

# ***Innovative Pedagogical Initiatives (IPI)***

Westfield State University  
2017 - 2018

## **What is an IPI grant?**

An IPI grant is offered to educators who identify and apply non-traditional methods of instruction in the classroom. Innovative pedagogy is student driven and believes that alternative methods of instruction can co-exist with traditional methods i.e. lecture, drill, and test, in order to tap into a given student's learning style or achieve a more interdisciplinary framework. Innovative Pedagogy believes education should be flexible and adaptive, and geared toward culturally relevant, energizing, inspiring, and generating interest at the individual level.

A misconception is that an IPI grant is solely to incorporate state-of-the-art, or cutting-edge technology into the classroom. It can be that, but the focus is not on bells and whistles instead, it is in developing strategies which appreciate the diversity of our students, seek to be interdisciplinary, and recognize the existence of Gardner's "multiple intelligences" <https://howardgardner.com/multiple-intelligences/>. As we push ourselves to explore different methods of instruction, we push our students to become active learners, and facilitate the self-recognition in every one of them that they can learn, achieve, and become better citizens.

## **Innovative Pedagogy**

*Avant garde*. Maverick. Progressive. Creative. Non-Traditional. If these words describe your teaching style, or perhaps you would like them to, then you should apply for a Westfield State University (WSU) Innovative Pedagogical Initiatives (IPI) grant. The words of WSU founder Horace Mann capture the essence of innovative pedagogy "The teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron." Innovative pedagogy initiatives create alternative classroom environments. Innovative pedagogy is not new. It is rooted in the progressive movement of the early twentieth century, and is most linked to philosopher John Dewey. The progressive movement sought new ways to educate the individual. Diversity, not conformity, was its focus. It is this spirit which infuses WSU's Innovative Pedagogy Initiatives grant program.

So, if you are constantly searching for what works, that new instructional technique, or method which gets students excited about the subject matter, you should consider applying for an IPI grant. The grant is awarded for developing a new program of instruction, introducing a new technology into the classroom, attending a workshop or conference to learn more about innovative pedagogy, or other demonstrations which foster the ideals of innovative pedagogy.

## **Applications**

Grants and Sponsored Programs Office accepts electronically, fully signed proposals to [grants@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:grants@westfield.ma.edu). Also, as part of the IPI guidelines, all recipients are required to participate in a faculty sharing session, to be held in May 2018 in the Faculty Center, along with a written final report to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs upon completion of the project. Applications will be accepted 3 times per academic year (November 3; January 26, and March 2, 2018, if funds remain a late spring or early summer call for proposals will be released). The Grants Advisory Committee will decide on the merit and feasibility of each application and availability of grant funds.

## Guidelines for Proposal Submission

### 1) **Award Limit: \$1,500.**

Budgets must be submitted with proposal on how the award will be used. If you are requesting travel funds, please make sure you include any funds and/or if you will use any annual faculty travel money. All spending of university monies must adhere to Westfield State University policies and timelines. In addition, all spending must be approved through the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs.

***\*Please schedule a meeting with the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs four weeks before spending will occur.***

### 2) **Proposals should include:**

- i) No more than three pages long;
- ii) Detailed list of all participants to be involved in the project;
- iii) Length of the project;
- iv) Is this a new program of instruction and/or;
- v) Does this introduce a new technology into the classroom and/or;
- vi) Involves attending a workshop or conference to learn more about innovative pedagogy and/or;
- vii) Demonstrates other activities that foster the ideals of innovative pedagogy;
- viii) How will this new pedagogy be integrated into the classroom;
- ix) How will this new pedagogy impact/outcomes with student learning;
- x) How will these new methods engage students active learning;
- xi) A timeline for the execution of the program for which grant funding is requested;
- xii) A brief description of how the program will be implemented;
- xiii) A budget of the program to be funded.

### 3) **Application Date:**

Are accepted on or before November 3<sup>rd</sup> for the fall semester and January 26<sup>th</sup>, and March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the spring, if funds remain a late spring or early summer call for proposals will be available. All funds should be applied for at least four weeks before needed.

### 4) **Reporting:**

A progress report (if the project is incomplete at the end of the academic year) or a final report (if the project is completed within the academic year) is due at the end of the academic year the award was made. A roundtable presentation will be required to disseminate to the WSU community.

### **What the IPI Funds cannot support:**

- i) Will not fund faculty stipends for individual course redesign.
- ii) Will not fund direct cash payments to students.
- iii) Will not fund any forms of gift certificates/gift cards to students or faculty.
- iv) Will not fund any publishing costs.

For more information contact Louann D'Angelo at: [grants@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:grants@westfield.ma.edu)

## ***Request for Funds, Innovative Pedagogical Initiatives (IPI)***

Westfield State University  
Academic Year: 2017 - 2018

**An internal professional development grant program to support faculty activities focused on enhancing the teaching and learning experience. This application must be followed to be evaluated. No proposal should exceed 3 pages and must consist of the following components:**

1. Today's Date:
2. Name: Ext.:
3. Department:
4. How long have you been with the university:
5. A list of all participants in the grant including contact information:
6. A summary of the innovative pedagogical project to be funded:
7. How do you think this project is innovative and will enhance your courses and teaching?
8. A description on how the project will implemented and timeline for the execution of the project for which grant funding is requested:
9. Method(s) for sharing newly acquired information, methods, or resources with the college community:
10. Please attach a description of the activity (ad, brochure, etc.).

11. Detailed budget:

Travel	Description		Project Funding Amount	IPI Funding Amount
Transportation			\$	\$
Meals			\$	\$
Accommodations			\$	\$
Registration			\$	\$
Materials/Supplies			\$	\$
Other			\$	\$
TOTAL REQUEST			\$	\$

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department chair signature

Please submit this form to Louann D'Angelo, Director of Grants and Sponsored Research, Parenzo 103-A or by e-mail at [grants@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:grants@westfield.ma.edu).

Note: To help ensure fairness in the distribution of Innovative Pedagogical Initiative funding, the awards are non-transferable: awards must be used solely by the applicant and exclusively for the program described in the pertinent application. If the awardee is unable to participate in the program or project for which the award was granted, he or she may re-apply with an alternative proposal.