

**Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching
University of Michigan-Flint**

Spring/Summer Course Design Fellowships

Introduction

The Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching offers fellowships for innovative teaching projects designed to enhance the quality of teaching in ways that will develop teaching expertise and strengthen the quality of student learning in courses and programs. Proposals should address:

- Innovative approaches to teaching
- Active teaching and learning strategies
- Instruction that develops students' critical thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving skills
- Discipline-based or inter-disciplinary courses designed to enhance students' writing, speaking, and communication skills
- Innovative applications of technology in teaching and learning
- New methods of assessment
- Collaborative faculty pedagogical projects

Up to five fellowships for \$3,000 each will be awarded yearly for Spring or Summer Term as a stipend added to the faculty member's salary for the semester of the award.

Purpose:

Fellowship awards are meant to give faculty time and funding to work on instructional improvement projects in their field that involve activities beyond the teaching preparation normally expected of UM-Flint faculty. Fellowships are to be used during Spring or Summer Term for faculty to design a new course, redesign an existing one, or work on a collaborative pedagogical project that will enhance a course or program. It is expected that the project will be implemented and assessed within the next academic year. During the fellowship period, applicants may not be working on a funded project which is similar or identical to the proposed project.

Proposals for *new* course or program design and special projects should be based on innovative teaching methodologies, development of new teaching materials for active teaching and learning, and/or new technologies. Proposals for course *redesign* should demonstrate a substantial re-thinking of the course, and are expected to move beyond the revision that faculty normally do to keep their courses current. Courses should be based upon instructional approaches that are innovative for the instructor, the department, and the field.

Eligibility:

Tenure-track faculty, full time lecturers, and clinical track faculty holding one-half time or greater appointment for more than one year may apply for Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching fellowships. Each application must be supported by the applicant's chair and be endorsed by the appropriate dean or director. Clinical-track and tenure-track faculty members

with teaching obligations may receive only one Spring/Summer Fellowship every three years and this may not directly precede or follow a sabbatical term.

Two or more faculty working collaboratively may submit a proposal for a single fellowship with division of payment for each participant indicated.

Project Proposal:

The proposal should be approximately five typed, double-spaced pages and must address the following:

- 1. Description of the need for the design or redesign of the course.** Why is it necessary to develop new instructional approaches? In what ways does this project go beyond normal teaching preparation? To what extent does the project impact and benefit your career development at the University of Michigan – Flint?
- 2. Description of the project.** How will this course design or redesign address the need described in item one? Describe, in particular, the innovative and creative aspects of the project.
- 3. Teaching innovation.** In what way this is an innovative approach to teaching and learning for you, your department, or your field? Explain how new approaches will be incorporated.
- 4. Impact on learning.** Describe how you expect this project to improve student learning. Clearly describe the relationship between the proposed activities and the anticipated student learning outcomes at the course level and, if applicable, at the program level.
- 5. Evaluation.** Include a proposed assessment plan that will evaluate the effectiveness of the course or project on the quality of student learning resulting from the new approach to teaching developed with this fellowship. Multiple methods of evaluation are encouraged. Evaluation measures might include midterm assessments, peer reviews, student focus groups, pre-and post-tests, questionnaires, end of term student ratings, interviews, samples of student work, reflective student writing, etc.
- 6. Timeline.** Indicate the proposed timeline for the project from the preparation and planning during the period of the Spring/Summer Fellowship through actual implementation with students when the course is taught and the point at which final assessments will be completed. Please include the percentage of a normal work week (40 hours), during the Spring or Summer Fellowship period that will be devoted to this project.

Application Procedure:

Applications forms are available online at the TCLT website (www.umflint.edu/tclt) under Funding Opportunities. The applicant should sign the proposal cover sheet, obtain signatures from the department head and appropriate dean/director, and submit one complete proposal with the cover sheet on top to the Director of the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching, plus eight copies of the complete proposal without the cover sheet. Applicant names should not appear on any page of the proposal other than the cover sheet. If human subjects are involved,

the application to the Human Subjects Review Committee should be submitted before applying for this fellowship.

Deadlines:

Fellowship applications received after the deadline (**5 pm, Thursday, November 19, 2009**) will not be considered. The Advisory Board will review proposals as submitted and will not contact applicants for additional information unless such information is relatively minor. Proposals that are incomplete will be returned to the applicant for re-submission during the next round.

Selection Process:

Proposals will be blindly reviewed by all members of the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching Advisory Board and will be ranked based on the selection criteria described below. **If human subjects are to be used in the project, an application must be made to the Human Subjects Review Committee prior to final approval by the Advisory Board.**

Selection Criteria:

- (25) **Problem/need:** the degree to which the project or course design/redesign addresses a significant pedagogical need and its likelihood of success in addressing the need specified.
- (35) **Teaching innovation:** the degree to which the approaches are innovative for the individual, the department, or the field, and pedagogically sound.
- (30) **Potential impact:** potential for affecting instruction beyond an individual course, i.e. its likelihood to influence other instructors, be useful in other courses, or have an impact on a department or program.
- (10) **Evaluation:** appropriateness and effectiveness of the proposed evaluation process in assessing the impact of the project on student learning.

Follow-up:

1. Final Report - A final report is due one year after the date of the seven-week Spring or Summer Fellowship period. For awards made in the 2009-2010 Academic year, final reports are due no later than June 30, 2011 (for a Spring fellowship), or August 31, 2011 (for a Summer fellowship). The report should include the materials developed (e.g., a course syllabus, CD-Rom, etc.), assessment materials and results, and any other information showing the impact the fellowship had on teaching and on student learning. It should also include information on planned follow-up projects or revisions if appropriate. Final Reports should be submitted to the Director of the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching, 241 French Hall.

A request for an extension in submitting the final report will receive consideration by the Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching Advisory Board if requested prior to the due date.

2. Dissemination of Information - Recipients of TCLT fellowships are expected to share their innovative teaching projects with colleagues at UM-Flint through presentations at a UM-Flint Brown Bag seminar, at a faculty mini-conference, or as an article in The Scholarship of Teaching. Recipients are encouraged to further disseminate their work in national and international venues relevant to pedagogy.

Faculty interested in applying for a fellowship may examine proposals of previous awardees. Please contact the TCLT for sample proposals and for consultations in drafting and revising fellowship proposals. For an appointment to discuss your idea or review a draft of your proposal, contact the TCLT at tclt-email@umflint.edu or by telephone at (810) 237-6508.