Active Learning Grants
Deadline: Friday, February 15, 2008

Do you have an idea for a teaching strategy to enhance student learning? Instructional Support Services is pleased to offer instructional development grants of $1500 for courses in the 2008-09 academic year. Offered in conjunction with the Office of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties, each grant will be awarded for the revision of an existing course or the creation of a new course that engages students more actively in learning. Bloomington campus full-time faculty are eligible for these awards. Team taught courses are eligible to receive one grant for a total of $1500.

Active Learning Grants will be awarded to course development plans that encourage greater student engagement with critical thinking, “higher levels” of learning, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information, in contrast to simple absorption of information. Examples of active learning methods include, but are not limited to, collaborative learning, problem-based learning, case methods, course projects, and simulations.

Strong active learning project proposals will:

- Address an identified instructional need or opportunity via creative active learning strategies.
- Explain how students will be more engaged in disciplinary content.
- Incorporate evaluation of the effectiveness of the innovation after implementation.
- Display a creative and unique approach.
- Assess the impact of the project on undergraduate student learning.
- Demonstrate a commitment of any additional funds or resources required to implement the proposal.
- Involve a plan for sharing results of the project in the department or school.
- Include a letter from the department chair or dean that endorses the project and certifies that the applicant will teach the course twice in the following three academic years.

Descriptions of past Active Learning Grant projects are available at: http://www.iub.edu/~iss/grants/alg_recip_2006.shtml

Additional grants are showcased at: http://teaching.iub.edu/showcases.php?nav=showcases

As a part of the process of developing course innovations, grant recipients will be expected to:

- Devote two weeks or more of full-time effort to their projects in the summer of 2008 for a course to be taught twice in the next three years.
- Participate in one or two group planning/working sessions in late spring of 2008.
- Deliver a short written report for web publication and an oral presentation—for interested faculty and staff—outlining the implementation and evaluation of the project within a calendar year of the fellowship period.
- Participate in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Community Poster Session.

The application deadline is February 15, 2008. A faculty and staff committee will make selections and announce them on or about March 15. For more information, please contact: George Rehrey, Assistant Director of Campus Instructional Consulting at grehrey@iu.edu or 856-4231.
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Application Outline
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Application Guidelines
Applications should be submitted electronically and should adhere to the following guidelines.
In approximately three to four pages, please describe the:

- Course to be designed or redesigned. Include course goals, typical or expected enrollment, frequency taught, and student profile. Explain the importance of this course to the department's curriculum or to education in general.
- Instructional need or opportunity to be addressed through active learning strategies.
- Plan for addressing the need or opportunity. Be specific about the new teaching and learning strategies you will introduce to the course. Explain how the innovation will promote active learning. How will critical thinking and engagement be encouraged?
- Plan to assess effectiveness of the innovation for students. This assessment will be the basis for reporting the success of the course and changes in subsequent offerings.
- Resources that would be utilized in the completion of the project, if any, in addition to the applicant's own time. If additional funds would be required for the project, please indicate the source.
- Plan to report results. Include means of sharing useful outcomes of the project within the department or school.

In addition to this document, please attach:

- A current course syllabus (unless you are proposing a new course).
- A curriculum vita for each applicant.
- A letter of support from your department chair or dean that endorses the project and certifies the applicant will teach the course (or a similar course) twice in the next three years.
- Any other documentation you think might be helpful.

If you wish to discuss your ideas or have any questions please feel free contact either George Rehrey (grehrey@indiana.edu) or Jennifer Robinson (jenmetar@indiana.edu).
Please email your complete application package electronically to grehrey@indiana.edu.