Creating Entrepreneurial Classrooms

The Creating Entrepreneurial Classrooms (CEC) initiative at The University of Akron, funded by The Burton D. Morgan Foundation, is seeking to fund innovative projects up to $10,000 that help students across a multitude of disciplines build an entrepreneurial mindset and learn how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the problems highlighted in, and the tools used within, their disciplines. The initiative seeks to focus on classrooms and disciplines where the entrepreneurial mindset is not often emphasized.

An entrepreneurial mindset describes how entrepreneurs sense, act, and mobilize under uncertain conditions (Ireland et al., 2003) in the pursuit of opportunities (McMullen & Shepherd, 2006). Building an entrepreneurial mindset, or becoming a creative problem solver, or mastering the tools of design thinking—whatever label you choose—equips students with a transferable toolset to approach the uncertain conditions of an ever-changing world.

Context is important in entrepreneurship – from the next Google, to micro lending, to social ventures rebuilding community, it was an entrepreneurial mindset that made the difference. This is a rich action-oriented research opportunity to help students better understand the entrepreneurial mindset and where it may make the difference in their coursework, major, or career path. This grant provides faculty with an opportunity to embark upon a journey to build knowledge about the entrepreneurial mindset in a domain that has not traditionally applied it.

Successful applicants should expect to create a new experience for their students in one of their courses. They should also include a research effort in their proposal with the intention of submitting their work to a relevant pedagogical journal. This effort will help applicants identify appropriate linkages in their domain with an entrepreneurial mindset and further build a knowledge base for future research.

An advisory committee will review applications and select eligible projects for award. A tentative timeline is below:

**Tentative Timeline**

- Mid-October: Projects Selected / Project Begin
- November 15: Awardee Seminar – Knowledge Sharing
- Early Spring 2021 Semester: Check-in Public Presentation
- End of Summer 2021: Public Presentation on Project
- Fall 2021 Semester: Further Integration & Mentoring

Our objective is to encourage faculty to participate in larger communities already deeply engaged in this area of inquiry. Grant funds cannot be used for faculty salary or stipends - only for eligible expenses related to the project. This may include conferences & training, learning new approaches to teaching and learning, material development, research expenditures, case studies, and other expenses necessary in building new knowledge. Use of funds must also be compliant with appropriate rules and regulations. For more information please visit the Office of Research Administration website: https://www.uakron.edu/research/ora/
Awardees will, in the year following the implementation of their own project, also serve as a peer mentor to help other faculty integrate such concepts into their courses and build upon the work already done.

Full proposals are limited to two pages and should address:

- A concept plan of the project
  - A general description of the project
  - How you plan on assisting students in understanding the entrepreneurial mindset in your classroom
  - What resources will assist in completing this project
  - What are outcomes of this project for:
    ▪ Faculty peers (inside and outside your discipline)
    ▪ Your discipline
    ▪ Students in your classes
    ▪ The greater community
  - A general description of the research component & research design
    ▪ What methods will you use?
  - How will you evaluate results in the classroom?
    ▪ How might you measure elements of an entrepreneurial mindset?
    ▪ How will students be assessed on learning outcomes related to an entrepreneurial mindset?
- A general timeline of the project & planned use of funds
- What publication outlet you will aim to submit your research

Please submit your full proposal here. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Joseph Fox (jfox1@uakron.edu).