

Press Register

News

CCHEC gets grant for summer workshops

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Opens dialogue with community to address needs

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The Press Register

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The Coahoma County Higher Education Center received a blessing Tuesday night as it accepted a grant that will allow the center to host a series of workshops this summer focused on the planning an evaluation of health and development initiatives in the Mississippi Delta.

The \$8,520 grant, given awarded by The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, was won by the Delta State University Institute for Community-Based Research – a collaborative initiative between the Division of Social Sciences and the Center for Community and Economic Development at DSU.

"This grant will support the CCHEC's mission to expand educational opportunity for all people in Coahoma County, and the surrounding counties," said CCHEC Director Jen Waller. "These workshops will be one more way for Delta folk to build knowledge and understanding in areas that are important to the MS Delta – health and education. If we continue developing those areas of need, we will continue to promote a higher quality of life for ALL people in the Mississippi Delta."

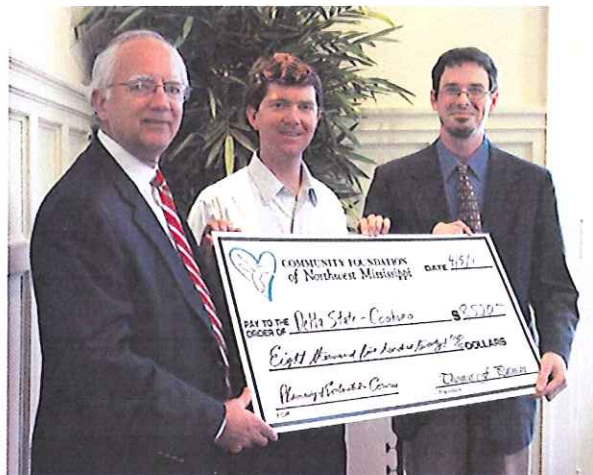
Tuesday's reception also doubled as a community dialogue session where the center began trying to engage the community as to what programs they believe would be most beneficial to Coahoma County and the outlying areas.

Some of the suggestions tossed around included professional training in the field of Health Information Technology. Developing electronic medical records is becoming increasingly important and most every physician is currently moving to electronic storage of patient files for easy sharing.

Youth and Parent Health Fairs that would be used to educate the community was another outlet suggested for the center. Classes that would educate on the importance of healthy eating, dangers and concerns of teen pregnancy, health risks of obesity and parenting classes were a few of the ideas mentioned.

Healthy cooking classes in conjunction with diabetes education was also a touched upon topic that would allow the CCHEC to utilize the Viking kitchen already existing on campus.

A network of local organizations was represented at the informal dialogue including Northwest



TROY CATCHINGS/The Clarksdale Press Register Tom Pittman, left, president of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi and its chairman Rob Tyner, center, along with Dr. John Green, director of the Delta State University's Center for Community and Economic Development, hold the symbolic grant check presented to the Coahoma County Higher Education Center to help fund a series of workshops this summer focused on planning and evaluation of health and development initiatives in the Mississippi Delta.

Community Foundation president and CEO Tom Pittman who helped award the check.

The summer workshops are geared towards anyone in the community who is interested in learning how to plan, develop and evaluate community development initiatives or health related initiatives. The workshops will offer hands-on learning and one-on-one advisory from Dr. John Green, Director, Center for Community and Economic Development.

The workshops are scheduled each Friday June 3-July 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the CCHEC campus.

If you would like to take part in the workshop series, contact Dr. Green at (662) 846-4339 or by e-mail at jgreen@deltastate.edu.

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