Have you been thinking about doing an online course, or perhaps another one? Perhaps you have been thinking about trying your hand at designing a diversity course? This Minnesota State University strategic priority funded project is intended to encourage faculty members to create online courses that will meet the new diversity requirements. While we all know the importance of both online and diversity courses for the university, The Administration and Staff of the CSBS Dean’s Office thought the work needed to meet these important goals might be a little more interesting if we created a competition. Toward that objective, we are offering $2,000 for the ten most impressive newly developed online diversity courses. The grant proposal was written by CSBS people for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. We have, however, decided to invite the other colleges to participate and have reserved four of the ten awards for faculty members outside of CSBS.

Rationale

Minnesota State Mankato has a Diverse Cultures Graduation Requirement (DCGR), which includes Purple courses (content) and Gold courses (reflective and experiential). Beginning in 2010-2011 all incoming students are required to complete one Purple and one Gold course prior to graduation. Adding online diversity courses increases students’ ability to meet this requirement in a timely manner – thereby helping our students and supporting our retention goals. This project also supports our goal to increase our online offerings.

Award

$2,000 award: Funds must be taken on days not listed as regular duty days, and will be awarded at the end of the next fiscal year.

Measurable outcomes

The measurable outcome of this project is a new online diversity course that meets the graduation diversity requirement. Faculty members should address specific diversity outcome measures relative to their particular proposed new course.

Methods to assess effectiveness

An initial one page plan will be accepted as an indication of your entry into the contest. This will be a very course first step in the screening process. Most of these proposals will be accepted and those that are not will be returned for revision if they are sufficiently close to the intent of the project. If we have not heard from you by the end of Fall Semester you will be contacted to determine if you still plan on continuing with the project.

The newly created course must be approved through the curriculum process and available for scheduling by the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. The author must provide proof of the course completion, approval, and readiness for offering. A copy of the course syllabus should be included.

During the final screening, points will be awarded in the following order, with the first set of conditions resulting in the most points and so on:

1. Final course is completely new, is online, meets the gold diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
2. Final course is completely new, is online, meets the purple diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
3. Final course is a converted existing face to face course so that it is newly online, newly meets the gold diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
4. Final course is a converted existing face to face course so that it is newly online, newly meets the purple diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
5. Final course has already been online, is newly converted to meet the gold diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
6. Final course has already been online, is newly converted to meet the purple diversity requirement, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often.
7. Final course is a converted existing face to face gold diversity course that is newly online, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often (may not have to go through curriculum process.)
8. Final course is a converted existing face to face purple diversity course that is newly online, will be offered regularly, and will be offered often (may not have to go through curriculum process.)

**Sorry, already existing online diversity courses will not qualify for this competition since this project is for the purpose of generating new courses.**

Beyond these sets of conditions, the variations in the frequency with which the course is proposed to be offered and the variations in the overall quality of the course as a contribution to online and diversity offerings will be assessed. Clarity and relevance of the course specifically to the Purple and Gold Diversity requirement, and demonstrated pedagogical or methodological innovation will also be considered. The author of the course should identify a method for evaluating the extent to which the course, once implemented, will increase knowledge related to diversity.

A subcommittee of the CSBS Teaching and Learning committee and the CSBS Diversity Committee will be asked to evaluate the proposals. If there are an insufficient number of proposals that meet the criteria, remaining funds will be returned to the President’s Office. We are, of course, hoping for many. This is an opportunity to exercise your curriculum development skills and participate in a friendly competition at the same time. We realize that $2000 is not a lot of money, but we usually do this work as part of our job. Why not make it a little more interesting?

As part of fulfilling the grant expectations, long term follow-up assessment will be conducted to determine whether the course is being offered successfully.

**Project sustainability**

It is expected that faculty members will be willing to offer these course in the future, because they have already completed the development phase of the course.

**Timeline**

*Submit 1 page entry proposal abstract by September 1, 2010.*

*Develop the online diversity course and complete the curriculum approval process with all needed documentation by no later than the end of the last UCAP meeting spring semester, 2011.*

*Winners announced before the end of spring semester, 2011.*

*Awarded extra duty days will be assigned for summer, 2011.*

**Contact**

Questions about proposals may be directed to John Alessio or Denise Thompson.
Proposal Guidelines

Procedures

1. All probationary and tenured faculty members in the University are eligible to apply.

2. Proposal abstracts should be no more than 1 page in length and should include:
   - Faculty Member’s Name
   - Project Course Title
   - Project Type (Purple or Gold):
   - Signature and date
   - Department Chair’s signature and date

3. Submit two copies of your signed proposal to the Dean’s office, AH 111, by September 1, 2010.

4. Project feedback will be provided and work will begin.

5. Project will be concluded according to the previously identified timeline.