

**EX[L] Center for Experiential Learning
The EX[L] Faculty Fellowship
Request for Proposals 2018
Deadline for submission August 3rd**

EX[L] Mission

EX[L]'s mission is to help students emerge as civically-engaged, adaptable leaders, ready to join in the enterprise of building strong and sustainable communities by promoting hands-on, community-based, problem-centered learning.

EX[L] Goals

- To support, expand, and create new experiential learning programs;
- To assist faculty with overcoming barriers to innovative, interdisciplinary, experiential teaching while also advancing their academic trajectories;
- To provide opportunities for students to explore and take initiative in interdisciplinary and other innovative pathways to effective learning; and
- To sustain existing, and develop new community partnerships that bring UA students and local business and non-profit change-makers together to advance learning while enriching the fabric of the greater Akron community.

Origin of the Faculty Fellowship

Dr. Matt Lee (formerly UA Sociology) is the newly appointed Director of Empirical Research at Harvard University's Program on Integrative Knowledge and Human Flourishing. An inspiring teacher and scholar, Dr. Lee will be missed as a part of the EX[L] and UA community. While at UA, he was instrumental in the development of the EX[L] Center and served as a founding member, and then chair of the Faculty Advisory Council. His many innovative courses engaging students' "heads, hearts, and hands" and his generous participation in a teaching *community of practice* have had a lasting impact on the way experiential learning happens at UA. Dr. Lee led by example, dedicating his sabbatical time last year to the sort of activity this Fellowship seeks to encourage. The Fellowship honors him and it is our hope that his insights and approach to teaching and research will catalyze further growth and development among faculty here.

The Faculty Fellowship awards the recipient \$5000 to support one year of focused professional development that aligns with both EX[L] objectives and the faculty member's own disciplinary work.

A primary goal of the Fellowship will be to advance scholarly engagement with the EX[L] Center. In addition to stimulating the faculty member's research and teaching practices, this engagement should do one or more of the following: explore and

further develop relevant pedagogical philosophy, build capacity or enhance the effectiveness of EX[L], enrich communities of practice on campus.

Proposal Details

Focusing primarily on the second of EX[L] goals above, the EX[L] co-directors and Faculty Steering Committee have developed the following guidelines.

Proposals are limited to two-pages (front-side) with 11 pt. font (minimum); in addition, faculty should submit a current biosketch (1/2 page) that addresses faculty interests and experiences related to this project. Documents should be submitted electronically to Carolyn Behrman, EX[L] Co-Director via email (behrman@uakron.edu) by August 3, 2018. Proposals will be reviewed by the EX[L] Faculty Steering Committee with the Fellowship awarded by August 24, 2018. It is expected that proposal projects will be completed by the end of the 2018- 2019 fiscal year (ending June 30, 2019).

In 2 pages or fewer, proposals should address the following:

Description and objectives of the proposed project/research, including addressing:

- What need is being met through your proposed project/research?
- In what way does your proposed project/research further deepen your teaching practice and/or scholarship?
- In what way does your proposed project/research explore and further develop relevant pedagogical philosophy, build capacity or enhance the effectiveness of EX[L], and/or promote communities of practice on campus or in discipline?
- In what way does your proposed project/research further the mission of the EX[L] Center?

What deliverables or outcomes do you anticipate producing through this fellowship period?

- Address how success will be defined for your proposed project/research
- Address how products will help build capacity for innovative and/or interdisciplinary experiential learning for students at UA.

If any aspect of these criteria prevent you from adequately explaining your innovative idea, ignore that aspect and focus on explaining your idea. We will read and consider all submissions and we do not want our expectations outlined here to suffocate any colleagues' creativity. At the same time, if we conclude that the criteria you chose to ignore could have been meaningfully addressed in your proposal that will weaken your submission.