

## 2008-08 Academic Community Engagement Faculty Fellow grants

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### I. Context and Background

The University of Virginia is committed to serving the public good. Each year, U.Va. students contribute over 300,000 hours of community service. For the past two years, the University has been recognized at the national level for its service achievements by the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. In February 2008, the Board of Visitors endorsed the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of the University which includes an emphasis on enhancing the student experience by teaching students leadership, public service and teamwork. To encourage student learning and foster innovative academically-based public service universitywide, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost announces funds to support faculty development of academically-based community engagement courses.

#### II. Grant Funding Opportunities

The Executive Vice President and Provost's Office will offer funds to support Academic Community Engagement (ACE) Fellows that:

a. Develop a new course with an engaged community service/community-based research project integrated into an academic curriculum.

OR

b. Expand an existing course to integrate an engaged community service/community-based research project with an academic curriculum.

Faculty funding may be used for: a research fund (some restrictions apply); summer wages; or, release time.

Courses may teach undergraduate students or graduate students (or a combination), and may be taught by an individual, a team, or be interdisciplinary. These courses are expected to become part of the regular curriculum and must be offered at least three times in five years.

#### III. Definitions

Academic Community Engagement integrates engaged community service or community-based research with academic learning. Empirical research and best practices from institutions of higher education across the country demonstrate that academic service learning can enhance university community partnerships, contribute to disciplinary knowledge, and develop students' skills and experiences to address real world problems.

a. Engaged community service occurs via reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships between the university and the community.

b. Community-based research:

- starts with an evidence-based, community-defined problem
- requires skilled collaborators, knowledgeable partners
- is useful for both community and university partners.

In community-based research, faculty, students, and community members collaborate as co-researchers—the community is not an object to be studied—to define the problem, create a research plan, determine an appropriate research methodology, discuss potential outcomes,

agree on a timeframe and research products, and pursue solving the problem together. The research aims to address a community need, solve a community problem or effect social change. The focus may be local, regional, national, or global.

#### **IV. Goal/Purpose of the Funds:**

The ACE Fellows create opportunities for the academic life of the institution to connect to public life through community service and for the communities to enhance their work through the faculty expertise of a public research university. This grant program aims to support faculty, student and department participation in community engagement through academic courses. Courses should be offered during the regular academic year. Interdisciplinary collaborations across departments are encouraged. Department chairs must commit to offering the course at least three times in five years.

#### **V. Basic Criteria for ACE Courses**

1. Involve students in substantive, ongoing community service project/community-based research activity that is directly integrated into the academic curriculum in a significant way.
2. Require systematic and regular reflection, reporting and assessment of the community experience—both with faculty and with other students (e.g., reading assignments, submitting a journal or a final paper that synthesizes the service experience and oral presentations).
3. Develop the community service/research component cooperatively with community partners so that it meets needs identified by the community.
4. Prepare and train students for their work in the community.
5. Assess the impact of activities on student learning *and* the community.

#### **VI. Selection Criteria and Special Considerations**

Proposals will be reviewed and considered using the following criteria and special considerations:

- 1) Innovation and Academic Rigor: The degree of teaching innovation and the extent to which a significant community service/community-based research component is integrated into an existing course or into the academic learning component of a new ACE course, while maintaining a high standard of academic rigor.
- 2) Community Impact: The degree to which the community service/community-based research is expected to demonstrably affect the community being served.
- 3) Sustainability: The likelihood that the course would become a part of the department and instructor's normal teaching program in future years, including departmental support for the course.
- 4) Best Practices: The design of the proposed course demonstrates strong familiarity with the ethical and effective practices of community service and community partnerships. The service component is developed cooperatively with community partner. For selected resources, visit <http://www.virginia.edu/provost/public>
- 5) We encourage proposals that seek to engage:
  - a. The 10<sup>th</sup> and Page neighborhood adjacent to the University. *Please advise Ida Lee Wooten, director of community relations, of your intention to partner with the 10<sup>th</sup> and Page neighborhood prior to applying.*
  - b. The Southwest Virginia's Coalfield Region, a strategic partner as defined by the University's restructuring management agreement with the Commonwealth. *Please advise Pace Lochte, director of economic development, of your intention to partner with SWVA prior to applying.*

#### **VII. Expectations of Award Recipients**

Faculty Recipients of these funds should plan to:

- a. Attend two meetings each year to discuss project challenges, successes, and best practices with other grant recipients and invited speakers.

