resilience.” The project was submitted by Debra Havener, Carlene Smith, and Jerrid Schicke.

“The “Learning Community – Focus on Resilience” project will center on health and wellness (physical, mental, emotional),” said Debra Havener, ICC Psychology Professor. “Resilience in the face of challenges will be an important theme. These are important topics in my field, and I’m personally passionate about the subject. I think that students will enjoy the topics, have fun writing about them, and develop critical thinking skills in the process.”

The specific objectives of the “Learning Community” project are to develop a community of learners within ICC’s population, increase student retention and success by learning through connections among courses, and provide a contemporary approach to learning. “I began my teaching tenure with Bonnie Cox, Deloris Jones, and Jody Kawulok in a similar learning program in the 1970’s,” stated Carlene Smith, ICC English Professor. “I am anxious to revisit the learning community program of study.”

Students who participate in learning communities are more likely to stay in college. For freshmen, the program enables students to develop a network of supportive peers beyond the classroom. “Students will find extended comfort and confidence in their study habits,” noted Jerrid Schicke, ICC Reading/English Specialist.

The Thomas C. Long Faculty Grant was established in 1987 with funds generously donated to the ICC Foundation from 1941 alumnus, Thomas C. Long. The purpose of the faculty grant is to provide faculty development opportunities. The program awards up to \$1,500.00 to at least one ICC faculty member. This award provides up to \$1,000.00 for materials and supplies and an honorarium of \$500.00 to the submitting faculty member(s).

Individuals serving on the awards committee were: Sandy Annable, ICC Foundation Trustee; Norman Castagna, ICC Foundation Trustee; Jana Shaver, ICC Foundation Trustee; Peggy Forsberg, ICC Dean of Instruction; and Jay Jones, ICC Trustee. “The grant committee was moved by the benefits that this program will offer to ICC students and to the community,” stated Norman Castagna.

According to Lori Shaw, ICC Foundation Director, this is only the second time that the grant has been awarded. The last recipient was Derek Eshelbrenner in 1988.