Service-Learning Course Development Funds

The Provost’s Office and the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement are offering onetime funds to help support faculty to develop a new service-learning course, or to add a service-learning component to an existing course.

Context:

In 2010, former President Glick signed the “Campus Compact” joining a national coalition of more than 1,100 colleges and university presidents who committed their campuses to service learning and civic engagement. Since that time, the Service Learning Council was formed and UNR’s Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement (OSLCE) was created. As a result of these efforts, the number of service learning courses available to UNR students has increased.

As noted on the OSLCE website (http://www.unr.edu/service-learning/about-us/service-learning), service-learning at UNR is a course or competency-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students:

1) Participate in mutually identified service activities that benefit the community, and
2) Reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility (Bringle and Clayton, 2012, adapted from Bringle and Hatcher, 1995).

Service-learning supports the engagement component of the university’s mission, and has been identified as one mechanism to help the university earn the Carnegie Engagement Classification.

Proposal Content:

Faculty who are interested in applying for a one-time compensation to develop a service learning course or add a service learning component to an existing course should submit a one-page proposal that includes the following information:

1) Brief description of the proposed new course or new component to an existing course that would potentially be eligible to earn the service learning attribute at UNR. (For more information, see: http://www.unr.edu/service-learning/faculty/course-registration).
2) The academic program(s) that would potentially benefit from the course; and the anticipated student enrollment each year.
3) Examples of potential community sites where students may be placed. (Please note that it is not expected that faculty make these arrangements in preparation for this proposal.)
4) Confirmation that the faculty applicant is available and will attend the Service-Learning Boot Camp scheduled for May 23 and 24, 2018.

Proposal Review and Awards:

Proposals will be reviewed by the Service Learning Council in conjunction with the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Provost’s Office. Proposals will be evaluated on the extent to which the proposal is feasible, impactful, and supports Core Theme 3 (Engagement) of the University’s mission, which is elaborated here:

http://www.unr.edu/accreditation/mission-and-core-themes

Special preference will be given to proposals that seek to designate all sections of a multi-section course as service-learning.

Overload compensation of $1,500 will be awarded to support at least 8 faculty to work on off-contract days. Awardees will be expected to attend the Service Learning Boot-Camp and to apply for the service-learning attribute for the new or revised course from the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (OSLCE) prior to June 30, 2018. Funds will be disbursed once the OSLCE has received and approved the new or changed course application. Please note that the purpose of the Boot-Camp is to assist faculty in planning and developing this application.

Submission Instructions:

To apply, please submit a one-page proposal including the details described above and a letter of support from the appropriate Department/School Chair to Stacey Muse at smuse@unr.edu by March 1, 2018. If you have questions about this funding opportunity, please contact the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement at 784-4846.