

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

Request for Proposals

December 15, 2022

The Interim 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 13, 2023**. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded. Awards will be announced in early April 2023. Awards can be used as summer salary; benefits are paid from the award amount.

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Background

The Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Teaching and Learning Endowment was established on 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 2023.

Focus Areas

Proposals are sought that address one of the following areas through innovative practices that improve student learning and directly address issues related to Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA):

- **Equity Gaps:** Proposals that design, develop, test, and disseminate pedagogies that close identified equity gaps in student performance (e.g., reduce differences in the

C-/D/F rates for first generation and continuing-generation students in a given course).

- **Experiential Learning:** Proposals that translate what employers want into what faculty do by using new forms of scalable, equal access, experiential opportunities to develop core competencies/transferable skills (e.g., critical and creative thinking, effective communication, collaboration, etc.)
- **Multi-Section Courses:** Proposals utilizing collaborative pedagogical strategies to eliminate documented differences in student achievement of course-level learning outcomes (instead of section-level outcomes) across multiple sections of the same course, potentially across multiple campuses.

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 2023-24 academic year.

Reporting

The final project report will be due no later than August 15, 2024.

For More Information

For more information, contact Karly Gomez, kgomez@wsu.edu, 509-335-3995, or Bill Davis, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Achievement, wbdavis@wsu.edu.

Proposal Submission

Applications are submitted via an **online form** on the [Smith Teaching and Learning Grants page](#) of the DAESA website.

Proposal Format

Online form section 1: Applicant Information/Project Title. You will be asked to include such information as name, department, email, phone number, and project title.

Online form section 2: Project Proposal Upload. In this section, you will upload a copy of your proposal that should contain the following four sections. (It is advisable to include your application information and project title embedded in the proposal document.)

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

- What is the pedagogical or curricular issue you seek to address and how is it

linked to identified issues related to IDEA in undergraduate education? 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 will you know it was effective in your application (i.e., what changes in student performance do you predict following your intervention)? How will assessment be utilized to measure those changes?
- 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.

2. Work Plan, Sustainability, and Dissemination (2 paragraphs)

- Briefly outline the work to be undertaken, and the anticipated 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?

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. See FAQs below for more information about the uses of funds.

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.

Online form section 3: Upload of Department Chair's/Program Director's Endorsement.

You will be asked to upload the chair's/director's signed endorsement of the project, including an attestation that the fund recipient(s) will have continued employment at WSU in AY 2023-24. Proposals without the chair's endorsement will not be accepted.

Online form section 4: Curriculum Vitae Upload. You will upload a CV with relevant sections highlighted pertaining to teaching accomplishments or the scholarship of teaching.

REQUIRED UPLOAD:

Chair or Director's Endorsement

I fully support this proposal. The proposed work is supported by and matches the programmatic teaching goals of the department/school. The applicant will have continued employment at half-time or more in AY 2023-24, and to the best of my knowledge has not accepted employment elsewhere.

Additional comments:

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Department

FAQs

1. **Who is eligible to apply?** Faculty with instructional responsibilities appointed half-time or more, and with continuing employment in AY 2023-24.
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 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: i) BA Speech and Hearing Sciences and ii) 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.