Faculty Senate Diversity & Social Justice Research Grant

Purpose:

On behalf of the Faculty Senate and University Provost’s Office, the Diversity & Social Justice Research Grant supports Western Washington University’s strategic goals for the enhancement of equity, inclusion and diversity. The grant will provide faculty with time to engage in social justice projects that reflect these goals and will result in the significant advancement of their professional development and field of research, scholarly or creative work. Diversity, conceived broadly, refers to typically underrepresented cultures, groups, or identities\(^1\) and their relationships to structures of power. Practices focusing on the advancement of social justice do “not merely examine difference or diversity but [pay] careful attention to the systems of power and privilege that give rise to social inequality and [encourage] the critical examination of oppression on institutional, cultural, and individual levels in search of opportunities for social action in service of social change.”\(^2\)

This grant offers a current faculty member a two-course release (for tenured and tenure-track faculty) or pay (for non-tenure track faculty) during one academic year for the development of research and scholarship that supports and enhances diversity and social justice in and beyond WWU. Awardees will be required to participate for three quarters in a working group. In addition, awardees must report on the experience and effects of their work in a public talk or performance during the academic year following receipt of the grant. Collaborative projects between faculty, students, staff, community, and/or others are encouraged, but not required. Proposals rooted in a variety of (inter)disciplinary contexts that engage these questions and challenges are welcome.

Eligibility

- All tenured, tenure track and non-tenure track faculty employed at Western Washington University are encouraged to apply.
- To be eligible, faculty applicants must be employed by WWU for the current academic year and have a contract (or formal agreement of employment with the university) for the academic year following the grant period.
- Collaborative projects between faculty, students, staff, community, and/or others are encouraged, however the course release can only be used to support the faculty applicant.
- Faculty may not receive this award in consecutive years.
- If the award would immediately follow or precede professional leave, it should be clarified in the proposal what will be accomplished during the year, as distinct from the project undertaken or to be undertaken during the professional leave.
- Faculty members may not receive this grant and other WWU Summer Teaching Grant and or Research Grants concurrently.
- All summer appointments combined may not exceed 100% effort.

---

\(^1\) Including, but not limited to, categories of identity such as race/ethnicity, ability, religion, sexual orientation, language, gender, gender identity, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, or any other typically underrepresented group and their intersections.

Evaluation of Proposals:

Diversity & Social Justice Research Grants are awarded for activities that substantially enhance the University’s academic programs in the areas of diversity and social justice.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Does the proposed scholarship and/or creative activity significantly expand ideas, knowledge, and perspectives related to diversity and social justice as defined above?
- Does the proposed scholarship and/or creative activity directly address Western’s strategic goals for equity, inclusion, and diversity (see http://www.wwu.edu/president/strategic-plan.shtml)?
- Does the proposed scholarship and/or creative activity clearly aim toward transformation of injustice, at any scale?
- Does the proposed scholarship and/or creative activity have a broader impact that offers insights and dissemination to the university, college, department or other instructors and researchers?
- Is the project of a reasonable scope?
- How does your proposed research help to further your own professional development and/or experience?
- Recommendations of the Chair, Dean or peer faculty may be considered in the proposal evaluation.

Proposal Guidelines:

Applications should include:

- Title page: Title of proposal, author, department, rank, contact information (i.e. email address and phone number). The title page needs to be in a separate document.
- Two-page narrative proposal, single spaced (excluding citations, title page) describing how the proposed scholarship or creative activity will address the criteria noted above.
- A description of project plans and outcomes.
- A timeline for the project.
- Provisional approval of Chair for release time (tenured and tenure-track).
- Applicants should not assume that the reviewers are familiar with the details of their individual programs and should offer sufficient background information to assist the reviewers.

** Proposals are due on November 1, 2015.
** Submit proposals on our SharePoint site which will be open on September 15, 2015 (we will send out a notification when it opens).

Selected sources used to inform our work:


