

## 2014 Annual Performance Report

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University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus -- Office of the Dean for Graduate Studies and Research,

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Name of College/University

P031S100037

PR Award Number

243221

Unit Identification

### Primary contact information:

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Title V - Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions

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Department of Education Grant Program

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI)

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Project Title

4-year Public

Type and Control of Institution

Year 4

Grant Year

### Authorized Representative:

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## Section 1: Executive Summary

The purpose of the legislation that established the Title V program is to "expand educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of Hispanic students; and expand and enhance the academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability of colleges and universities that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic students and other low-income individuals complete postsecondary education."

- A. This section summarizes how the grant enabled the institution to fulfill the legislative intent of the Title V program.
1. The impact of the Title V grant on the institution's capacity to contribute to fulfilling the goals of the legislation.

During Year 4, the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras Campus (UPR-RP) continued to extend its capacity to conduct research and engage faculty and undergraduate students in their research endeavor. The accomplishment of this goal directly addresses the Title V purpose of: 1) expanding educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of Hispanic students, and 2) expand and enhance UPR-RP's academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability. The project shows significant progress in actively engage our undergraduates and faculty in a series of activities specifically aimed at: (a) Expanding Undergraduate Faculty Capacity to Actively Engage in Research (b) Expanding Research Opportunities for Undergraduate Students and (c) Strengthening the Institution's Research proposal capacity. Thus, the project steadily supported the development of UPR-RP's ability to create a sustainable research-based academic culture within non-STEM fields. Specifically this Year 4, we have focused on developing these objectives within the College of Humanities. The project's initiatives allowed our institution to further strengthen our academic program quality and improve the academic attainment of Hispanic students conducting research in interdisciplinary fields. Title V staff held periodical meetings with the upper administration, undergraduates and faculty members from the College of Humanities in order to achieve our performance measures. The project has continued its successful path in our campus by receiving strong support from our university community. We have maintained a strong presence in our campus and increased our visibility via the campus webpage and our recently launched iINAS website. For our web research database, over 250 questionnaires have already been received from researchers.

Over 320 undergraduates participated in the all student initiatives. Five research capacity enhancement training workshops were offered. Student evaluations reported an average satisfaction index of 94% on all workshops; 76 undergraduates attended. Ten undergraduates were selected for the SR program. The 2014 Summer Experience Program (SEP) consisted of ten groups with a total of 46 students. Several 2013 SEP and SR participants were accepted in graduate programs and participated in the National Council of Undergraduate Research National Conference. The Second Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium (SESIC in Spanish) was held on April 3 & 4, 2014. SESIC was a total success with over 180 presentations received from all academic disciplines and a total of 484 participants among them 224 undergraduates. As scheduled, (IN)Genios, our digital peer reviewed journal for the publication of undergraduate students' work was launched in May, 2014. Fifty undergraduate students submitted research and creative works to the journal. We published 24 submissions on the first volume (No.1) and Vol.1(No.2) is scheduled to be published on February,9th 2015.

Regarding Faculty Initiatives, 10 Summer Research Fellowships were awarded: one in the College of Social Sciences (CSS), eight in the College of Humanities, one in the College of General Studies. In addition, three Integration Seminars were held in the College of Humanities and three mini-grants were also awarded. Furthermore, three Summer Research Institutes (SRI) were offered. Moreover, there were six research capacity enhancement workshops and two in grant writing training.

2. How has the grant helped to carry out the mission of the institution?

UPR-RP mission is based on its history and cultural heritage, which distinguishes it from other campuses in the UPR system. This cultural heritage is the basis for its development, and defines its mission and distinctive contribution within the UPR system.

The UPRRP mission is:

1. To promote the integral development of students through curricula that support their intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, lifelong learning, effective communication, appreciation of ethical and aesthetic values, participation in campus activities, reflection, and social responsibility.
2. To provide graduate education of the highest quality in which research and creative activity are core elements and strengthen undergraduate education. In addition, to provide post-baccalaureate programs for training of highly skilled professionals committed to the ideals and values of Puerto Rican society.
3. To provide undergraduate education of excellence with a holistic view of knowledge. This should embrace both general education and specialized training, and develop independent study and research skills within our students.

4. To develop teaching, research, and community service in accordance with the historical and social reality of Puerto Rico, in harmony with its Caribbean and Latin American context and with projection into the international community. To enrich and strengthen knowledge relevant to the consolidation of Puerto Rican nationality, history, language and culture and to facilitate the development and dissemination of knowledge worldwide.

5. To develop innovative research, community service initiatives and continuing education programs that reflect and contribute to the academic and professional work within the campus. These programs should also contribute to the transformation and continuous improvement of the Puerto Rican society, the analysis and formulation of solutions to economic and political problems of the country, and improving the quality of life.

The present Title V grant results from the strategic plan proposed by our university in Vision 2016 which is aligned with the UPR mission statements. Therefore, the present grant directly helps our institution in strengthening all research initiatives described in its mission. Both student and faculty initiatives aim at enhancing undergraduate research innovation among non-STEM disciplines. Through several faculty initiatives, this Title V grant empowers faculty to improve their academic endeavor by engaging more undergraduate students into research. The grant has also provided for academic exchange between our researchers and renowned international scholars and institutions. In addition, equipment funds from the Title V project allowed the UPR-RP to acquire the InFoEd software in order to streamline pressing post-award issues. The creation of the Office for Sponsored Research Programs and Entrepreneurial initiatives within the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research has been instrumental in the advancement of research activity within our campus. Funding support for training of staff involved in grant management activities has been extremely beneficial to researchers prior and following the proposal submission. Moreover, the establishment of the new undergraduate research and learning office approved by the program officer in 2013 will provide students and faculty with a new venue of active interaction and create the academic and research culture required for creative thinking and innovation.

- B. The following information documents the institution's experience with the grant as reported during the current reporting period.

Discuss the long-range impact Title V has had on your institution's capacity to fulfill the goals of the legislation.

To promote and strengthen the University of Puerto Rico's research and teaching activity has been the focus of our Title V and Promoting Post Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic American (PPOHA) projects.

Since 2009, the PPOHA program in our campus has had two main objectives: (1) to expand post baccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students; and (2) to expand the post baccalaureate academic offerings as well as enhance the program quality in the institutions of higher education that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postsecondary degrees. We have been working hard to advance in the accomplishment of these objectives. The project's various components in our fifth program year (2013-2014) showed evidence of significant improvement towards the overall compliance with the PPOHA objectives. All participating graduate programs, namely: Applied Mathematics/Computer Science; Environmental Science, Business and Biology accomplished most of the activity measures. With our support, these programs converted a total of 28 traditional face to face graduate courses into hybrid, technology intensive, e-learning experiences and programs outside our project developed, with our assistance an overall of 40 courses in an e learning modality. We also implemented a Research Fair in which graduate students were able to present their research projects and ideas. We received assistance and support from the Title V undergraduate research project for this Fair.

To increase opportunities of postgraduate education to these potential students, the PPOHA Project has been able to financially support 36 graduate students. This support is proving to be critical for these students to stay focused in hard economic conditions like the ones our country experiences. We launched a Mentoring Program that promises to be an added element in our efforts to promote students success and increase retention in our graduate programs. The Graduate Student Learning Commons (GSLC) continues its successful path as the premier center for graduate activity on campus with well over 1000 students visits every year. Professional and academic activities, seminars and meetings take place at GSLC.

During this fifth year, the project has continued its activity and provided a needed venue for cultural activities as well as the sharing of knowledge through presentations in all disciplines. The learning space developed in this setting has allowed many graduate students with adequate conditions to creatively use their time to advance their studies and knowledge production projects. Now at the latter part of our project the institutionalization of the Learning Commons opens new possibilities since the Library System plans to also serve the undergraduate population involved in research as a way to increase the research activity support for these students as well as a means to promote graduate studies on our campus. We believe this will be a major contribution of both Title V projects to the academic activity on our institution.

If your institution has experienced any unexpected outcomes as a result of this grant, that affect for better or worse its capacity to fulfill the goals of the legislation, tell us about them here.

