

## **Fact Sheet – John Brown University – Title III Grant**

A five-year, two million dollar Title III: Strengthening Institutions grant awarded to John Brown University in September of 2010 (Eagles Online) provided impetus for the creation of new online classes with the purpose of increasing enrollments in the undergraduate degree completion program. Two online degrees will be created with this grant. The first degree, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) has completed its course development cycle and is now in its second year of pilot courses in fall of 2012. The second degree program, a Bachelor of Science in General Studies (BSGS) will begin course development later this year, following an approval process by JBU curriculum committees.

The Eagles Online project was designed with a particular audience in mind: the off-campus adult learner in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. The resources of the grant are completely committed to developing online courses and support to serve that student demographic with the intention of increasing enrollment in our adult programs. However, the process of creating a rigorous, high quality online program for adult learners has also increased the university's ability to provide online education and services to graduate students and traditional undergraduate students. Examples include:

- Additional Blackboard server and bandwidth have improved the online capacity of the institution for the benefit of many constituencies
- Tutorials created for adjunct online faculty have become a resource for adjunct faculty teaching in face-to-face courses
- Lecture-capture software and technology for captioning videos for hearing-impaired students is being used by campus instructors and students as well as those involved with Eagles Online
- Variations of the course templates designed for the Eagles Online courses are being adopted by faculty in other programs for their online courses or online support for face-to-face courses

By national standards, a low percentage of its adults in Arkansas are college graduates. As a result of this program, JBU will be able to further contribute to the nation's higher education by making an undergraduate degree more accessible to individuals in the state. The computer mini-labs funded by the grant at the three university off-campus centers provide computer access to students who might not have access to high-speed internet service, labs that would not be available apart from the Title III grant.

Now entering its third year, the Title III grant has allowed JBU continue to provide software and hardware upgrades to improve the teaching/learning experience online. These resources were acquired for the benefit of degree completion adult students in the Title III funded programs, but many of these enhancements also benefit JBU students and faculty across all programs.

Below is a short list of the benefits to the greater institution at JBU, provided through the Title III grant funding for the Degree Completion programs:

- **Mini-Labs** in three locations, providing computer access for all students at Urban Centers
- **Bandwidth** increased for entire campus, students, faculty & staff
- **Additional servers** and a dedicated BlackBoard server, benefiting all
- **Teaching & Learning Online Course**, a Blackboard course providing faculty development for Title III teachers, and now all online faculty
- **Online Orientation** pages for students, available to all students at JBU
- **24/7 Help desk** service for students
- **Writing Center Online** software for scheduling tutors for writing support services to students, both online and on campus
- **Smarthinking** a cloud-based service providing interactive tutoring for online students

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- Additional Software: **Tegrity** (lecture capture) and **Respondus** (testing software) available to all faculty members, with site licenses purchased. **Auto Edge USB Foot pedals** and **Express Scribe** for transcribing online videos to a closed caption format, to make them accessible for hearing impaired students. **Camtasia Studio** for online course development.

### **JBU Title III personnel:**

Wendy MacColl	Project Manager
Michael Orf	Activity Director
Kathy Hogan	Instructional Designer
Stephen Phillips	Online Learning Support Specialist
Peggy Wolken	Administrative Assistant