



TO: Matthew White, Assistant Professor of Physics
Juan Vanegas, Assistant Professor of Physics
Luke Donforth, Lab Coordinator, Department of Physics

FROM: Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning

RE: Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) grant proposal: *Group-Based Active Learning in Physics*

DATE: May 4, 2018

CC: David Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President
Kerry Castano, Assistant Provost
William Falls, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Junru Wu, Chair, Department of Physics

On behalf of the Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) Grant Selection Committee, I am delighted to inform you that your proposal was selected for funding in the requested amount of \$19,000.00. Congratulations! Please respond by May 18, 2018 to acknowledge your acceptance of the award.

The proposal is to completely redesign pedagogy in introductory-level physics courses by incorporating small-group active learning strategies. The grant funds are to be used for equipment and durable goods for the active learning laboratories, and stipends for eight Undergraduate Learning Assistants.

The Selection Committee's assessment was that this is an excellent proposal, well designed, well grounded in theory and literature, and quite feasible. There is a good plan for assessment and the project fits well with the PI's interests in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). There is a reasonable cost-share from the Department of Physics. The Department's base funding support will make the new pedagogical model sustainable beyond the one-year term of the EPI grant. It was the Committee's opinion that this project will revolutionize pedagogy for teaching and learning in UVM's introductory courses in Physics. This will serve well all students enrolled in physical and natural sciences curricula, as well as those in K-12 teacher education programs, and it will help to attract prospective students to the STEM disciplines.

As specified in the Request for Proposals, the budget for your grant will be administered through the PI's administrative unit, the Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences. The funds will be transferred after the start of the new fiscal year, on or around July 1, 2018. All funds must be spent within twelve months of that date (June 30, 2019). Please have your budget manager send the appropriate chartstring number to Kerry Castano Kerry.castano@uvm.edu.

A full report on the outcomes of your project will be due no later than January 7, 2019. The report may be no longer than 1,500 words (11 point font, double spaced), excluding cover page, and appended materials. The report 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

Again, thank you for your high quality proposal and congratulations on the award. We are excited about the potential impact of your project on students, faculty and the community.