One of the unexpected outcomes as a result of our efforts is that our title V office continues to be a valuable service and information center for our undergraduate community interested in multidisciplinary research. Specifically, our office actively provides accessible and diverse services to our undergraduate student population seeking support for engaging in research activities and the creative process. For example, we offer counseling and mentoring to students in the completion of a research project and the development of their research capacities. Moreover, our office organized and sponsored meetings and other academic venues that allowed a significant number of undergraduate students from different disciplines to present

their results to the public and engage in critical thinking of their research projects. In addition, our staff constantly provides advise and mentoring to our faculty in developing their research ideas and achieving the completion of their research projects. We are very pleased to report that the construction of the Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC) will begin this year 2015. ULIRC is in agreement with the Strategic Plan University 2016, Goal 1: developing UPR-RP into the flagship research institution. As part of the programmatic objectives for faculty research development in this proposal, ULIRO will sponsor and organize year-round events and programs specially focused on new research areas of inquiry and multi-interdisciplinary approaches for faculty and undergraduate students within our campus. In addition, the ULIRO will offer meeting and working spaces for SRs and other undergraduate research programs that may require administrative and mentoring support. Moreover, it is expected that the ULIRC will become a premier interactive technology and resource based center for undergraduate research in our campus. We are very excited that the construction of ULIRO begins this year 2015. Another unexpected outcome of this last year was the active and considerable participation of our undergraduate community and faculty in our Second Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium (SESIK in Spanish). For the second time in our funding cycle, our project organized this symposium where the arts, sciences, business and humanities research and creative work converge in a unique conversation. Several excellent presentations and creative works were awarded in the SESIK among the new App Trace Space with Table Multitouch designed by a collaborative team of undergraduate students from Architecture, Computer Sciences and Psychology within our campus. We strongly believe that our combined efforts to strengthen UPRRP's research agenda have played an important role in engaging our community in participating in this highly-regarded initiative. We have also experienced a strong support from our faculty and students in our very own iINAS special lectures series in which we were fortunate to have world-renowned keynote speakers visit our campus and share their knowledge and expertise with our community at large. Finally, in response to a request from our program officer, we submitted to the Title V office a proposal for the mentoring new Title V grantees. This unexpected outcome is expected to improve via mentoring the success of new grantees during the funding cycle.

## **Section 2: Accreditation**

### **Accreditation**

Institution's primary accrediting agency.

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

### Section 3: Grant Activities and Focus Areas

Grant activity carried out during this reporting period in your grant application: **Strengthening UPR-RP through Development of a Research-Based Academic Culture**

Total \$ spent on this activity during the current reporting period: \$337,673.90

Focus Area: *Academic Quality*

<b>Title V Legislative Allowable Activities</b> [Note: All listed activities are directly from the legislation.]	<b>Dollars Spent</b>	<b>% of Dollars</b>
Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes.	5,260.62	2
Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities.	0.00	0
Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, curriculum development, academic instruction, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the fellow's field of instruction.	167,821.89	50
Purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program materials.	0.00	0
Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success.	66,664.56	20
Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management.	97,926.83	29
Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries.	0.00	0
Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector.	0.00	0
Establishment or improving an endowment fund.	0.00	0
Creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.	0.00	0
Establishing or enhancing a program or teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in public elementary schools and secondary schools.	0.00	0
Establishing community outreach programs that will encourage elementary school and secondary school students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue postsecondary education.	0.00	0
Expanding the number of Hispanic and other underrepresented graduate and professional students that can be served by the institution by expanding courses and institutional resources.	0.00	0
OTHER ACTIVITIES--PLEASE DESCRIBE IN SIMILAR DETAIL	0.00	0
<b>Total Expenditure For This Activity</b>	<b>337,673.90</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Process Measures for “Strengthening UPR-RP through Development of a Research-Based Academic Culture”

The following information depicts what the grantee has accomplished in the LAA categories for this Activity.

**LAA Category:** *Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes.*

<b>Did the amount of scientific or laboratory educational equipment rented or leased increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start \$ spent on equipment <u>0.00</u> End \$ spent on equipment <u>4851.00</u> Application Objective \$ <u>4851.00</u>	
<b>Did the quality of scientific or laboratory educational equipment rented or leased improve?</b>	Yes
<i>No standardized data elements</i>	
<b>Did the number of students with access to scientific or laboratory educational equipment rented or leased increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # students <u>0</u> End # students <u>357</u> Application Objective # <u>150</u>	

**LAA Category:** *Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management.*

<b>Did you establish or enhance a funds management quality control system?</b>	Yes
<i>No standardized data elements</i>	
<b>Did you establish or enhance an institutional research system?</b>	Yes
<i>No standardized data elements</i>	

**LAA Category:** *Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, curriculum development, academic instruction, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the fellow's field of instruction.*

