

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS 2009-10

### 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 three years, the University has been recognized at the national level for its service achievements by the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The University has also recently launched the Jefferson Public Citizens program, a program designed to enhance the student experience by engaging students in curricular and co-curricular public service. To encourage student learning and foster innovation in teaching, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost announces funds to support faculty development of academic community engagement courses.

### Grant Funding Opportunities

The Executive Vice President and Provost's Office will offer the following Academic Community Engagement (ACE) Grants to faculty:

#### 1. Academic Community Engagement Faculty Fellows Grants

Faculty can apply for funds to

A. Develop a new course with an engaged community service/community-based research project integrated into an academic curriculum. Awards up to \$9K.

OR

B. Expand an existing course substantially to integrate an engaged community service/community-based research project with an academic curriculum. For example, expansion might include incorporating a 5 week service project into the course which requires students to engage directly with the community. Awards up to \$5K.

Courses may teach undergraduate students or a combination of undergraduate and graduate students. ACE courses may be taught by an individual faculty member, a faculty 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. Faculty funding may be used for: a research fund (some restrictions apply); summer wages; or, release time. In some cases, proposals for summer courses will be considered.

#### 2. Academic Community Engagement Course Assistant Grants

The ACE Course Assistant Grants are intended to expand capacity of faculty to offer public community engagement experiences in their classes. These awards fund graduate or undergraduate students who provide academic community engagement courses with ongoing logistical and classroom support throughout the semester.

Application forms and examples of previously funded courses are available at:  
<http://www.virginia.edu/provost/public/courses.html>

Graduate students will receive \$3,000 per course. Faculty applying for ACE Course Assistant grants should be aware that ACE support for graduate students cannot interfere with other forms of funding the graduate student may be receiving. Undergraduate students will be paid \$2,000 per course. Students may only serve one course per semester as an ACE Course Assistant (supporting multiple discussion sections is still considered one course).

### **3. University Community Academic Partnership Grants**

The University Community Academic Partnership (UCAP) Assistance Grants are intended to enhance partnership capacity not covered by course assistant funds or faculty fellow funds. UCAP funds must support academic service learning experiences which may include community engagement with faculty research projects or participation in credit-bearing university courses. Funds may support community partner honoraria, training, workshops, publications or presentation needs, meeting space rental, materials and supplies. The funds are to help defray costs for collaborating with the university on academically-engaged service projects. Awards will be up to \$1,000 per fiscal year.

#### **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.

- Engaged community service occurs via reciprocal and mutually beneficial partnerships between the university and the community.
- 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 partnerships, university faculty, students, and community members seek to collaborate in a reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationship. The group functions as co-researchers who 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 community engagement project may be local, regional, national, or international.

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## **Goal/Purpose of the Funds**

The ACE grants 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. Courses are to be offered during the regular academic year. Interdisciplinary collaborations across departments are encouraged. Department chairs must agree to offering the course at least three times in five years.

## **Basic Criteria for ACE Courses**

ACE courses should be designed to:

- Involve students in a community service project/community-based research activity that is substantially integrated into the academic curriculum.
- 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).
- Develop the community service/research component cooperatively with community partners so that it meets needs identified by the community.
- Prepare and train students for their work in the community.
- Assess the impact of activities on student learning and the community.

## **Good ACE applications would include:**

- Innovation and Academic Rigor: 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.
- Community Impact: the community service/community-based research project is expected to demonstrably and positively affect the community being served.
- 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 the community partner. For selected resources, visit <http://www.virginia.edu/provost/public>

## **Special Consideration:**

We encourage proposals that seek to engage:

- The 10<sup>th</sup> and Page neighborhood adjacent to the University. *Please advise Ida Lee Wootten, director of community relations, of your intention to partner with the 10<sup>th</sup> and Page neighborhood prior to applying.*
- 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.*

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## Expectations of Award Recipients

Faculty recipients of ACE awards should plan to:

- Attend two meetings each year to discuss project challenges, successes, and best practices with other grant recipients and invited speakers.
- 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.
- 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
  - number of hours served and community members affected directly or indirectly
  - use of funding
  - plans for sustainability of the course and the community partnership

## Eligibility

Application is open to any full-time tenure or non-tenure track faculty member currently teaching courses at the University of Virginia. Previous applicants may reapply if they did not receive an ACE Faculty Fellow grant (to develop a new course or expand an existing course). Previous ACE Faculty Fellow recipients may only apply for an ACE Course Assistant grant or a UCAP grant.

## Institutional Review Board

All ACE applicants who are considering publishing the results from their course's community research project are strongly encouraged to contact the Institutional Review Board for guidance well before the start of the course. <http://www.virginia.edu/vpr/irb/>

## Process

- a. **Deadline** to submit applications is 5pm, **April 20, 2009**.
- b. Applicants will be notified by May 18, 2009.
- c. Submit electronic copies to:
  - Megan Raymond
  - [meganr@virginia.edu](mailto:meganr@virginia.edu)
  - University Community Partnerships
  - P.O. Box 400308
  - Booker House, 1709 University Ave.

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