OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) Grant Program

DESCRIPTION: *EPI Grants* are one-year seed awards in amounts ranging from $1,000 to $20,000, for projects that promote undergraduate student engagement through innovative teaching and learning in both the curricular and co-curricular realms. Proposed pilot projects may be new initiatives, significant enhancements of existing programs, or a targeted research project on student engagement in academic experiences. EPI Grant funds may be used for supplies, equipment, participant incentives, and/or faculty/staff salaries during the academic year (summer salary is excluded). Awardees are expected to disseminate information on the nature of their project, its outcomes, lessons learned and future directions. Examples of funded projects and their outcomes can be seen on the EPI Grant website.

PURPOSE: EPI Grants support the Provost's Academic Excellence Goals. Their purpose is to improve the academic experience through engaged teaching/learning practices including but not limited to the High Impact Practices identified by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. By continually increasing the extent and the quality of engaged practices we will improve the educational experience for all students.

CATEGORIES OF EPI GRANTS:

"Standard" EPI Grants are for implementing innovative pilot projects involving engaged teaching and learning pedagogies; $20,000 limit

EPI-SoTL Grants are for research in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) designed to evaluate the impact of innovative teaching practices or academic experiences on student engagement and/or learning outcomes. EPI-SoTL grants are limited to a maximum of $5,000.

"EPI Incubator" mini grants may be awarded when appropriate to support the development or testing of a promising construct/model deemed to have good potential, but which is not ready for funding as a standard EPI Grant project. The maximum amount for an EPI Incubator mini grant is $1,000.

ELIGIBILITY: Faculty and staff in any administrative or academic department, school or college are eligible, but all projects must focus on academic and/or co-curricular experiences.

REQUIREMENTS:
- The proposal must be well documented, supported by the current literature.
- The proposed project must have potential to positively impact student engagement and learning.
- The proposal must include a plan for sharing the costs of the project with the Provost's Office.
- The project must include a plan for assessing student learning or student engagement. Plans that include direct evidence where possible will be given higher priority.
- Proposed projects must demonstrate sustainability beyond the term of the grant.
- Proposed projects must have the approval of the appropriate reporting line authorities, e.g. program or unit director, department chair, dean, etc.

AVAILABILITY: A total of $50,000 per year has been made available for EPI grants. EPI awards are announced in early May. The term of the grants is the upcoming fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). All funds must be spent within that time period. EPI Incubator mini-grants ($1,000 maximum) may be awarded, subject to the discretion of the selection committee and the availability of funds in the annual allocation.

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by **April 15, 2019**.

FORMAT: Proposals should be no longer than 1,200 words (11-point font, double spaced), excluding cover page, reference pages, budget pages and appended materials. The proposal should include:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction and Background
3. Description of the project in the context of current literature*.
4. Discussion of the expected impact of the project on student engagement, success and retention. EPI-SoTL proposals should describe possible venues for presentation or publication of research findings.
5. Assessment Plan. For EPI-SoTL projects that are a pilot for a larger study, explain how the effectiveness of the methods and approach will be evaluated.
6. References
7. Budget with justification and proposed cost share. Fringe must be included for all salary and/or wages to be charged to the grant.
8. Appendices (as needed)
9. Letters of Support (as applicable)
   ➢ program or unit director
   ➢ department chair
   ➢ dean

Applications that do not follow these guidelines will not be reviewed.

SELECTION: The EPI Grant Selection Committee will review proposals using the evaluation form on page 3 and will make recommendations for awards. All awards are subject to final approval by the Provost. Awards are usually announced within three - four weeks after submission deadline.

DISBURSEMENT: Budgets will be administered through the appropriate administrative or academic department, school or college. All funds must be spent within twelve months of the date of the award.

REPORTING: A full report on the success of the project will be due 18 months from the date of the award. Reports may be no longer than 1,500 words (11-point font, double spaced), excluding cover page and appended materials. Reports must include:
- A review of the goals of the project
- A description of the outcomes
- An assessment of the impact of the project
- The current status of the project and future plans

SUBMISSION: Proposals and reports should be submitted in pdf format to Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning (brian.reed@uvm.edu), by the noted deadlines.

_____
* **EPI-SoTL proposals must**:
   a) Describe the aspect of engagement to be studied and the goals of the research.
   b) Provide evidence of an initial review of relevant SoTL or other educational research. It is not necessary to include the entire literature review.
   c) Describe the Methods including the subjects.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) Grant Program

PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM

Project Title _____

PI _____

Unit (administrative or academic department, school or college) _____

Date _____ Reviewer _____

Category	Inadequate		Adequate		Superior	Sub-Score
Innovative	1	2	3	4	5	
Credible (well-conceived, well designed, feasible)	1	2	3	4	5	
Impact on student engagement and learning	1	2	3	4	5	
Assessment Plan	1	2	3	4	5	
Budget, including justification & cost share	1	2	3	4	5	
Sustainability beyond term of grant	1	2	3	4	5	
				TOTAL SCORE		

COMMENTS:
Strengths:

Areas of Concern: