

The Lakeland Foundation
Faculty Challenge Grants
Guidelines
January 2008

The Faculty Challenge Grant Program encourages and supports innovative and creative activities for improvement of instruction, learning and professional development. Grants are available for both full- and part-time members of the Lakeland Community College faculty. Grants are awarded by The Lakeland Foundation's Project Review Committee in consultation with the college's Excellence in Teaching Committee. The Faculty Challenge Grant Program has three components:

Enhancing learning effectiveness – programs that improve students' ability to learn

Enhancing learning effectiveness through use of technology – programs that improve students' ability to learn by making use of technology

Encouraging innovation through programs that enhance faculty effectiveness, improve program vitality or enhance the college's ability to meet the needs of a diverse student population

Priority Consideration

While the program aims to encourage applications that generally come under any of the three project areas, the Faculty Challenge Grant Program will give priority to the following:

Proposals that provide a portion of their funding from another internal (Lakeland) or external (an outside foundation or individual donor) funding source. The grant program encourages such cost-sharing where possible.

Proposals that do not include normal college budget items - e.g. development of curriculum, normal travel.

Proposals that have significant impact across a significant part of the college community – not just relatively narrow impact on a small group of faculty or students.

Proposals for which dollars – internal or external – are not available from other sources and therefore proposals that could only “happen” through allocation of these funds. (Since these guidelines also encourage shared funding, applicants must be able to show that they have approached other funding sources without success.)

Proposals with implementation periods of not more than one year. Grantees can request extensions.

Proposals that include conference travel can only be considered if the conference will result in a direct application of what is learned to meeting the goals of this program. Applicants must demonstrate that departmental dollars for travel are exhausted/not available or are being in some way already applied to this project.

Grants will normally not be awarded for curriculum development except as it deals with using technology.

Proposals are encouraged from teams of faculty, especially teams that represent various departments or disciplines.

“Flagship” program proposals – those with significant impact across the college community – are encouraged.

Historically, funding of these types of grants has been an average of \$1,500 - \$2,000. Other requests – again especially for “flagship” programs - can exceed that amount.

Process

The Project Review Committee and Excellence in Teaching Committee will work together to promote the availability of grants, to ensure that the college community understands the process and to ensure that they know the deadlines for submitting proposals. They will provide technical assistance to faculty who request it.

Applicants must submit proposals on current forms; proposals submitted after the due date will not be considered in a particular round.

Proposals must be signed by the faculty member applicant or applicants and by the appropriate dean; we encourage comments by the dean.

The dean must note whether any dollars are available – and how much – in the division budget or elsewhere for the proposed program.

All proposals will be reviewed by the Excellence in Teaching Committee. The Excellence in Teaching Committee will forward all proposals to the Project Review Committee with a recommendation with each that it be funded, not funded, funded under some designated circumstance and at what level it should be funded. The Project Review Committee encourages comments on each proposal from the Excellence in Teaching Committee.

The Project Review Committee will review and decide on each proposal both on its merits and in terms of dollars available.

The Foundation Board of Directors will finalize decisions of the committee.

Awardees must provide written reports to the committee at the six month point and on conclusion of the project. Awardees must show the impact of the project and must share the results with the college community in a manner determined by the Project Review Committee. (The committee will consider making these reports available in writing to the college community or providing a venue in which grantees can present findings to the college community.)

June 29, 2007

Revised September 2007

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