CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Pedagogical Practice – Service and Experiential Learning Projects (PP-SEP)
SPRING 2017

Service and Experiential Learning at Denison University

Goals
Like Pedagogical Practice Projects (PPP), Pedagogical Practice – Service and Experiential Learning Projects (PP-SEP) offer continuing, full-time faculty the opportunity to design, implement, and evaluate a new, innovative pedagogy for a course that will be taught in Spring 2017. These projects will generate pedagogical innovations and significant teaching changes, incorporating service and / or experiential learning, that deepen student learning and skills, enhance teaching effectiveness, and create alternative teaching or curricular approaches that contribute to Denison’s mission. Funded projects will include faculty stipends and professional development funds for travel that includes a conference presentation of the project.

In some cases, individual faculty might pursue a project focused on a significant pedagogical change involving service / experiential learning that will be implemented in a specific course. In other cases, pairs or small groups of Denison faculty, either within or across disciplines, will collaboratively develop changes in a team-taught course or in multiple courses (or in multiple sections of a course). However, the proposed service / experiential innovation and its teaching/learning activities must be a new development not already found in the course, and should contribute meaningfully and substantively to the learning goals for the course. This pedagogy works best when learning goals are clearly articulated and when the learning from service / experiential innovation is well-integrated into the rest of the course. Thus, although it is possible to incorporate service / experiential learning into a new course, or a one-time course offering, faculty offering a new course will likely need to work more closely with Gina Dow (Alford Coordinator of SEL) as they plan their course. Thus, although faculty planning to incorporate SEL into a new course are invited to apply for this mini-grant, please note that the PP-SEP is focused specifically on supporting new service / experiential pedagogical innovations. It is not designed to support the development of new courses, in general (i.e., this is not a course development fund).

The AAC&U lists a number of “High Impact” pedagogical practices that promote active learning and student engagement; service / experiential learning is included among these practices (https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips). In general, an innovation focused on service / experiential learning will embrace a student-centered, out-of-the-classroom learning pedagogy that promotes active learning, engagement, and reflection. The innovation can be applied in a particular unit of the course or used across the semester. Please see MyDenison – Campus Resources – Alford Center for Service Learning – Curricular Service Learning – FAQs, for a brief overview of service / experiential learning at Denison.

Like the PPP initiative, the PP-SEP initiative seeks to create a context in which faculty can share their ideas, explorations, and outcomes with colleagues at Dension and beyond. In addition, thoughtful evaluations of how pedagogical innovation involving service / experiential learning had a role in student learning as well as in the professional development of a faculty member are important components of each project. Therefore, the funded projects will be recognized and shared on campus within the programming of the Center for Learning and Teaching. Travel support is available to allow faculty to present their project at relevant professional conferences or meetings.
Proposals for 2016-2017
Faculty will submit a written proposal to Gina Dow and the review and selection process will be administered by her and the SEL Advisory Board. The new service / experiential innovation or pedagogical change will need to be implemented in a course(s) scheduled to be taught during the 2016-2017 academic year. Each project also must include an assessment of the pedagogical practice and its relationship to student learning or other relevant outcomes. Faculty will share the project outcomes in a brief written report or at an Alford Center faculty development session open to all Denison faculty. For spring 2017 courses, the proposal deadline is December 2, 2016.

(a) Faculty who are selected for a PP-SEP will receive an award of $750; however, the maximum total award for a collaborative project will be $1500, to be shared among collaborating faculty.

(b) There will be limited support (up to $250) for teaching resources or materials not normally funded by a department.

(c) Faculty who subsequently present their PP-SEP at a professional conference or meeting will receive a travel reimbursement (up to $750). The maximum travel support for a collaborative project will be $1500. Request for travel funds should be made to Gina Dow upon confirmation that a presentation has been scheduled at a relevant conference or meeting.

Proposal Format
Proposals need to be submitted by December 2nd, 2016, for an innovation to be implemented in spring semester of 2017. Please submit an electronic copy of the proposal to Gina Dow, dow@denison.edu, (Alford Coordinator for Service and Experiential Learning).

Copy and insert your responses to the items listed on the following page into a separate document.
Pedagogical Practice – Service and Experiential Learning Project (PP-SEP)
Mini-grant Proposal

1. Name(s) of the faculty member(s), Department / Program, e-mail.

2. Course(s) number and name.

3. Title of project (a descriptive phrase that describes the service / experiential pedagogical innovation and/or purpose and nature of the project).

4. Project Narrative (2 pages maximum): Please provide paragraphs that address each component:

   a) Describe the nature of the pedagogical innovation involving service / experiential learning that you have designed for use in your course, including the community placement / experiential activities, teaching practices, and student learning activities that are part of the innovation. Descriptions should include any materials or resources that are part of the innovation. Please specify when and how the innovation will be featured during the semester.

   b) Identify the learning goals that will be served by this innovation. Why do you think the innovation will be useful for these learning goals? Is your innovation associated with research-based or disciplinary-based principles of learning and teaching?

   c) Describe how you will evaluate the impact or contribution of the teaching innovation on student learning or other relevant teaching and learning outcomes. What measures of student learning will be used as part of your assessment of the innovation? (An evaluation or assessment of the innovation’s impact on student learning is required; please consult with Gina Dow or Frank Hassebrock as you prepare your proposal for additional information and support regarding this component.)

   d) If relevant, describe how you plan to work collaboratively with instructional technologists, librarians, or others, to develop, implement, or evaluate your innovation.

5. Budget: If relevant, please provide an itemized budget with brief justification for any teaching materials or resources requested (up to $250).

6. Please attach the course syllabus (or preliminary version) with the proposal.

Note: A request for travel funds is not required for this proposal. If your PP-SEP is funded, travel reimbursement will be provided following confirmation that your presentation has been scheduled at a relevant conference or meeting.
General Guidelines and Proposal Review Procedures

1. Please consult with Gina Dow if you are interested in developing a proposal in order to have a preliminary discussion on the nature of your service / experiential pedagogical innovation and to obtain more information about the program expectations and review process. General requirements that must be addressed in your application are described under the Goals and the Proposals for 2016-2017 sections in this document.

2. Completed proposals should be sent to Gina Dow, dow@denison.edu, by December 2nd 2016, for full consideration.

3. Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the SEP Advisory group and the Director. In some cases, applicants may be asked to submit a revised proposal. All projects that are accepted will also be screened or reviewed by Denison’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) before funding can be approved.

4. There are limited funds available for each semester and it may not be possible to fund all projects submitted for review.

5. The PP-SEP awards are for supporting pedagogical innovations in existing or new courses, which are scheduled to be taught in Spring 2017. These awards are not intended to support the planning or development of a new course that might potentially be taught at some other time in the future.

6. The criteria for review of proposals include:

   a. Thoroughness in addressing each part of the proposal with respect to the PP-SEP goals and expectations.

   b. Significance of the service / experiential innovation and the infusion of the innovation throughout a large part of the course and semester.

   c. Potential contribution of the project to student learning or future courses taught at Denison.

   d. Confirmation that the course is scheduled to be taught in Spring 2017.