As part of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Trenholm State is implementing the Student Success Center. Trenholm State is in the process of hiring staff for the Center. The staff will include the Student Success Center Coordinator and the Retention Advising Specialist. Tutors will also be available to assist students. The additional personnel will improve the overall function and impact of the current efforts on student retention.

Trenholm State is committed to student success by connecting students to opportunities for success through the Student Success Center. The mission is to provide a centralized and integrated center with high expectations for all students, with an emphasis on academic readiness skills that will help students to persist and graduate from the institution. The Center will give students a learning environment that motivates students to make positive life choices like making academics a priority, attending classes daily, and utilizing resources to obtain success in the classroom. The Student Success Center is expected to be operating fully by June 2014.

The Center will promote better academic success among Trenholm State students in terms of academic progress and retention. The Center will provide a range of services with a goal to reach students where they are and provide a bridge to where students need to be academically and socially. The

(continued on page 2)
Mr. Damon K. Blythe is the Retention Advising Specialist. Mr. Blythe brings front-end expertise in technology-based retention strategies and best practices. He has held the position since April 1, and with the assistance of MIS, will be responsible for the institutionalization of the DropGuard early alert system at all campus locations. Furthermore, Mr. Blythe will work directly with the Student Success Coordinator and the Title III Activity V Director in institutionalizing a campus-wide retention program that will cultivate student achievement.

Prior to joining the Trenholm State family, Mr. Blythe served as the Communications and Writing Coordinator/Technology Specialist for the Tuskegee University Center for Academic Excellence and Innovative Learning (T-CAEIL) in this capacity, Mr. Blythe was responsible for implementing the university’s first virtual-based supplemental instruction laboratory and application platforms for communications and writing. He also trained various faculty, staff and students to efficiently and effectively utilize the robust virtual web-based resources. Via advising, supplemental instruction, group and one-on-one tutoring, Mr. Blythe worked directly with first-year and at-risk students to support successful matriculation through their prospective academic programs.

Mr. Blythe earned his bachelor’s degree in English from Tuskegee University in 1995. He is the father of Kibiru and Kierah Blythe, 17 and 13 respectively.

The Student Success Center

Center will represent an environment for intellectual stimulation for students and serve as a place where students, faculty and staff can meet to engage in dialogue through activities to support reciprocal learning and enhance student knowledge.

The Student Success Center will offer a variety of services to include tutoring in-person and online tutoring and peer-assisted group sessions in subjects such as math, English, and biology. Students will also be provided with computer work stations to conduct research, use tutorial software, and work on assignments. A room will also be available for study groups. The Center will provide a quiet study environment.
Through Title III funds, the Medical Radiologic Technology program now has a computed radiography (CR) system. Students do not make radiation exposures on each other because of the hazardous nature of ionizing radiation. However, the lab prepares the students for the experience that will take place in the hospital and clinical settings. The idea is to become competent in performing exams in a lab setting using the CR digital equipment before exposing patients. The competency-based lab assures that appropriate cognitive and psychomotor skills are developed prior to real-life situations. During the lab, time is set aside for instructors to evaluate radiographs and to determine if proper exposure values were used using the CR digital system.

Math instructors are finding this classroom tool extremely useful. For example, math instructors have the ability to clearly demonstrate and record a detailed algebraic formula step by step and then make it available to students after class for reference, all with the click of a button. The Symposium allows the instructor to enjoy touch screen convenience.

Trenholm State just replaced its telephone system that was installed in October 2000. This upgrade purchase is vital to the operation of the College. Title III funds allowed Trenholm State to upgrade the phone system to ensure the communication systems are functional and meet the needs of the college to serve students.

Upgrades will add new features and functions as well as address critical 911 issues in the Learning Resource Center. This upgrade will modernize the backend switches on the Trenholm and Patterson Campuses. Essentially, this will complete a college-wide upgrade. This much needed upgrade will improve services and student access to the College.

Teaching with Technology

The mathematics department has received a Symposium for its classroom. The Symposium is making a significant impact on student achievement and enhance classroom teaching and learning. Students are now more engaged and excited about learning. The Symposium increases the level of student engagement in learning activities; aids in teaching difficult, abstract and complex ideas; enables teacher to access multimedia resources; allows students to demonstrate knowledge; boosts students’ self-esteem and teachers’ ability to assess learning; and allows the teacher to be more mobile during whole-class teaching.

Math instructors are finding this classroom tool extremely useful. For example, math instructors have the ability to clearly demonstrate and record a detailed algebraic formula step by step and then make it available to students after class for reference, all with the click of a button. The Symposium allows the instructor to enjoy touch screen convenience.

Roof Restructured on the Learning Resource Center

Trenholm State just completed the restructuring of the roof on the Learning Resource Center. Research has shown that the quality of facilities influences citizens’ perceptions of the College and can serve as a point of community pride and increased support for the institution.
Expanding Staff To Meet the Needs of Our Students

Trenholm State recently expanded the staff to teach general education courses by hiring a music instructor and a psychology instructor.

Mr. James Anthony Plenty

Mr. James Anthony Plenty joined the Trenholm team as a full-time music instructor on October 1, 2013. He is a 2006 cum laude graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), earning a bachelor of arts degree in Music Technology. In addition to completing his studies in Birmingham, he also holds the Master of Church Music degree in Choral Conducting from UAB. Currently, Plenty is a doctoral candidate at Alabama State University.

Mr. James Perry

Mr. James Perry joins the Trenholm team as a full-time psychology instructor on January 22, 2014. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Association of Behavioral Analysis. Mr. Perry received his bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1987 from the University of Alabama and his master’s degree in psychology in 1991 from Auburn University Montgomery. He spent over twenty years working with people with physical and intellectual disabilities. His work has included psychological evaluation and assessment, behavioral treatment of disruptive behavior and residential services. Mr. James Perry has worked as an adjunct psychology instructor at Wallace Community College Selma, Ingram State Technical College and Alabama State University.

Information Literacy Classes Increased

With the hiring of the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian, information literacy classes have increased significantly. A total of 25 information literacy classes have been completed in the 2014 spring semester. Over 271 students have received information literacy instruction and are on their way to becoming life-long learners. Students are using the library and its resources with more confidence in their ability to locate and use information pertaining to their courses and research topics. This is largely due to the information literacy instruction they received in the classroom by the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian.

Amy Smith was hired as the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian. She joined the Trenholm team in November 2013.
What is Title III?

The Title III Historically Black Colleges and Universities program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is one of many initiatives funded by the federal government as part of a mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence for all Americans.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

1. Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional or research purposes;

2. Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services;

3. Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist these faculty members in attaining advanced degrees in their fields of instruction;

4. Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented;

5. Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program materials;

6. Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success;

7. Funds and administrative management and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;

8. Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;

9. Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector;

10. Establishing or enhancing a program of teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in a public elementary or secondary school in the State that shall include, as part of the program, preparation for teacher certification;

11. Establishing community outreach programs that will encourage elementary and secondary students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue postsecondary education; and,

12. Other activities that it proposes in its application that contribute to carrying out the purpose of this part and are approved by the Secretary as part of the review and acceptance of the application.