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## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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### **FGCU to Receive \$2.3 Million in Renewed and New Federal Funding Over the Next Five Years**

FORT MYERS, FL- The Division of Student Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University recently announced the awarding of a Federal TRIO grant known as Student Support Services plus the awarding of a second Federal SSS TRIO grant to provide services to STEM (science, technology, engineering or math majors). These two Student Support Services grants combined will bring \$2.3 million to FGCU over the next five years and the grants will be directed to services for eligible first generation, low income students in need of support services. This STEM grant is the only one in Southwest Florida.

Cathy Doyle, director of Student Support Services and Outreach Programs said, "Funding in these grants provides direct services intended to help eligible low-income, first-generation or students with disabilities in need of support services." SSS helps foster an institutional climate supportive of under-represented students to increase retention and graduation rates.

The Student Support Services programs will assist with tutoring, provide resources to assist in postsecondary course selection, textbook lending program, and provide information on the full range of student financial aid programs. Furthermore, the grant staff will assist participants to

improve their financial and economic literacy and in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs.

Both proposals were researched and written by Cathy Doyle and Sally Berg through the Office of Outreach Programs and Student Support Services. “Ms. Doyle and Dr. Berg saw the need for additional support for under-represented students enrolling in FGCU. With the cooperation of staff members and numerous departments across the FGCU campus, both grants were entered into national competition through the Federal Department of Education,” said Dean of Students Michele Yovanovich.

“The quality of the proposals and the need for support services for students undoubtedly aided the evaluators in recommending funding for both grants” said Vice President for Student Affairs J. Michael Rollo.

The programs are scheduled to start September 2010.

For more information, media representatives should contact Doyle or Yovanovich at (239) 590-7900.

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