

HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES 2002 GRANTS SUMMARIES

ALABAMA

Shelton State Community College

The C.A. Fredd Campus of Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama will receive a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program grant of \$549,990 to create The Unity Center - a training, employment, and resource center designed to provide area residents with the technical skills they will need to improve their employment opportunity and broaden the economic base of the community. Using a customer-oriented approach, the Unity Center will work toward building the community by building the assets of the people of the community and serving as a hub of community life. Specific activities will include technical training sessions, the development of resources and assistance for minority entrepreneurs, leadership training, and community-building projects for community organizations, establishment of a network of HBCUs statewide to share community-building experience and expertise, and the promotion of training through seminars and workshops for community service providers.

Gadsden State Community College

Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Alabama will receive a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program grant of \$424,000 to expand the work begun by its Neighborhood Networks Community Development Centers. The centers now serve a target population of over 4,400 low-income persons living in and adjacent to five public housing communities and were developed using HUD/HBCU funds. With the new grant, the CDC's service area will be expanded and new ventures will be initiated in the areas of promoting fair housing options, neighborhood and housing revitalization, economic development, and community-based education support services. The project has as among its objectives increasing minority and low-income homeownership by 20 percent; improving the quality of 100 dwelling units; extending direct assistance to at least 15 individuals in establishing their own businesses; improving the computer literacy of 350 youths, adults, and elderly residents; and increasing the employment rate among adults and adolescents seeking employment by 25 percent. In partnership with community organizations, government agencies, and local businesses, these objectives will be met through a program of educational seminars and workshops, mentorship, service learning and internship programs for students, community outreach activities, and technical assistance. To further its goals of increasing homeownership and entrepreneurship, the CDC will identify ways to set up a low-interest loan pool for low-income persons and investigate and provide information on home-based business opportunities.

Stillman College

Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama will receive a Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program grant of \$524,790 to assist in the revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood of West Tuscaloosa. The grant will augment Stillman's ongoing efforts to remove severely dilapidated and substandard housing. Other initiatives include

enhancing the quality of life of the 15,000 citizens who reside in the area by providing job skill training and job placement, homeownership opportunities, and economic and community development. This effort also helps displaced families relocate to quality housing.