<b>Did the number of faculty trained in educational technology increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # of faculty trained <u>0</u> End # of faculty trained <u>75</u> Application Objective # <u>75</u>	

<b>Other: Did the number of summer research fellowship increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start <u>0</u> End <u>10</u> Application Objective <u>12</u>	
<b>Other: Did the number of research institutes increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start <u>0</u> End <u>3</u> Application Objective <u>3</u>	

**LAA Category:** *Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success.*

<b>Did the number of tutors increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # <u>0</u> End # <u>21</u> Application Objective # <u>5</u>	
<b>Did the number of students using tutoring services increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # <u>0</u> End # <u>56</u> Application Objective # <u>5</u>	
<b>Did the number of students using counseling services increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # <u>0</u> End # <u>46</u> Application Objective # <u>5</u>	
<b>Did the number of students satisfied with tutoring services increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # <u>0</u> End # <u>56</u> Application Objective # <u>5</u>	
<b>Did the number of students satisfied with counseling services increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start # <u>0</u> End # <u>46</u> Application Objective # <u>5</u>	
<b>Did the academic attainment of students using tutoring services increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes, methodology used:</i> Teacher survey	

<b>Other: Did the wrokshop for Scholar's in Residence increase?</b>	Yes
<i>If yes:</i> Start <u>0</u> End <u>15</u> Application Objective <u>8</u>	

## Focus Area: Academic Quality Outcomes

This section depicts institutional outcomes that can be categorized in the Academic Quality focus area. Information is provided on the measures that the grantee felt were *most reflective of their activities supported by Title III/V funds* for the current reporting period. Grantees were required to answer at least two of the measures questions.

<b>Have the institution's educational technology infrastructure improved?</b>	Yes
<p><i>If yes:</i>  Start <u>Good</u>  End <u>Excellent</u>  Goal <u>3</u></p> <p><i>I would like to provide a brief supporting statement:</i> The Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC) has been established to coordinate the development and pilot testing of: 1) a research topic database (Y1) to facilitate investigation of potential undergraduate research topics; 2) an electronic portal (Y2) for student access to research topics, funding and general information, as well as summer research experiences and internships 3) an electronic journal (Y3) to publish undergraduate student research. This office will also coordinate the development of an Undergraduate Research Symposium (Y3 and Y5) to showcase student research projects.</p>	
<b>Other, please specify:</b> Has the number of undergraduate faculty conducting research with undergraduates increased?	Yes
<p><i>If yes:</i>  Initial # <u>0</u>  Final # <u>25</u>  Goal <u>25</u></p> <p><i>I would like to provide a brief supporting statement:</i> In Year 4, we had a total of 25 professors actively engaged in research with undergraduate students. These include our SR mentors, and the Summer experience research mentors and the summer research faculty fellows.</p>	
<b>Other, please specify:</b> Has the number of undergraduate students engaged in research increased	Yes
<p><i>If yes:</i>  Initial # <u>0</u>  Final # <u>320</u>  Goal <u>150</u></p> <p><i>I would like to provide a brief supporting statement:</i> A total of 320 students were actively engaged in research activities. These include students in SR program, summer experience, other undergraduate students working with faculty that received our summer research fellowship. Of the total number of undergraduate students of Year 4, 70% participated in the Second Research Symposium.</p>	

## Section 4: Project Status

Continued funding requires evidence of substantial progress towards meeting the activity objectives. Below is a list of objectives for each activity carried out over the current reporting period of the grant.

**ACTIVITY:** Strengthening UPR-RP through Development of a Research-Based Academic Culture

### Narrative Supporting Completed Objectives

Below are statements with data and references to goals stated in the grant application as appropriate to document the objectives that were "completed" during each year of the grant.

