November 4, 2014

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to announce that the instructional grants program, *Innovation in Education Awards*, will again be available this year to all faculty members, both full-time and part-time. This annual program is overseen by the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence. It was created to assist any faculty member who is seeking funding for the development of enhanced and innovative teaching techniques and materials that will strengthen the teaching mission of the University. The attached *Request for Proposals* outlines the details of the process. **The deadline for proposal submission is Monday, January 26, 2015.**

The Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence, comprised of faculty from across the University who are respected for their serious commitment to teaching, was established to provide advice to the Provost on means of encouraging instructional development and teaching excellence in all of our academic units. These goals are realized through the sponsorship of special programs and the dispensing of instructional grants to faculty.

I encourage you to seriously consider submitting a proposal.

Sincerely,

Laurie J. Kirsch  
Vice Provost for Faculty Development  
Chair, Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence

Attachment
**INNOVATION IN EDUCATION AWARDS**

Request for Proposals 2015
Submission Deadline: Monday, January 26, 2015

**Objectives**

In support of its ongoing mission to further strengthen the role of teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, the Provost’s Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE) again invites proposals from University faculty for projects that enhance teaching at Pitt and foster new instructional approaches that represent advances over existing methods. Additionally, proposals may meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Be adaptable in other instructional settings
- Foster collaboration among faculty from different departments, units, and campuses on the development of innovative approaches to teaching
- Develop new course materials
- Create significant curricular improvements

In the past, the Advisory Council has funded a spectrum of projects. This year, the Council will be especially interested in reviewing proposals focusing on technology-enhanced learning, especially in large-enrollment classes. It anticipates that at least 50 percent of the awards will be in this category, supporting proposals that enrich teaching through the effective uses of technology in large-enrollment classes. Faculty are encouraged to explore innovative approaches that utilize proven or emerging technologies. Examples of these technology-enhanced techniques that could be considered for funding include (but are not limited to):

- Incorporating online games, simulations, and virtual worlds
- Using rich media technologies to flip the classroom
- Implementing mobile technologies to explore learning environments outside the classroom
- Integrating social and collaborative technologies to expand and enhance the learning experience

Prior to submission, the Council strongly encourages applicants to contact the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education (CIDDE) for consultation regarding development and feasibility of their proposals. Please see “Campus Support Units” below for additional information.

**Eligibility**

All full- and part-time faculty members at the five University of Pittsburgh campuses are eligible to submit proposals or to resubmit revised proposals that were not funded in the past. Proposals should focus on teaching innovations in undergraduate or graduate-level courses. These grants are not intended to support innovations in professional training or continuing education. Please contact Mr. Charles Lyon at lyoncw@pitt.edu with any questions.

**Format**

All proposals must be submitted as an e-mail attachment to the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Development, c/o Charles Lyon, in PDF format. Please send proposals to Mr. Lyon at lyoncw@pitt.edu. Electronic submissions must also be accompanied by a complete hard copy of the proposal with original signatures on the cover page and appendices. The hard copy version should be mailed to: Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence, c/o Charles Lyon, Office of the Provost, 826 Cathedral of Learning.
Each proposal must contain the following elements:

1. **Cover Sheet, including:**
   - Project Title
   - Name and signature of the corresponding (for contact and budget responsibility) Project Director with school/department affiliation, complete campus address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address
   - Name and signature of Project Director’s department chair (or dean in non-departmental schools)
   - Project Duration (maximum timeframe: May 1, 2015–April 30, 2016)
   - Total funds requested

2. **Executive Summary**
   - This one-page summary should address each of the required project components (see below 4.A.–E.) so that the reviewers will have an overview of the entire proposal.

3. **Key Project Personnel and Role in Project**
   - Half-page maximum for key project personnel, such as the project director, co-director(s), contributing faculty, etc.; include a brief biographical sketch, and describe their qualifications to undertake the project and the responsibilities each contributor will undertake or oversee.

4. **Body of the Proposal**
   - The body of the proposal should not exceed five single-spaced pages in length (exclusive of figures, tables, and references), employing a 12-point font size and one-inch margins. Required sections are:
     
     A. A clear statement of the goals and rationale of the proposed project.
     
     B. A clear description of the project.

     The Council recognizes that innovation varies by discipline, particularly in the area of technology-enhanced classes. Please bear in mind that you are writing a proposal that will be reviewed by faculty representing a cross section of University faculties and disciplines. Proposals should be jargon-free and responsive to the objectives set forth on page 1. As part of the description, include explicit statements on the ways in which the proposed project represents an innovative (i.e., new) approach or method of teaching, and how it differs from existing approaches or methods.

     The review committee will look for evidence that the proposal reflects sound instructional design. This can be accomplished by consulting with a variety of University resource groups (see below) or might be conveyed by discussing the particular instructional qualifications of project team members.

     C. Clear indications of the potential impact on the teaching mission of the University (e.g., number of students affected, contributions to the curriculum, the department, and the greater University community). Often, proposals can be justified by citing potential effects beyond a single instructor’s course, but this cannot be given much weight by the review committee unless evidence is provided that additional instructors, either from the same or different departments, have been included in the process. In this connection, a letter or letters of support from deans, department chairs, or instructors in potentially affected units could be provided to strengthen the case.

     D. A clear and explicit statement on the project’s sustainability beyond the funding period. If the proposal’s budget includes a need for operating expenses, be sure to explain how these operating costs will be covered in future years.

