

Population Center gets historic \$70M award

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During the next five years, the Carolina Population Center will receive \$70 million — the largest social science award in the University's history — from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The project receiving the funds, "Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results," is geared toward improving the tools to plan, monitor and evaluate health and nutrition programs in 30 underdeveloped countries.

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TONY WALDROP, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The money is designated for Phase II of the MEASURE project, one of five areas under MEASURE funded by USAID.

The funding will continue the work completed at the center during the past five years, said Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development.

"Clearly, \$70 million is a big boost to the University and reflects the high quality of work done by the Carolina Population Center," Waldrop said.

USAID has allotted about \$50 million more for the second phase of the MEASURE project than for

SEE MEASURE, PAGE 9

MEASURE

FROM PAGE 1

the first phase.

Waldrop said he thinks the increased amount of money is due to the greater amount of work the center will complete and the expansion of USAID's overall goal.

Part of this objective involves finding new techniques and analysis to collect data.

Phase II of the project is set to begin in 2004 and includes a larger HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases component than the first phase.

The money will fund research in

USAID's five major components: population and reproductive health; maternal health; child health; HIV and AIDS; and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria.

For each of the phases of MEASURE, UNC officials are collaborating with the Futures Group International Inc., John Snow Inc., Macro International Inc. and Tulane University.

Sian Curtis, research associate professor of maternal and child health, is project director for Phase II.

"UNC has been especially involved in developing the tools," said Barbara Entwisle, director of the Population Center.

"The other institutions are more involved in technical assistance, such as showing people how to use these tools."

Entwisle said the second phase of the project will benefit the University by contributing to other projects and broadening the scope of education and research on campus.

Waldrop also said the award will be beneficial to the long-term goals of the University.

"Certainly it will no doubt enhance the reputation of the University that we've been chosen to receive such a magnitude of funding."

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