Title III Grant

Part A: Strengthening Institutions Program
Title III Part: A Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) “helps eligible IHEs to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.” http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3a/index.html
What is the USM Title III Grant?

- **USM**: First-Year Success Through Experience and Strength
  - First STEPs

- One of 33 institutions awarded nationally, one of three in New England, only higher education institution in Maine.
  - $1.64 million over five years
  - Benchmarks must be met each year to receive funding

- Team Members
  - Dahlia Lynn (Provost Office) Project Director
  - Susan Campbell (Student Affairs), Susan McWilliams (Provost Office), Judy Spross (Faculty Commons/CSTH), Deb Kalikow-Pluck (Student Success) Activity Coordinators.
  - Beth Higgins (Student Success) Management Team
How does it work?

- Funding is available for 5 years starting October 2013.

- We will work from an established time table containing 4 interconnected activities.

- Each activity is comprised of several individual tasks and is managed by an Activity Coordinator and supporting personnel.

- Each activity serves to support a specific goal and objective.
Goals and Objectives 1 & 2

**Activity & Goal #1**
Transform USM into a Strengths-Based Culture

- Increase student hope, engagement, well-being, and satisfaction.
- Develop immersive experiences for all entering students
- Increase Fall-to-Fall persistence rates.

**Activity & Goal #2**
Strengthen and Increase High-Impact Educational Practices offering to students

- Increase student engagement in High-Impact Educational Practices.
- Increase the number of faculty who incorporate HIEP in their courses and degree offerings.
Goals and Objectives 3 & 4

Activity/Goal # 3
Develop the infrastructure and support for faculty development and learning support services

- Increase the number of faculty engaged in adapting new instructional and pedagogical methods.
- Decrease course failure rates of students taking gateway courses.

Activity/Goal #4
Strengthen student support services by integrating electronic tools

- Increase Fall-to-Fall persistence rate.
- Increase 4-year graduation rate.
What are funds used for?

- Strengths based training for Academic Advising, Student Affairs, and faculty participants
- Workshops for faculty and staff on best practices
- Strength-based assessment for all entering students
- Mini grants for new course development, redesign of gateway courses
- External Evaluation
- University-wide symposia for faculty and staff each year
- Software systems for academic course scheduling, early warning alert systems/student progress and e-portfolios.
- Infrastructure for Community Based Learning
Strength based training opportunities for Faculty Academic Advising Liaisons, Entry Year Experience Faculty, Student Affairs and Academic Support Staff, HRD 110 and LAC 180 faculty

Development of impact and assessment tools

Faculty development, faculty interest groups, workshops

New HIEP courses and redesign of gateway courses through mini grants and delivery support

High Impact Educational Practices Coordinating Committee

Involvement in the development and support of Learning Communities and immersive experiences for all USM students

Contributing to yearly institutional symposia for faculty and staff

Faculty leadership in FIGS (Faculty Interest Groups) and as Faculty Fellows
Workshops on each campus throughout the first year for faculty and staff in key academic support, student affairs areas on the grant objectives and associated activities.

- Campus newsletters on the USM web page
- Title III link on the USM Website
- Regular Departmental, School and College meetings
- Monthly updates highlighting activities, research, assessment activities and accomplishments
- Social media, Facebook
Who is involved?

Title III Grant Project

- Grant Management Team
- Community Outreach and Public Affairs
- USM Academic Departments
- USM Faculty and Staff
- Student Affairs
- IT Department