

Dr. Jeff Chandler  
Dept. of HPER  
700 Pelham Rd. North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

10-10-07

Dr. Chandler,

I talked with Dr Willie Hey this afternoon regarding the information included in the rest of this letter. He worked with us here at Delta State prior to coming to Jacksonville so I knew he would know who to contact about these G.A. positions. I know we all are trying to recruit good graduate students but sometimes we have those who want to get the masters degree from another university for another view point of their profession.

We need your help identifying and recruiting 7-10 graduate assistants to assist with the implementation of a Carol M.White PEP grant to the \$ amount of approximately \$400,000 per year for the next three years. This project, titled PEAK (Physical Education and Activity for Kids) is a collaboration between the Cleveland, MS School District and Delta State University to provide instructional leaders for the physical education programs for 6 K-6 public schools, 2 middle schools (grades 7-8) and 2 high schools (grades 9-12). The instructional leaders (graduate assistants) will be expected to be in the schools approximately 20-25 hours per week. The grant will provide training for the instructional leaders in Physical Best, Tri-Fit fitness assessment software, CATCH and physical education instruction under the direction of either the elementary or the secondary curriculum resource leader. These curriculum resource leaders are faculty members in the Division of HPER at Delta State University with 25+ years of teaching experience. The grant will provide outstanding equipment resources for each school as well as state of the art fitness assessment equipment from POLAR.

Graduate assistants will have an opportunity to help establish a model program for the elementary schools and assist with the improvement of the secondary programs. Fitness testing and other activities will generate many opportunities for research projects which will be included in the graduate assistant's experience opportunities. Many students find that they have some problems finding jobs when they initially enter the work force because they do not have any experience. This project will provide 1-2 years of actual teaching experience for the G.A.'s as well as the opportunity to complete the M.Ed. with a major in HPER leading to "AA" teaching certification.

Stipends for the Graduate Assistants will be \$10,000 per academic year plus a waiver of tuition and fees. The stipends do not include summer school. This stipend is very generous for Masters level graduate assistants. Applicants must be eligible for admission to the M.Ed. programs at Delta State University. One deviation for these G.A.'s from the published entrance requirements for admission to our graduate programs is that these students must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Preference will be given to those students who have an undergraduate teaching degree in HPER but non-

teaching degrees in HPER, elementary education and related fields will be considered especially for research assistants.

I realize that you will not have a large number of students completing their degree in December, but we did not receive funding notification in time to recruit students for the fall term of '07. The PEAK project will have 10 G.A. positions available each year for the next three years. So even if you don't have interested students completing their degrees in December, we would encourage them to apply for Fall '08.

Please encourage eligible students to apply as soon as possible. The enclosed flyer should answer any questions but if there are others, feel free to contact Dr. John Alvarez [jalvarez@deltastate.edu](mailto:jalvarez@deltastate.edu) Project Director or Dr. Milton Wilder, [mwilder@deltastate.edu](mailto:mwilder@deltastate.edu), Coordinator of HPER Graduate Programs (662-846-4555).

It has been a pleasure working with Willie over the years and watching him grow as a professional. He has been a tremendous asset to Southern District, and is presenting an excellent role model for younger professionals. Thanks for your support in his efforts to the profession.

Exercise your right to be healthy,

Milton R. Wilder,  
Coordinator of graduate programs in HPER