

Center for Collaboration & Inquiry: Request for Proposals

Program Title: Classroom Teaching Resources Program

Program Synopsis

CCI is launching a pilot grant program to provide funds for faculty in Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Education to purchase materials that can be used to improve learning during non-lab based classes. Educational research indicates that learning is enhanced when the students are actively engaged in classes where they have opportunities to work on exercises that are related to major concepts - a "minds-on" approach. This approach

can be even more useful when tied to the manipulation of appropriate objects or materials as part of the activity - a "hands-on, minds-on" approach. Examples of these types of activities might include the:

- Use of hand-held white-boards to draw diagrams or show calculations for group responses to questions.
- Construction of models of natural systems using simple materials.
- Analysis of real-world data sets or images (e.g., maps, photographs).
- Classification and/or interpretation of unlabelled natural samples.
- Presentation of fundamental math concepts using manipulatives.
- Incorporation of sample multicultural literature books in a discussion of teaching diverse children.

The goal of this grant program is to allow individual faculty or departments to purchase items that can be used in one or more courses to improve student learning. Ideally these items would be permanently added to the department resources and could be utilized by more than one faculty member on multiple occasions.

Award Information

The number and size of awards will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the availability of funds.

Grants to individual faculty are expected to have a maximum value of \$500 and departmental awards may be up to \$1,000. We anticipate making 3-6 awards.

Due Date

Proposals are due by Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

Proposal Preparation

The text of the proposal should not exceed two pages (single spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins) and should contain the following sections:

- **Title:** Should indicate the nature of the project.
- **Goals and Objectives:** Describe the goals clearly and concisely, relating them, as appropriate, to course, departmental, or college needs.
- **Detailed Project Plan:** This should be the longest section of the Project Description. Describe the project's features, clearly delineating the need or problem you will address, what you plan to do, how you plan to achieve the outcomes expected from the project, the timetable for executing the project, and the teaching resources necessary for realizing the project's objectives. Where appropriate, include evidence of past successes that support the methods you plan to use. The most competitive proposals will be those that either refer to an existing research base or provide credible plans to assess the impact of educational practices and materials on student learning. Identify the classes that would be targeted and the

approximate number of students who would be affected.

- **Investigator(s):** Briefly describe the experience and capability of those involved in the project.
- **Budget:** Indicate how the requested funds will be expended.

Proposal Reviews

A team of faculty representatives from the Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences will review proposals. Awards will be made on the basis of the potential for project success, the number of students to be impacted, and the frequency of use of the requested materials.