



TO: Eugene Korsunskiy, Lecturer and Senior Coordinator of Design Initiatives, CAS  
Erik Monsen, Associate Professor, Grossman School of Business  
Steven Kostell, Lecturer, Department of Art and History

FROM: Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning

RE: Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) grant proposal: *Advanced Design Thinking*

DATE: November 1, 2016

CC: David Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President  
William Falls, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Sanjay Sharma, Dean, Grossman School of Business  
Richard Galbraith, Vice President for Research  
Kerry Castano, Assistant Provost

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On behalf of the Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) Grant Selection Committee, thank you for your proposal entitled *Advanced Design Thinking*. The committee received a number of excellent proposals and I am delighted to inform you that yours was one of two that were selected for EPI funding. Your proposal will be funded in the requested amount of \$10,000. Congratulations! Please respond by November 15, 2016 to acknowledge your acceptance of the award. Be advised that your proposal and related reports will be posted on the EPI Grant website.

The review team judged the proposed advanced design thinking (ADT) course to be a very innovative, high quality project that will engage students across disciplines through creative and critical thinking. The instructors will provide guidance and coaching, but the students will determine and own their projects. The ADT course will provide students with transferrable skills, and it will benefit community partners through service-learning (designation as an SL course expected). The Committee appreciated the proof of concept provided by evidence from the pilot, a lower level special topics course in design thinking. The ADT course will be an upper level sequel to the pilot course. We found the project to be well designed, feasible and firmly based in current literature. The budget request is reasonable and there is a good cost share arrangement with the Office of the Vice President for Research and the College of Arts and Sciences. The requested funds will provide equipment and supplies to outfit a physical space in the Hills building for not only this course, but other “maker” initiatives. The project has a good assessment plan and it should be sustainable beyond the term of the grant via net tuition revenue for CAS, especially since there are plans to make it part of an academic minor. Although the proposed ADT course is based on High Impact Practices, the magnitude of impact will be limited by the small class size (20 students at maximum), and it will have minimal direct effect on retention, since we do not lose many undergraduate students by the time they reach their third and fourth year. Nonetheless, the Committee applauds this innovative project, and we expect it will have ripple effects on engaged teaching/learning and student success and retention.

As specified in the Request for Proposals, the budget for your grant will be administered through the PI’s administrative unit, the College of Arts and Sciences. The funds will be transferred on or before December 1, 2016. All funds must be spent within twelve months of that date (July 1, 2017). Please have your budget manager send the appropriate chartstring number to Kerry Castano [Kerry.castano@uvm.edu](mailto:Kerry.castano@uvm.edu).



The University of Vermont

Office of the Provost  
and Senior Vice President

A full report on the outcomes of your project will be due no later than June 1, 2018. The report may be no longer than 1,500 words (12 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.