WVU Academic Community Engagement (ACE) Mini-grants

Center for Service and Learning

2020 Guidelines

The CSL will award 2 ACE mini-grants of $1,000 each to support service-learning initiatives. Service-learning instructors must apply in conjunction with an official CSL community/campus partner organization. Proposals will outline how the initiative will meet a community identified need while incorporating high quality service-learning for the students involved.

Proposals due – Monday, October 14, 2019, by 8am

Applicants notified by – Monday, October 28, 2019

Project Period – January 1, 2020 – May 15, 2020

Goals

• Enhance best practices in service-learning at WVU
• Advance shared community goals
• Nurture long-term partnerships

Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from any instructor (faculty/staff/grad students all eligible) of a WVU S designated course in the spring of 2020, completed in partnership with an official CSL community/campus partner.

Grant Requirements

• Must apply in partnership with an official CSL community/campus partner
• Must involve at least one S designated course
• Professor agrees to present the project at a CSL showcase event in Fall 2020
• Students will present in Social Action Showcase, Spring 2020
• Community partner and Professor will be invited to participate in review committee for next round of mini-grant applications
• Professor and Community Partner will complete a brief end of year grant summary
• The ACE Mini-Grants are made possible through WVU’s Center for Service and Learning. You will be asked to acknowledge this support in any papers or publications derived from the activities supported by this award

Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee selected by the CSL and will include faculty, community partners and student representatives. The evaluation rubric can be viewed here.

Proposals will be evaluated for:
• Use of service-learning best practices, including: a reciprocal planning process with the community partner, the integration of academic content and the service experience, and student reflection assignments that relate and reinforce the service and learning.

• Service-learning course must target a community-defined need and contribute to a positive impact for the community. Meetings should be held with faculty and community partners before and during the semester to mutually define and direct the project. Students should be included whenever possible.

• Service-learning projects must have well-defined objectives explicitly tied to course learning goals. Efforts that include assessment of outcomes, including feedback from students and partnering organizations, will be given priority.

• How existing resources and funds will be used to support the sustainability of the project and support the community need

• Explicit inclusion of reflection in the service-learning course

**Funding Amount and usage**

• Grants will be awarded in the amount of $1000

• Funds will be transferred to the professor’s home department and are subject to departmental policies

**Application Process**

Applications will be accepted until 10/14 at 8am, late applications will not be accepted. Application can be found here. It is expected that the instructor and community partner will work collaboratively on this application.

**Find a Partnership**

The CSL will be hosting a mixer to bring together interested instructors and partners to find successful collaborations. Please join us on Monday, 9/16 between 5-6:30 in the Morgan House (660 N High St) for networking and matchmaking.

**Contact Information**

Further questions can be directed to Lindsey Rinehart, Academic Community Engagement Coordinator, at Lindsey.rinehart@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-8762.