

Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement

**Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Teaching
and Learning Endowment**

Request for Proposals

January 25, 2021

The Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement is soliciting grant proposals for innovative ideas that enhance teaching and learning at WSU.

Applications are due **March 15, 2021**. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded. Awards will be announced in mid to late April 2021. Awards can be used as summer salary; benefits are paid from the award amount.

Background: The Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Teaching and Learning Endowment was established on the occasion of President Smith's retirement in 2000. The fund's stated purpose is to "recognize and reward innovative ideas to enhance learning and teaching at WSU."

Because the philosophy of the fund is to "spread the wealth," recipients of Smith grants in the last four years are not eligible to receive awards in 2021.

Focus Areas: Proposals are sought that address one of the following areas through innovative practices that improve student learning:

- Increasing course completion and student progress by reducing high C-DFW rates (grades of C-minus, D, F, or Withdraw) and/or closing equity gaps
- Redesigning large lecture courses (100+ students) for active student engagement in a flipped or hybrid course design.

More Information:

For more information, contact Jeannie Holt, jmholt@wsu.edu (509-335-8044) or Mary Wack, Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement, mwack@wsu.edu.

Online Application and Accompanying Proposal Format:

A. Applicant Information/Project Title

The online application will collect your name, campus, department, email, phone number, details on co-applicants (if any), and project title.

B. Project proposal (pdf, doc, or docx)

You will be asked to upload a proposal that contains the following sections that address the following points as outlined.

B.1. Project Rationale and Description (2-3 pages)

- What is the pedagogical or curricular issue identified? How does your approach address the identified issue?
- Do you have preliminary data or results supporting the effectiveness of your approach or innovation? How is student learning improved by the proposed approach, and how do you know? What data, if any, in your departmental undergraduate assessment report does this proposal respond to?
- What is innovative about the proposed approach? Use national literature on the topic as well as local data as a point of reference for innovation and effectiveness.
- What is the scope of impact of this proposal—a single course for majors? A large UCORE course? Is the approach translatable to other contexts, disciplines, or institutions?
- If this is part of a multi-year or multi-phase process, please note that as well.

B.2. Project Rationale and Description (2-3 pages)

- Briefly outline the work to be undertaken, and the timetable.
- How will the achievements of your work be sustained by the department beyond the funding provided by the grant? How will the results of this effort be shared with the WSU community, particularly within your unit/college?

B.3. Budget and Financial support

- Provide a budget in the form of proposed expenditures. Note any departmental or college financial commitments for the project, or any concurrent grants addressing substantially the same project.

B.4. List of citations (no more than 1 pg.)

- The citations referred to in the body of the proposal can be in the form of numbered notes or author/date format.

C. Chair's Endorsement (pdf, doc, or docx):

You will need to upload a signed copy of the chair's endorsement of the project and attestation that the fund recipient(s) will have continued employment at WSU in AY 2021-22. Proposals without the chair's endorsement will not be accepted.

D. Curriculum vitae (pdf, doc, or docx):

The application will have you upload a c.v. with relevant sections highlighted pertaining to teaching accomplishments or the scholarship of teaching.

Submission Process:

Applications are submitted on the DAESA website via an online form at the following URL:
<https://daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/smith-grants/>

Funding:

Funds will be deposited to 17A accounts in the departments of award winners. Before funds are disbursed, departments will be contacted to confirm continued employment in the 2021-22 academic year.

Reporting:

The final project report will be due no later than August 15, 2022.

FAQs:

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Faculty with instructional responsibilities appointed half-time or more, and with continuing employment in AY 2021-22.

2. Can the grant be used as summer salary?

Yes, but note that benefits will be paid from the total, so that the take-home net will be less than the awarded amount. Also note that summer salary from all sources cannot exceed the equivalent of two months' academic year salary.

3. Can the grant be used for professional expenses (travel, materials, conference fees)?

Yes, if these are directly related to the focus of the grant. However, the grant is not primarily for external dissemination of previous work.

4. Can the grant be used for equipment?

Equipment purchases for courses or classrooms should typically be covered by departmental funds or by external grants. Equipment purchases typically fall outside the intent of the endowment terms. However, exceptions will be considered in the case of career track (clinical) faculty or instructors whose departments do not provide them with computers for their individual instructional role.

5. Can the grant be used to pay external consultants or speakers?

The grant is intended to support the professional development of WSU faculty directly; funding of non-WSU personnel is not within the scope of the grant.

6. Can the grant be transferred to another faculty member if the PI is no longer employed at WSU?

The grant is intended only for the person(s) applying for the grant and cannot be transferred. If a PI leaves WSU during the period of the grant, funds may be given to another deserving applicant.

7. What is the assessment connection?

The project may provide an innovative approach to improving a key course in the curriculum, identified as such by annual assessment; it may offer a new way of eliciting gains in student learning for a particular program-level learning outcome identified as weak in annual reports.

There are many other ways that innovative pedagogy or course design may respond to, or be verified by, departmental assessments.

8. Does the MD program qualify as undergraduate education?

No, the MD program is classified as a professional program. The undergraduate programs in ESFCOM are: BA Speech and Hearing Sciences and BS Nutrition and Exercise Physiology

9. Can these funds be used to pay a graduate teaching assistant during the summer?

It depends – if the student will be serving as a research assistant on the project in some capacity, then yes. If the student is teaching summer school instead of the faculty member, then no. Also note that benefits will be paid from the total, so the take home net will be less than the awarded amount.

Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement

Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Teaching and Learning Endowment

REQUIRED ATTACHMENT:

Chair's Endorsement

I fully support this proposal. The proposed work is supported by and matches the programmatic teaching goals of the department. The applicant will have continued employment at half-time or more in AY 2021-22, and to the best of my knowledge has not accepted employment elsewhere.

Applicant is a clinical track faculty member or instructor who is not provided a personal computer or laptop by WSU.

Additional comments:

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Department