

TO: University Faculty
FROM: Mary Ann Danielson, Associate Vice President for Academic Excellence and Assessment
SUBJECT: RFP – 2012 AEA Development Grants for the Assessment of Student Learning/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
DATE: October 25, 2011

The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is requesting proposals for 2012 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 December 1, 2011, and notifications of award will be made not later than January 3, 2012.

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 individual faculty members 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 (2009-2011), see

<http://www.creighton.edu/aea/facultydevelopmentgrantsforassessmentofstudentlearning/sampleprojects/index.php>

Criteria for Selection: Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the Faculty Associates of the AEA. 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 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 11, 2012.
- 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 2012-2013.

All submissions and questions regarding the RFP should be forwarded to Michele King (mking@creighton.edu).