Grant Writers Recognized at Ceremony

Two awards to recognize the contributions of successful grant seekers were presented for the first time at the 2012-2013 Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Grant Writers Recognition Ceremony on Nov. 21 in Kara Alumni House.

Dr. Katherine Mitchem, of the Department of Special Education, received the President’s Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship. Dr. Kyle Fredrick, of the Department of Earth Sciences, received the Provost’s Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship.

The president’s award includes $500, and the provost’s award includes $300, both to be used to support research or professional development.

Also at the ceremony, professors John Kula and Laura Giachetti, from the Department of Academic Development Services, were honored as Million Dollar Achievers for their grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the TRIO Upward Bound programs at Cal U.

All told in 2012-2013, 56 proposals totaling nearly $3.6 million were submitted, and 36 projects totaling more than $2.4 million were awarded.

Faculty and staff who either were awarded or proposed grants were honored at the event on Nov. 21. They are listed online at http://www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/sponsored-research/grants-yearbook/index.htm. A link is provided on the Cal U website’s homepage.

“I’m grateful for the funding because it has enabled us to provide an array of educational services and opportunities for prospective college-bound high school students, many of whom are from low-income families and will be first-generation college students,” said Kula, program director for TRIO Upward Bound.

“Cal U has received this very competitive funding since 1968, and it is definitely put to good use.”

Mitchem, who was honored for her history of successful grant writing, her focus on research and programming, and her national and regional expertise, said she was “honored and privileged to have received this award when there are so many deserving people.”

“It’s wonderful that the administration recognizes our grant writers and the efforts that go into it,” she said.

In her remarks, interim University President Geraldine M. Jones noted that grants can provide learning opportunities that might not otherwise be available to the University, its faculty and students.

“I appreciate the efforts of the many faculty and staff members who have worked diligently to secure outside funding to help support our programming, research, service, teaching and learning — funding that will become increasingly important as state support continues to decline,” the President said.