Activity Objective(s)	Evidence of Completion
By September 2014, the number of UPR-RP's College of Humanities faculty actively participating in research increased over the 2009 baseline by 50%. Fall 2009 baseline = 42 of 150 (28%) College of Humanities faculty conducting research.	<p>A total of 75 professors participated in our faculty research initiatives from CH. This constitutes a 50% of the number of professors conducting research in the CH when compared to the 2009 baseline. The percentage has increased to 50% of the CH faculty engaged in research.</p> <p>A total of 40 CH faculty members participated in the 3 interdisciplinary research projects held in the College of Humanities. This constitutes a 26% of 2009 baseline of 150 faculty members, which is a significant and encouraging improvement from previous years prior to our Title V grant.</p>
By September 2014, the number of UPR-RP Humanities undergraduate students actively participating in research increased by 30 % over the 2009 baseline. Fall 2009 baseline = 32 of 1,894 (less than 1.60%) undergrad Humanities students conducting research.	A total of 320 undergraduates from the College of Humanities engaged in research activities sponsored by our initiatives. This increase is 17% more than the baseline of 1.6% previously reported in 2009. A significant number of Humanities undergraduates participated in several research workshop, summer, research experience and our Scholars in Residence program.
By Sept. 2014, the number of proposals submitted to funding agencies has increased by 30% over 2009 baseline of 186.	A total of 757 proposals from 2010-September 2014 were submitted for several funding agencies. This is an increase of 29% over the 2009 baseline reported one percent more than last year. We expect a continuous and robust response of grant-writing and successful funding for next year 2015 and beyond.

## Section 4: Budget Summary

Category	Carryover Balance from Previous FY	Actual Budget	Expenditures	Non-Federal Expenditures	Carryover Balance	Next Year's Actual Budget	Changes (Y/N)
Personnel	\$31,218.70	\$212,864.00	\$199,262.17	\$0.00	\$44,820.53	\$212,741.00	Yes
Fringe Benefits	\$25,111.29	\$72,374.00	\$66,989.80	\$0.00	\$30,495.49	\$72,332.00	Yes
Travel	\$5,638.86	\$11,500.00	\$11,618.13	\$0.00	\$5,520.73	\$11,500.00	Yes
Equipment	\$190,000.00	\$95,104.00	\$19,875.00	\$0.00	\$265,229.00	\$52,424.00	Yes
Supplies	\$2,748.89	\$17,250.00	\$17,998.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.89	\$17,250.00	Yes
Contractual	\$39,680.62	\$35,175.00	\$10,073.00	\$0.00	\$64,782.62	\$20,175.00	Yes
Construction	\$53,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$53,000.00	\$0.00	Yes
Endowment	\$150,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	Yes
Other	\$1,249.79	\$128,925.00	\$112,370.16	\$0.00	\$17,804.63	\$143,925.00	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$498,648.15</b>	<b>\$623,192.00</b>	<b>\$438,186.26</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$683,653.89</b>	<b>\$630,347.00</b>	

## Section 4: Line Item Budget Narrative

This section provides an explanation of how funds will be expended as a result of changes in each of the selected line item categories.

### Personnel

The carryover of \$44,820.53 in the budget assigned to the personnel line item will cover the salary adjustments of the project employees that have higher salaries assigned by the Institution. It will also cover the part time hourly support personnel staff needed in order to accomplish performance objectives of year 5.

### Fringe Benefits

In this line item there is a carryover of \$30,495.49. This amount will be used for the fringe benefits of additional support staff for year 5.

### Travel

This line item originally had \$11,500 assigned. Carryover of \$5,520.73 will be used to supplement travel expenses for our academic coordinators and administrator to attend workshops and/or conferences of the Department of Education for Y5.

### Equipment

The Program Officer approved a carryover of \$265,229 to be included in equipment budget line. From this carryover, an amount of \$100,229 was previously granted for the creation of our new Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC). The rest of this carryover, a total of \$165,000 was included in the budget line for the InfoED Program. Although we requested our Program Officer a change of objective that will allow the use of this budget for the purchase of new interactive technology for ULIRC.

### Supplies

A carryover of \$2,000.89 will be used to purchase the necessary materials for the Summer Research Institutes, Seminars, Workshops, and Mentoring initiatives. In addition, due to the success of our previous research symposium, the institution is sponsoring a third Symposium in April 9-10, 2015. We will utilize these carryover funds to support this activity and further strengthen expertise, competence and development of undergraduate research in our institution.

### Contractual

The carryover of \$64,782.62 will be utilized for digitalization services, electronic journal and webpage expenses and inviting resources for the grant writing workshop that are being offered in the spring semester 2015.

### Construction

The carryover of \$53,000 was approved by our Program officer in our change of objective request. Intense efforts from our office in order to identify a proper location for our Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC) have experienced challenges. However, our new chancellor has been very supportive of this new research support unit and just this month approved a space in one of the new buildings of the Faculty of General Studies within our campus. Now, that we have the approval of the chancellor's office to build ULIRC we expect that construction begin late this semester.

