



TO: Trish O’Kane, Lecturer, Department of Environmental Studies  
Kimberly Wallin, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs, RSEN  
FROM: Brian Reed, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning  
RE: Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) grant proposal: *Birding to Change the World*  
DATE: May 4, 2016  
CC: David Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President  
Nancy Mathews, Dean, Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources

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On behalf of the Engaged Practices Innovation (EPI) Grant Proposal Review Team, thank you for your proposal entitled *Birding to Change the World*. The committee received a number of excellent proposals and I am delighted to inform you that your proposal was one of three that were selected for EPI funding. Your proposal will be funded in the requested amount of \$7,497. Congratulations! Please respond by May 15, 2016 to acknowledge your acceptance of the award.

The review team judged this to be a particularly innovative project with excellent community outreach through service-learning. The project is to expand ENVS 295 by pairing third and fourth-year UVM undergraduate students as “birding mentors” with children at Flynn Middle School, Hunt Middle School and Burlington High School. We appreciated that this SL and SU course is built on a well-developed model that was developed by the PI at another institution. The evidence presented from the initial offering of this course as a special topics listing (Spring 2016) makes clear the UVM students were very engaged and the partnership with Flynn Middle School was mutually beneficial. The project has a good assessment plan and it should be sustainable beyond the term of the grant since the projected enrollments will generate net tuition revenue for RSEN. It was not clear to the Committee how the course will impact the retention of the third and fourth-year UVM students in the course (we lose very few at that stage), but it has the potential to develop into an ongoing, multi-level program that stimulates interest in the environment and science and provides a pipeline of K-12 students who end up at UVM.

As specified in the Request for Proposals, the budget for your grant will be administered through the PI’s administrative unit (Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources). The funds will be transferred on or before July 1, 2016, the start of the new fiscal year. 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 Catherine Symans <[Catherine.Symans@uvm.edu](mailto:Catherine.Symans@uvm.edu)>.

A full report on the outcomes of your project will be due no later than January 4, 2017. 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.