- b. Submit a one page report at end of each semester the course is offered that includes:
  - description of the project, course, and community goals completed (or the progress toward project completion),
  - number of students enrolled in the course
  - number of hours served (in aggregate, including professor and assistant time, *outside* of class time)
  - number of community members affected directly or indirectly
  - how funds were used
  - plans for sustainability of service.
- c. Be asked to recommend or submit selected projects for consideration for future publication in UVa's online journal *Public* and be willing to participate in future workshops or information sessions.

### **VIII. Eligibility**

Application is open to any full-time faculty member, including non-tenure track faculty, teaching courses at the University of Virginia.

### **IX. Process**

- a. **Deadline** to submit applications is 5pm, **May 5, 2008**.
- b. Applicants will be notified by May 19, 2008.
- c. Submit electronic copies to:
  - Megan Raymond
  - meganr@virginia.edu
  - University Community Partnerships
  - P.O. Box 400308
  - Booker House, 1709 University Ave.

### **X. The Application (see attached)**

**2008-09 Academic Community Engagement Faculty Fellow Cover Sheet**

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**Instructor Name**

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**Title**

**Department**

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**Telephone**

**Email**

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**Proposed Course Title**

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**Proposed Course Number**

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**Credits**

**Anticipated Enrollment**

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**Anticipated number of hours students will spend on service experience:**

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**Name of Intended Community Partner Agency or Organizations**

**As Dean or Department Chair, I understand that this course will be offered at least three times in the next five years.**

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**Signature of Dean or Department Chair**

**Date**

**Submit to:**

University Community Partnerships  
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost  
PO Box 400308  
Fax: 982-2920  
Email: [meganr@virginia.edu](mailto:meganr@virginia.edu)

## **2008-09 Academic Community Engagement Faculty Fellows Application Materials**

Please submit electronic copies to Megan Raymond, [meganr@virginia.edu](mailto:meganr@virginia.edu), University Community Partnerships, Booker House, 1709 University Ave, by 5pm, **May 5, 2008**.

### **I. Application Cover Sheet**

### **II. Abbreviated curriculum vitae (2-3pages) for each instructor**

### **III. Identify Funding Sought**

Faculty funding may be used for: a research fund (some restrictions apply); summer wages; or, release time.

**A) Develop a new course (\$9K)**

**OR**

**B) Expand an existing course (\$5K)**

### **IV. Proposed Course Syllabus including**

- Course Title
- Course Goals
- Teaching Methods –group work, case studies, field studies, discussion, lecture, small group discussion, etc.
- Possible texts/reading
- Topics to be covered
- Number of hours per week students will engage in service project/community-based research experience
- Anticipated number of students enrolled
- Student activities connected to community project
- Proposed method for evaluating students and community impact

### **V. Statement of Purpose that addresses (2 page maximum)**

- Instructor's view of community engagement, its relation to the academic life of the university, and how this view will be integrated into the course.
- Instructor's prior experience with community engagement. Prior experience is not required.
- How the academic learning experience connects to the community project proposed, and how community partner is engaged in course development.
- How the community agency's or organization's mission and activities relate to course.
- Plans to prepare and train students for community experience to ensure mutually beneficial experience for students and community.

**VI. Letter of Support from Community Agency or Organization** stating their interest in collaborating with your students and course and the agency's anticipated outcomes and community impact from the partnership.