Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grants – Spring 2017

The Faculty Center, in collaboration with Academic Affairs, is again offering an opportunity for full-time faculty and librarians to obtain grant funding to carry out Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) projects in the coming academic year.

SoTL Background

The formal origins of SoTL begin in 1990. In an effort to define the scholarship performed by professors in academia as more than just "teaching versus research," Ernest L. Boyer, in his influential book *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate* (1990), concluded that "the work of the professoriate might be thought of as having four separate, yet overlapping, functions. These are: the scholarship of *discovery*; the scholarship of *integration*; the scholarship of *application*; and the scholarship of *teaching*" (p. 16). This conceptualization of scholarship elevates the traditional role of teaching from "a routine function, tacked on" to an essential component of a professor's scholarly life. [1]

For more information about SoTL and past SoTL grant award recipients, please go to http://www.westfield.ma.edu/academics/faculty-center/scholarship-of-teaching-and-learning-sotl.

Eligibility

The program is open to full-time faculty members and librarians at Westfield State University.

Award

Four grants of up to $1,500 each will be awarded.

Evaluation of Proposals

The Faculty Center Advisory Committee will review the applications and award the grants.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) contribution to the existing knowledge on teaching and learning; (2) relevance across courses or disciplines, including the potential for the project to result in a valuable Faculty Center workshop on teaching; (3) clearly-defined objectives, including ways to evaluate the success of your project; and (4) overall quality of application.

Grant Recipient Responsibilities

1) Conduct the project between June 1, 2017 and Jan. 31, 2018.
2) Participate in a SoTL panel discussion in the Faculty Center in March 2018.

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[1] From Vanderbilt University: https://my.vanderbilt.edu/sotl/understanding-sotl/origins/

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Project Proposal Guidelines

The project proposal may not to exceed 5 pages, double spaced. It should be attached to your email and include the following information:

1) Personal information, such as name, department, e-mail address, and phone number;

2) An overview and description of the project (in addition to describing the project fully, the proposal should also make clear how the project contributes to existing knowledge on teaching and learning and is relevant to other courses and disciplines—see "Evaluation of Proposals");

3) A list of your objectives for the project (see "Evaluation of Proposals");

4) An explanation of how the project will contribute to your professional development or teaching practice;

5) A description of the kind of Faculty Center workshop you plan to offer based on the project (we realize that this will be a tentative description at this point because you will not have completed your research);

6) A justification for funding (in other words, identify what this grant will make possible—purchase of books, extra time specifically in the summer for conducting research about teaching, travel to inform research project on teaching);

7) A budget of your project.
   If applicable, a stipend for time is included only if work is done during the summer (outside the contract year). Applied are the following hourly pay rates (based on average salary for 9-month faculty at WSU, published by the Chronicle of Higher Ed):

   Instructor: $36.13/hour
   Assistant professor: $39.50/hour
   Associate professor: $43.94/hour
   Full professor: $56.75/hour

8) A discussion of how you will evaluate the success of the project.

Submit your proposal electronically to Edward Orgill (eorgill@westfield.ma.edu)) and Callie Hutchinson (chutchinson@westfield.ma.edu) no later than Friday, March 24th 2017.

Evaluation Rubric

For each category, the proposal will be ranked from 1 through 5, where 5 = outstanding and 1 = does not meet expectations. The four applications with the highest scores will be selected.

	Outstanding (5 points)	Above Average (4 points)	Average (3 points)	Below Average (2 points)	Does not meet Expectations (1 point)
Contribution to the existing knowledge on teaching and learning					
Relevance across courses or disciplines, including the potential for the project to result in a valuable Faculty Center workshop on teaching					
Clearly-defined objectives, including ways to evaluate the success of your project					
Overall quality of application					