Diversity & Social Justice Teaching and Institutional Transformation Grant

Purpose:

On behalf of the Faculty Senate and University Provost's Office, the Diversity and Social Justice Summer Teaching Grant supports Western Washington University's strategic goals for the enhancement of equity, inclusion and diversity.¹ The summer grant will provide resources to actively undertake the development of educational practices that support and enhance diversity and social justice in and beyond the classroom at WWU. Diversity, conceived broadly, refers to typically underrepresented cultures, groups, or identities² 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” (Hackman, 2005, p. 104).³ Collaborative projects between faculty, students, staff, community, and/or others are welcomed. Proposals rooted in a variety of disciplinary contexts that engage these questions and challenges are welcome.

This grant offers a current faculty member a summer grant of $6000.00 for the development of educational practices, course development, or initiatives that support and enhance diversity and social justice in and beyond the classroom at 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 by giving a public talk or performance during the academic year following receipt of the grant.

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 welcomed, however the grant funds 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 summer, as distinct from the project undertaken or to be undertaken during the professional leave.
- Faculty members may not receive this grant and a WWU Summer Teaching Grant or a Summer Research Grant concurrently.
- All summer appointments combined may not exceed 100% effort.

¹ See http://www.wwu.edu/president/strategic-plan.shtml
² 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 Summer Teaching Grants are awarded for activities that substantially enhance the university’s academic programs by incorporating diversity and social justice concepts, materials, pedagogies, and perspectives and/or by addressing the needs of underserved learners.

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Does this project significantly add to overall programming and offerings of WWU’s academic programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or social justice and/or better serve underrepresented students?
- Does the project include transformational ideas for educational practices related to diversity and social justice?
- Does this project have broader impact by offering materials and perspectives to the university, college, department, or other instructors?
- Is the project of a reasonable scope and represent a significant effort that goes beyond what is normally expected of faculty?
- How does your proposed project 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:

Applicants should include a two page narrative proposal. The narrative should address the criteria listed above and should provide a description of projected project plans and outcomes. 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. In addition, applicants must indicate if the activity can be accomplished during the summer. If the activity cannot be completed during the summer, then applicants must demonstrate that there is other support to sustain the continuation of the project past the award period.

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) addressing the criteria listed above.
- Contained in the two-page narrative a brief statement indicating that the activity can be accomplished during the summer or how it will be sustained past the award period.
- 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: