

SITE VISIT TO NORTHWEST-SHOALS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 23, 2004

The visit to NW-Shoals Community College on September 23, 2004 with Brenda Saunders and Linda Bourne was one of the most informative and worthwhile experiences I have had while at Somerset Community College. While our main purpose was to observe and learn about their Title III program, we found their faculty and staff to be so accommodating that we came away with lots of ideas for our programs at SCC.

Specifically, we learned about the cost, timetable and hardware required to set up a "Smart Classroom". We also had the opportunity to actually sit in one of these rooms and to observe a professor and the lecture she had produced utilizing their technology.

Another component of their Title III grant we visited was the video studio. It was very impressive, and again, they gave us very specific information on creating the studio, ways it was utilized, and how to do it on a shoestring budget.

In addition to their work with the Title III grant, we also heard and saw examples of some of their other programs, such as their Upholstery technical program which had recovered furniture for their conference room, as well as a "Speedy Spanish" short-term course for police, jail and medical personnel. We felt this could be used in our area and they promised to send us more information on it. We even came up with some ideas for faculty projects that we could share with our technical faculty-specifically a safety video to be used by our shops on South Campus.

In summary, the overriding theme that we encountered during our visit was the attitude of the people involved. They were creative problem-solvers and also very nurturing to their faculty.

Respectfully submitted,
Joelyn Prather

Instructor