



Participating in the Wednesday presentation of the National Science Foundation Grant are (from left) Dr. Sarwan Dhir, principal investigator the grant and an FVSU associate professor of plant science-biotechnology; Arthur Henderson, FVSU vice president for business and finance; Dr. Larry E. Rivers, FVSU president.

NSF awards FVSU \$484,000 grant

The National Science Foundation recently named Fort Valley State University as the recipient of a \$484,400 grant. The grant will fund a total of 120 scholarships over the next four years for students majoring in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“The S-STEM Scholarship will give our best and brightest students the chance they need to be full-time students and excel in their chosen discipline without the need to work two or even three jobs during the school year,” said Dr. Sarwan Dhir, the principal investigator of the grant and an associate professor of plant science-biotechnology in the College of Agriculture, Home Economics and Allied Programs.

Co-principal investigators for the grant are FVSU faculty members Dr. Melinda Davis, Seema Dhir and Dr. Julius Scipio.

“While writing our proposal, we found that many of our students were from low-income families and were employed more than half-time during the school year,” Dhir added. “We believe that our NSF STEM scholarships will give them the chance to be full-time students.”

The criteria for the scholarships include a minimum GPA of 2.6 and a major in a STEM discipline. The scholarships are merit-based and available to FVSU students at all levels.

Dhir said the 2.6 GPA requirement will help students whose grades need a boost because of work schedules.

“With the scholarship, the students can spend more time studying and less time on outside work,” Dhir said. “That will allow them to graduate faster and have better grades.”

Of the \$484,400, a total of \$428,000 will directly fund scholarships. In addition to the scholarships, the grant will fund workshops, seminars, professional development for faculty, industry interaction and other student activities.

Applications for the NSF scholarships will be available in early March by calling (478) 825-6887. Scholarship awards will be announced in mid May.