Research in the Classroom Idea Grant Guidelines

Introduction
Faculty often view research and teaching as two distinct scholarly endeavors. And yet, there is compelling evidence that incorporating authentic research activities into classroom teaching benefits both students and faculty. While the apprentice model for mentored student research is still a gold standard, participation in undergraduate research can be effectively expanded using curriculum-based methods.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research is offering grants that will be awarded on a competitive basis to fund innovative ideas for incorporating authentic research projects into the undergraduate curriculum. Successful projects will be implemented into new or existing courses and must incorporate a researchable aim. For the purposes of this competition, authentic research is defined as a plan for seeking answers to a research question for which the outcome is unknown. The research question should be based on the expertise of the PI, and should involve the development of new avenues of inquiry.

Proposals should include a discussion of the research question and how it will be operationalized in a course-based context. Awardees will be expected to implement their new course design in the winter/spring 2016 or fall 2016 semester. Proposals should also include a section on how student outcomes will be assessed.

Awardees will receive mentoring and guidance on how to develop their ideas and outcomes data into a grant proposal for submission to a national funding agency.

More information on research in the classroom ideas can be in a recent report from the National Academies Press, which can be downloaded without cost here:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21851/integrating-discovery-based-research-into-the-undergraduate-curriculum-report-of

The grants will be for $7,500 (in Tax Levy funds) which can be used for course release and/or research supplies.

Instructions

1. Eligibility
   - Only tenure-track or tenured faculty at CUNY campuses are eligible to apply.
   - A faculty member may submit only one proposal.
2. Proposal Preparation
Each proposal must be a maximum of 3 pages (single spaced, 12 pt. font, one inch margins). A template can be downloaded here: http://bit.ly/1QGHt7A

A. Include the title of your project, your name and school, and then address the following:

(i) 200-word summary of the research question under study

(ii) Describe the method(s) by which the research question will be tackled by students in a classroom setting or curricular context

(iii) Provide an implementation timeline specifying how the research aspect/project will be integrated into the course

(iv) Explain the methods used to assess student outcomes (e.g. surveys of student attitudes to research or assessment of grades, etc).

Citations can be added separately and are not included in the 3-page limit.
Each proposal will have only one principal investigator, who will receive the award. However, if you are working as part of a team, please include the names of other CUNY faculty who will be involved.

B. Append an NSF style biosketch to the 3-page proposal. Use the template provided or see Chapter II of the current NSF Grant Proposal Guide, section (f) via the following link for guidance:

C. Signature page. Please ensure that the signature page is signed by your department chair, grants officer and provost. The signature page will be downloaded with the proposal template: http://bit.ly/1QGHt7A

The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, September 9th, 2016 at 5pm.
3. Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted via our online submission system as a single PDF and contain the following:

1. Signature page that must be signed by the Department Chair, Grants Officer, and Provost.
2. 3-page proposal (plus citations on additional pages)
3. NSF style biosketch.

*Please ensure that the proposal, biosketch and signature page are one pdf.*

Each complete proposal must be uploaded onto our online submission site:

http://ybephbsyus.formstack.com/forms/ric_idea_submission

4. Proposal Review

A faculty committee will review each proposal, and 10-15 will be selected for funding, budget permitting.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: creativity of the idea, feasibility of the implementation and assessment plans, and potential impact and translatability of the research. We anticipate that the awards will be made by mid-November and that awardees should plan on implementing their curricular idea in the classroom in the spring 2015 or fall 2015 semester.

Questions? Please contact avrom.caplan@cuny.edu