

Institute for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Faculty Development Center
Teaching Transformation Fellowships
(Title III Project)

- I. Purpose:** This activity is a faculty development program focused on the improvement of teaching and learning. The program will provide selected faculty with fellowships to support their proposed projects, including the extension of appropriate academic technology into their teaching and learning activities. This program, together with the University’s new Institute for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, will serve as a catalyst for change and for quality improvement in student learning outcomes. The goal of this project is to assist faculty in transforming their courses, improving learning and integrating more instructional technology into their courses.
- II. Title III Grant:** Webster University was awarded a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant in 2001. This five-year grant of \$1.75 million dollars is now entering its third year of funding and will now implement Activity II of the grant (Activity I assisted the University with equipment for the new library). Activity II focuses on establishing our Faculty Development Center, and on the faculty development programs offered by the Center. As part of Activity II of this grant, a new faculty fellowship program is being established (“Teaching Transformation Faculty Fellowship”) with the following award cycle:

Title III: Activity 2 Grant Cycle				
Year	Letter of Intent	Proposal Due	Awards	Period of Fellowship
FY 2003-04 (Oct. - Sept.)	Dec. 1, 2003	Feb. 2, 2004	#8–March 2004	March '04 - Dec. '04
FY 2004-05 (Oct. - Sept.)	March 22, 2004	May 3, 2004	#16 - June 2004	Sept. '04 - Aug. '05
FY 2005-06 (Oct. - Sept.)	March 21, 2005	May 2, 2005	#16 - June 2005	Sept. '05 – Aug. '06

By the conclusion of the grant, a minimum of 40 faculty will have been awarded fellowships, over 70 University courses will have been revised. As an outcome, we expect students will report a technologically enriched, hands-on, active learning environment in these transformed courses.

- III. Fellowship Resources:** Faculty who are awarded a fellowship will receive the following resources through the faculty development center:
- laptop computer
 - learning theory and pedagogical consultation
 - stipend (\$2,000)
 - instructional design consultation
 - technical assistance
 - mentoring
 - academic assessment guidance
 - consultation services
 - interactive technology resources
 - workshops
 - collaboration with peers
 - equipment and software access
 - web enhancement tools for courses
 - technology training

The designated Faculty Fellows will develop a performance-based contract as part of their approved project, and will document various performance indicators (assessment) as required by the Title III grant guidelines.

- IV. Intent to Apply:** Faculty interested in submitting a proposal should notify the Faculty Development Center (FDC) and their academic dean by December 1, 2003 [Letter of Intent} for the first grant cycle. This notification will assist the FDC in promoting the grant process, and will provide the applicant with assistance, if needed.

- V. **Application:** Applicants will submit a brief proposal which identifies the target course(s) they will agree to work on during their fellowship. The proposal should describe pedagogical issues or types of learning problems they would like to address through instructional design, academic technology, different learning methodologies, assessment, etc. The applicant should also describe the project's potential benefits to students and the University. Preference will be given to proposals which target key ("core") courses in significant programs of the University. Depending on the program, these courses may have different types of quality improvement issues (unsatisfactory levels of student learning outcomes, low persistence/retention, low student satisfaction, consistency among multiple sections, grading, curricular design, better alignment with overall program objectives, etc.).)

Applicants should also include a letter of support from their department chairperson (or local campus director). Applications should be sent to the appropriate academic dean of the School/College of the target course(s). The academic dean will review the collective proposals from their School/College and will provide the selection committee with recommendations. Applications for FY 2003-04 are due February 2, 2004. Informational workshops will be held in Fall 2003 to assist applicants with their proposals. An announcement of the year's fellowships will be made by the Office of Academic Affairs following the selection committee's recommendations.

- VI. **Eligibility/Selection:** Full-time faculty, and adjunct faculty with three or more years of service, are eligible to apply. The initial focus of this project is the undergraduate curriculum, and is limited to St. Louis and those domestic extended campuses where undergraduate programs are offered. Proposals from full-time faculty should identify "two" undergraduate courses, and proposals from adjunct faculty should identify "one" undergraduate course that will be transformed under the fellowship. The selection committee will attempt to identify 5-6 full-time faculty recipients and 2-3 adjunct faculty recipients in Year One of this activity (2003-04). The selection committee will give the highest priority to proposals which will provide the greatest impact, which appear feasible of completion, and which are strongly endorsed by the relevant academic programs. The committee also reserves the right to designate unfunded proposals from Year 1 as priority projects for the Year 2 of funding cycle.

The fellowship selection committee will be appointed by the Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs from members of the faculty development center's advisory board, from former Kemper Excellence in Teaching recipients, and the academic deans (5 voting members). The Title III Project Director and Assistant Directors will serve ex-officio on the committee. In subsequent award years, former fellowship recipients will be included on the selection committee. The selection committee will present its recommendations to the Executive Vice President.

VII. **Miscellaneous Notes:**

- Proposals which are not funded in one application cycle may be resubmitted in a following year of the grant.
- Proposals may include existing or new courses which are part of an approved academic program (major, minor, certificate, general education).
- Online courses are not initially part of this grant project (traditional courses adding web enhancement components are eligible).
- Faculty who are awarded a fellowship will agree to a performance contract, with the faculty development center, participate in training, provide periodic progress reports, participate in coordinated assessment of their target courses, and provide support for the Title III grant and its goals.
- Faculty must teach each transformed course one time to fulfill the performance contract.
- Faculty Fellows are expected to subsequently serve as advocates and mentors for future faculty development programs and initiatives of the center.
- The faculty development center will hold information session(s) on the "Teaching Transformation Fellowship" program for interested parties.
- Faculty may apply for the fellowship during or after an FDL or sabbatical.