### Endowment

A carryover of \$200,000.00 in the endowment budget line is transferred into our Y5 budget. We have submitted for the approval of our Program officer a change of objective for this budget line item. As presented in our report during the site visit from USDE Title V officers in September, we proposed to utilize these funds to support and develop the initiatives as part of the Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC). Specifically, we suggest that this effort will foster interdisciplinary research and strengthen the institution's capacity to obtain research funds.

### Other

The total allocated amount of \$128,925.00 with a carryover of \$17,804.63 that will be used to further our project's development.

## Section 4: Budget Summary Narrative

This section provides an explanation of budget changes, particularly the use of funds from cost savings, carryover funds and other expanded authorities changes to the budget including a description of any significant changes to the budget resulting from modifications of project activities.

**Personnel**-During this fourth year (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014) the grant had \$212,864.00 assigned to this line item, plus carryover from previous year of \$31,218.70. The total allocated amount for the fourth year was \$244,082.70. Despite numerous efforts in hiring, we were unable to keep a person with the appropriate skills necessary for the Grant Management Analyst position. As previously approved by the program officer, we allocated funds to cover the salaries and fringe benefits of four individuals for Y4-Y5 of funding (\$2,123 X 4 persons x 2 academic years). This staff will directly work with administrative personnel and faculty coordinators in the coordination, evaluation and organization of the different initiatives of the project. They will assist in the preparation and attendance of all workshops sponsored by the Title V project. We offered 38 lectures and workshops in year 4. We received approval for the present revised budget for the personnel line item to show the salary adjustments for project coordinators salaries since a full professor has a higher salary than in the original proposal. This request was approved for Y3-Y5 in August, 2012. In addition, we also had our program secretary resigned in December 2013 and we were without this person for 6 months. Therefore, her salary and fringe benefits are carryover this year.

**Fringe Benefits**-The Fringe Benefits line item was assigned \$72,374.00 for this report period, plus a carryover of \$25,111.29, for a total of \$97,485.29. A lesser amount was needed in fringes due to personnel vacancies as reported above.

**Travel**-The budget for this line item is \$17,138.86. We used \$11,618.13. The unspent \$5520.73 will be used to supplement travel expenses for our academic coordinators and administrator to attend workshops and/or conferences for Y5. In order to strengthen both academic initiatives and goals of our Title V program it is important that our academic staff also attends other training activities to continuously develop and improve their expertise in acquiring novel strategies to support undergraduate research within our institution.

**Equipment**- Funds for \$35,000 were allocated for Y4 to equipment for the IRCs in our proposal. Our program officer approved a change of objective in July 16, 2013 allowing these funds to be used for the creation of our new Undergraduate Learning and Interdisciplinary Research Center (ULIRC). The Program Officer approved a carryover of \$265,229 to be included in equipment budget line. From this carryover, an amount of \$100,229 was previously granted for the creation of ULIRC. The rest of this carryover, a total of \$165,000 was included in the budget line for the InfoED Program. We have requested our Program Officer a change of objective for this budget line item that will allow the use of these funds for the purchase of new interactive technology for ULIRC.

**Contractual**-The contractual line item for Year 4 is \$35,175.00. A carryover of \$39,680.62 is also included. The part of the unspent amount of \$64,782.62 will be used for digitalization services (\$35,000), the electronic journal and webpage expenses (\$21,455.00). Also \$8,327.62 to be used to invite resources for the grant writing workshop that is being offered in the spring semester 2015. Due to the difficulties with retaining of the Grant Management Analyst (See Personal Section above) these electronic services were not completed during Y4.

**Construction**- The construction line item was assigned \$0.00 plus a carryover of \$53,000.00. Our budget plan continues to request that these funds be used to remodel our Title V office. The iINAS office has become an important support center for undergraduate research in our campus. Our experience has been very successful in promoting change by fostering interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, while creating a more vibrant and collaborative academic environment. These funds will be encumbered for the remodeling of the office. Approval from our program officer for this initiative was received in July 16, 2013.

**Endowment**-At the present time, we have allocated \$50,000 for Y4 and a carryover of \$200,000.00 in the endowment budget line is transferred into our Y5 budget ULIRC.

**Other**- The total allocated amount of \$128,925.00 with a carryover of \$1,249.79. The unspent amount of \$1,249.79 will be used to further our project's development.