

Office of the Provost, Washington State University (WSU) Student Success Seed Grant Program

Description

The Washington State University Strategic Plan for 2014-19 emphasizes the University's commitment to a transformative student experience. In particular, the plan states the University community's intention to 1) Provide an excellent teaching and learning opportunity to a larger and more diverse student population; 2) Provide a university experience centered on student engagement, development, and success, which prepares graduates to lead and excel in a diverse United States and global society; and 3) Improve curricular and student support infrastructure to enhance access, educational quality, and student success in a growing institution.

The Office of the Provost would like to encourage faculty to develop strategies that have the potential to attract extramural funding to be scaled up to an institutional level or have the potential to be used across disciplines to increase student retention at Washington State University and increase students' progress toward graduation.

Eligibility

All faculty at all campuses are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators on Student Success Seed Grant proposals. Each Principal Investigator may submit only 1 proposal as lead. Collaboration across colleges, campuses and nonacademic units is encouraged, though not required.

Graduate students and staff from colleges and administrative support units may be involved in and funded by Student Success proposals to the extent they facilitate undergraduate student retention and progress toward graduation.

Timeline

- January 15, 2016 – RFP released
- February 15, 2016 – Letter of Intent due (required to help convene the review panel/s)
- April 1, 2016 – Proposals due to the Office of the Provost
- April 8, 2016 – Proposals sent to reviewers
- May 15, 2016 – Decisions announced
- July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 – Award period
- March, 2018 – Presentations at Showcase
- June 30, 2018 – Final report due

Areas of Focus

Proposals for the Student Success Seed Grant should address issues similar to those eligible in the Strategic Budget Reallocation [RFP](#). Strategies can include, but are not limited to: curriculum and/or course design, use of active-learning instructional techniques, increased academic support, approaches to increase connectedness and community among students and between students and faculty, and integration of class material with academic and social skills development.

Award Details

A total of \$125,000 in one-time funds is available for this program. Individual grants are awarded up to a maximum of \$35,000, for a period of up to 18 months. Proposals for smaller amounts (minimum \$5,000) are welcome and considered equally competitive. Proposal budgets will need to include personnel benefit costs if faculty or staff salary is included; overhead and facilities/administrative costs do not need to be included. Proposal budgets do not need to include an additional amount of funds to cover indirect costs. Proposals for which colleges provide some degree of matching funds will be accorded additional positive weight in the evaluation process. Multidisciplinary proposals will be accorded additional positive weight in the evaluation process.

Deliverables and Outcomes

Strategic Plan-Related Outcomes

- Freshman and sophomore retention at WSU
- Progress toward graduation (any/all levels and groups)

Additional Value Benchmarks

- Reversing negative term-by-term GPA trends
 - For example: Improved success rates in foundational courses with evidence of consistent achievement of learning goals and improved performance in the “next course” in the curriculum
- Earlier average certification of major

Pre-Submission Instructions

Letters of Intent must be submitted by February 15, 2016 using the [web-based form](#) located on the [seed grant RFP website](#). A brief description (one page limit) of the proposed work and area of focus is required.

Application Instructions

- Full proposal deadline is April 1, 2016 at 5 PM.
- Proposals should be sent to Kristina Peterson-Wilson (kpeterson2@wsu.edu).
- Proposal: No more than 5 pages, plus 1 page for estimated budget and budget justification (11-point, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins). Proposals must include: (i) principal investigators' and collaborators' names and affiliations, (ii) projected milestones and outcomes, (iii) implementation and assessment plan, with timeline, (iv) description of the strategy that will be pursued to solicit future external funding (federal and/or non-federal) and/or partnerships from other disciplines for this project, (v) budget and cost-share from departments/colleges/campuses (if any).
- Each proposal narrative should:
 - Concentrate on one Area of Focus that addresses a compelling problem or challenge, the resolution of which would have significant impact on retention and graduation rates.
 - Proposals should clearly articulate a focused, shorter-term (up to 5-years), multi-disciplinary plan that addresses an important element from the above Area of Focus. The proposal must also identify the team that will address the proposed topic, and include projected milestones and outcomes for each year of the proposal.
 - Each proposal should include a strong evidence base for proposed strategies/methodology, such as through use of existing research and predictive analytics tools (e.g. Student Success Legacy and Student Success Campus); demonstrated ability of the team to execute the proposal; and an assessment plan.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will be overseen by the Office of the Provost. The Provost's Office will commission an evaluation panel whose members have expertise appropriate to scientific, social scientific and humanities/artistic endeavors. The Provost's Office will review the panel's input. Co-Provosts Austin and Mittelhammer will make the final awards.

Evaluation Criteria

(4=Excellent/High Potential Impact and/or Likelihood to Attract Extramural Funding; 3=Very Good/Moderate Potential Impact and/or Likelihood to Attract Extramural Funding; 2=Good/Limited Likelihood of Impact and/or Likelihood to Attract Extramural Funding; 1=Fair/Unlikely to Have Impact and/or Attract Extramural Funding)

Criteria for Proposals Targeting Student Success	Points	Weight
Quality of the proposal: Responsiveness to a Student Success areas of focus, with evidence base that demonstrates likelihood to have significant impact; clear and realistic assessment plan; strength and quality of the team relevant to the proposed project; uniqueness of project.	1-4	0.25
Ability to execute the proposed plan: Demonstrated ability of the team to execute the proposal and in a timely fashion; range of impact on strategic outcomes and benchmarks.	1-4	0.25
Ability of project to generate additional outside financial support, generate internal savings, or generate new revenue; AND/OR Ability to be used across disciplines, to establish/demonstrate a strong capacity for public engagement and outreach to underserved communities.	1-4	0.25
Student involvement: Opportunities for undergraduates to connect with tenure-track faculty in foundational courses; facilitation of increased understanding and positive interactions across diverse groups.	1-4	0.10
Unit commitment (organizational, budgetary).	1-4	0.15

Award Terms and Conditions

- Awardees are required to present at the Faculty Showcase following the project's termination date.
- The awards are for an 18-month period beginning July 1, 2016. If necessary, a one-time only, no-cost time extension may be considered on the basis of strong justification.
- If the PI leaves the university prior to the completion of the grant, all remaining funds are to be returned to the Office of the Provost.
- Any funds remaining after the grant's termination are to be returned to the Office of the Provost.
- Acknowledgement of the WSU Student Success Seed Grant support will be included in any published work or presentations directly resulting from this award.

External Proposal Submission

Any proposal to an external funding source that is directly related to the seed grant project should be submitted no more than six months after the award period ends. Information pertaining to the submitted proposal will be disclosed in the final report.

Final Report

By accepting this award the PI agrees to submit a final report to the Office of the Provost. This report will allow the university to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The final report deadline is June 30, 2018, six (6) months after the end of the grant period of performance. In addition to activities, research results, and accomplishments resulting from the award, the report will document any publications, presentations, exhibitions, media coverage, sales or marketing, projects, papers, proposals/awards, or other accomplishments that resulted from the WSU Student Success Seed Grant.

Questions

Questions can be sent to: StudSuccSeedGrant@wsu.edu. Please use "Student Success Seed Grant Program 2016" in the subject line.

Or you can call: Kristina Peterson-Wilson at (509) 335-8915.