     E. An indication of how the effects of the teaching innovation will be evaluated. Provide a clear description of the
methods and procedures to be used to determine whether the project will result in a positive outcome, what those specific measured outcomes will be, and, to the extent relevant and feasible, any experimental procedures that will be used to confirm the validity of the conclusions regarding possible outcomes. Among the previously funded projects, some have employed conventional measurement techniques, while others have been developmental in nature.

5. **Budget and Budget Justification**
Prepare a budget for the proposed project using the form included with this *Request for Proposals* or online at [www.pitt.edu/~facaffs/acie/awards.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~facaffs/acie/awards.html). Also provide a separate statement justifying each line item in the proposed budget. Statements of departmental/school matching salary contributions are encouraged.

Acceptable budget items include but are not limited to:
- Purchase of supplies and equipment **deemed crucial for the project and unavailable from school, departmental, or other University sources** (and provide a rationale for these proposed purchases)
- Purchases or costs for development of new instructional resources
- Student assistants for course development (**including fringe benefits charges as applicable**)
- Cost of assistance from campus support units (see "Campus Support Units’" section for links to these units)
- Student (**including fringe benefits charges as applicable**) or professional assistance for coordination/production of course Web sites
- Travel to acquire necessary project resources or to obtain training
- Project-related consultant costs (please note that for Pitt faculty and staff, external consulting rates cannot be charged to these projects)
- One month of summer salary (**fringe benefits charges must be included**), to be paid as direct compensation for those on 8- to 10-month base salaries and to cover release time for those on 12-month base salaries.

Unacceptable budget items include the following:
- Travel and maintenance costs for participation at professional meetings
- Subscriptions and professional journal costs
- Editorial assistance
- Release time, except for faculty on 12-month base salaries

6. **Required Letter(s) of Support**
A letter(s) of support for the proposal from the Project Director’s (and co-directors, as appropriate) department chair (or dean in non-departmental schools) is required for submission.

7. **Appendices**
Appendices (in electronic form only) can be submitted for references, figures and tables, and appropriate syllabi, and may include additional letters of support (see 4.C, page 2).

**University Copyright Policy**
Any copyrightable materials created by faculty, staff, or students as a result of this University-funded project will be owned by the University subject to a royalty-sharing agreement with the creator. For specific information, please refer to University Policy 11-02-02, *Copyrights*, at [www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/11/11-02-02.pdf](http://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/11/11-02-02.pdf).

**Proposal Review Process**
All proposals will be reviewed by the members of the Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence, with the Council retaining the option for sending proposals out for review by relevant colleagues where needed. Review criteria will include:
• Congruence between the goals of the grants program and those of the proposal
• Projected likelihood for success
• Perceived potential impact on students, the curriculum, the department, and the academic community

Final recommendations to the Provost will be based on a thorough Council discussion. Preference will be given to projects/project directors who have not been funded previously under this program.

Examples of Previously Funded Proposals
A summary of previous years’ awards is provided on the ACIE website at www.pitt.edu/~facaffs/acie/awards.html. Examples of a range of previously funded proposals are also available for review. Please contact Mr. Lyon at lyoncw@pitt.edu to acquire past copies of proposals.

Number, Size and Duration of Awards
The Council anticipates awarding a mixture of grants of varying sizes (usually ranging from $3,500 to $15,000). Larger awards (in the neighborhood of $25,000) will be considered for truly exceptional proposals of sufficient scale or scope as to merit such support. The award period will cover projects undertaken between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016.

Submission Deadline and Notification of Awards
Proposals must be submitted electronically by Monday, January 26, 2015. The hard copy version with appropriate signatures and appendices should be mailed to Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence, c/o Charles Lyon, Office of the Provost, 826 Cathedral of Learning. Questions about the submission process can be directed to Mr. Lyon via e-mail (lyoncw@pitt.edu) or by calling 412-624-4608. It is anticipated that notification of awards will be made by April 1, 2015.

Feedback
Applicants will be notified via e-mail of the results of the review process.

Reporting
Successful applicants will be required to report on the outcome(s) of the project, particularly in reference to the criteria for success established in the proposal. Additional guidelines for reporting will be provided to funded project directors. The summary report will be due in the Provost’s Office on June 30, 2016.

Campus Support Units

Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education (CIDDE)
CIDDE serves the teaching and learning mission of the University by providing support for instructional excellence and innovation, including the application of effective teaching methods and technologies for on-campus and online education. Visit the CIDDE website (www.cidde.pitt.edu) for information, or contact Carol Washburn, Manager of Teaching Support (washburn@pitt.edu), or Joe Horne, Director of Instructional Services (jhorne@pitt.edu).

It is strongly recommended that all applicants contact CIDDE for an initial project consultation. Faculty should contact Dr. Washburn at washburn@pitt.edu to make an appointment.

Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD)
CSSD can also assist faculty in planning for the effective use of technology, including providing hardware and software advice and access to training resources. Visit the CSSD website (www.technology.pitt.edu) for additional information.
Innovation in Education Awards 2015 Budget Form

Project: 
Project Director: 

Instructions: Requested funds must be itemized and all amounts must be whole dollars. Attach budget justification by line item(s). Please use additional sheets as necessary.

Salaries and Wages (must include fringe benefits*):

*Current rates: Medical Faculty: 26.3%; Faculty-Other: 35.8%; Graduate Students: 50%; Temp/Student/Other: 7.6%

Subtotal, Salaries and Wages with Fringe: $

Equipment:

Subtotal, Equipment: $

Supplies:

Subtotal, Supplies: $

Other (specify):

Subtotal, Other: $

Total Amount Requested: $

Additional Funding from Other Sources (please specify, as appropriate):

Note: Budget form may be downloaded from the ACIE Web site at http://www.pitt.edu/~facaffs/acie/awards.html.