CFE/Lenovo Instructional Innovation Grants

2018-2019 Call for Proposals

Digital technology continues to evolve, and with it opportunities to re-imagine nearly aspect of academic life. UNC instructors are using technology to explore new methods to engage and challenge students, to lower barriers to student access, and to make their own teaching practices more satisfying and effective.

As part of the recent renegotiation of the Carolina Computing Initiative contract, Lenovo has generously pledged a total of $400K over the next four years to support an instructional innovation grants program to be administered by the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE).

The CFE and partner organizations ITS-Teaching and Learning, OASIS, and University Libraries, are excited about this opportunity to support the work of UNC faculty and staff who are exploring new ways to engage and empower students.

This is the first Call for Proposals in a series of four will be announced during the four-year program. Please read through the following information concerning this 2018-2019 Call for Proposals and let us know if you have any questions.

- Program Goals
- Eligibility
- Supported Activities
- Role of Technology
- Selection Criteria
- Pre-Proposal Guidelines
- Resources
- Contact Information

Program Goals

The primary goals of the program are to:

1. Empower faculty members and academic units to advance instructional goals via digital technology
2. Increase faculty awareness about instructional uses of emerging technologies
3. Begin developing a sustainable infrastructure for supporting instructional innovation on an ongoing basis

Eligibility

Faculty members and permanent staff in all units on campus are eligible to apply. Proposals can be submitted individually or as part of a collaborative team. Students (graduate or undergraduate) can be named as collaborators on team proposals. A faculty member cannot apply for or be listed as a collaborator on more than one proposal for this year's grant cycle.

Supported Activities

The 2018-2019 Call for Proposals does not limit proposals to specific themes or tracks. Applicants have broad discretion to consider a wide range of instructional/learning goals that technology can be used to support. Future calls for this program may narrow the focus to specific themes or technologies.

Grants can be used to enhance any form of instruction or learning for students enrolled at the University; proposals do not have to be linked to a credit-bearing course.

Examples of goals that might be the impetus for a proposal under this program:

- Enhancing specific courses, curricula, or programs
- Making authentic learning experiences more affordable/scalable
- Expanding opportunities for service learning
- Enhancing online learning experiences
- Supporting student learning through the use of mobile devices
- Developing open educational resources
- Supporting the goals of the University's new Quality Enhancement Plan
- Exploring hybrid and other non-traditional instructional formats
- Piloting an innovation that may serve as a foundation for a larger external grant
- Support for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL)
- Exploring the effectiveness of newly available campus software such as the Adobe Creative Suite and Microsoft Office 365

Approved proposals must be implemented before the end of the Spring 2019 semester.

Role of Technology

The use of digital technology is a requirement for this program, but proposals are not limited to the use of specific technologies. For example, some proposals may feature the implementation of emerging technologies, while others may make innovative use of common, widely available technologies. Prospective applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with technologies already available and

supported on campus (see the Resources section). Some proposed projects may require the use of technology not currently supported on campus.

Selection Criteria

The merit of proposals will be considered using the following criteria (not listed in order of importance):

- Articulation of plans for improved student learning via the proposed innovation
- Extent to which proposed technology use maps to stated learning goals
- Impact (e.g., significance within a course/curriculum, the number of students affected, potential for use in other instructional settings)
- Importance of technology to the proposed innovation
- Feasibility of proposal implementation within the stated timeframe
- Sustainability of the proposed innovation
- Availability of other campus funding designated for a specific innovation

No minimum or maximum has been established for the number of proposals to be funded each year, but the CFE would like to see instructional innovation being supported across a wide range of disciplines.

Budget

Applicants may request funding to cover costs directly related to their proposals, including technology, training, faculty stipends, staff and student salary support. Assessment and evaluation support for each funded project will be provided by the CFE. Funds for this program are NOT to be used to support research activities that are not directly related to the proposal.

We anticipate that grant awards will range from $2,500 to $25,000. We are happy to discuss proposals that may exceed that range.

Proposal Submission Process

Interested parties are asked to submit a brief **Letter of Intent** before developing a full proposal. We respect applicants' time and want to use the Letter of Intent to ensure up front that project ideas fit within the scope of the program and that the proposed technology can be properly supported.

Letters of Intent will be accepted any time up until **5:00pm on Friday, February 2, 2018** and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. To submit a Letter of Intent, complete the online submission form. Proposal idea descriptions should be no more than 300 words.

Within two weeks of submitting a Letter of Intent, the applicant will be notified. If the review committee for the grants program has concerns about whether or not

the proposal idea is a good fit with the goals of the program, the applicant may be asked to address additional questions. Once a Letter of Intent is approved, the applicant will receive information about how to proceed with the full proposal application. Full proposals will be due by midnight, **Friday, March 2, 2018**.

Resources

Prospective applicants are encouraged familiarize themselves with instructional technologies supported on campus. Interested faculty members should also check with their departmental IT support staff about available internal support for proposed projects.

You may also be interested in some of the instructional innovation projects that were funded through a similar CFE/Lenovo program between 2009-2011.

- Lumbee Indian History: Using Technology to Tell Our Own Stories (History)
- Students Writing Beyond the Classroom (English and Comp Lit)
- Using Virtual Worlds to Make Poster Presentation an Iterative Process (Pharmacy)
- Re-thinking Communities of Practice for Teacher Education (Education)
- Course Correspondents in Seville (Romance Studies)
- Game-based Simulations in Public Health (Public Health)

Contact Information

CFE staff members are available to discuss proposal ideas and respond to questions about the 2018-2019 Call for Proposals.

Program Contacts:

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