TO: Creighton University Educators  
FROM: Mary Ann Danielson, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Excellence and Assessment  
SUBJECT: RFP – 2015 AEA Development Grants for the Assessment of Student Learning/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning  
DATE: October 13, 2014

The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is requesting proposals for 2015 grants to support newly initiated or “early stage” assessment of student learning and/or Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) projects. Review of applications will begin November 17, and notifications of award will be made not later than December 23, 2014.

Grant Program Goal/Purpose: The goal of the Grant Program is to encourage and facilitate the development and creation of findings relevant to the assessment of student learning, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, or research relevant to the work of the AEA office (e.g., institutional research, assessment and accreditation). The purpose of this grant program is to provide “seed money” for a work in its early stages or a developing Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project.

Eligibility: Grants, of $500 - $2000, are awarded competitively to fund projects led by individuals or collaborative teams. Examples of suitable projects for funding include (a descriptive, but not inclusive list):
• Study of the impact of “X” (e.g., service-learning, experiential, distance) pedagogy on student learning
• Comparative studies of distance and face-to-face venues on student learning outcomes
• Research support for the analysis of student learning outcome data (e.g., course-, program- or college/school-level assessment), particularly as it is used to modify teaching and learning activities
• Development of an assessment project into a SoTL paper
• Development of rubrics to assess student learning in or across a variety of teaching sites (i.e., classroom, clinic, service-learning site, on-line instruction)

To view sample projects that were successfully funded (2009-2014), see http://www.creighton.edu/aea/facultydevelopmentgrantsforassessmentofstudentlearning/sampleprojects/index.php. As you’ll discover, there are a variety of topics and grant application approaches; if you don’t see a model or sample that works for you and/or you have questions regarding a possible application, you are encouraged to contact Mary Ann Danielson, maddam@creighton.edu or 402-280-2535, prior to the submission deadline.
Criteria for Selection: Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the AEA Associates. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Able to lead to significant, positive changes in student learning.
- Likelihood that the project will be successfully completed.
- Likelihood that the project will advance the department’s or the unit’s pedagogy, curricular or assessment efforts.
- Sustainability of results beyond the funding period.
- Explicitly tied to at least one departmental, unit, or university strategic goal.

Procedures for Application:

A title page clearly indicating:
- A project title.
- A short (fewer than 200 words) project abstract suitable for public distribution if the project is funded.
- Names and contact information for all project participants/investigators. Identify the principal investigator.

Proposals must not exceed two pages (proposal body and budget), single-spaced, in 12 point font. Each proposal must include:

The proposal body indicating:
- A statement of purpose, describing how the project will help meet departmental, college/unit, or university goals, help mitigate or resolve university-level strategic issues, and/or how student learning will ultimately improve as a result of the project.
- A project design, describing what will be done.
- A timeline for completion of the project.
- The expected product(s) of the project.
- A discussion of the sustainability of the project after the end of the funding period.

Budget information indicating:
- The amount requested, the person(s) for whom the funds are requested, and the justification for the funds requested. Student stipends are negotiable, but grants will NOT replace lost clinic revenue, nor will they fund faculty travel/conferences (presentation of results).
- Brief descriptions and costs of any materials requested.
- Brief descriptions and costs of any other budgeted items.

Expectations for Recipients:

- All recipients must provide a brief, progress report of their project, detailing products and actions resulting from their work. The report will be due on May 15, 2015.
- All recipients must publicly share their product in an appropriate venue; unless another venue is identified, it will be assumed that you will commit to an on-campus research presentation/poster session, or other suitable venue, scheduled for 2015-2016.

If you have questions regarding this RFP, please contact Michele King (mking@creighton.edu), or Mary Ann Danielson (maddam@creighton.edu)