EX[L] Center
Faculty-Driven Initiatives
Requests for Proposals

**Background**

The Experiential Learning Center for Entrepreneurship and Civic Engagement, or EX[L] Center, was formed in 2015 as a means to more efficiently facilitate experiential learning at UA. To that end, a main goal of the EX[L] Center is to “to support, expand, and create new, transcripted, experiential learning opportunities available to all UA students.”

Experiential learning opportunities are critically important aspects of a university education, because these provide students and faculty with a chance to learn more deeply by applying scholarly insights and rigorous analytical skills learned on campus to real world problems.

At The University of Akron, experiential learning already exists in many forms. However, in an effort to expand the number of students involved and the range of opportunities available to students, the EXL Center aims to support a number of faculty-led proposals each year that represent innovative, even entrepreneurial, ways to engage students in experiential learning. These proposals should be first shaped by what faculty and students would like to explore (they should be inquiry driven and problem solving focused) as significant and beneficial learning experiences to UA students. The EXL Center supported three faculty-driven projects in year one (*Paha Sapa Program*, *Unclasses*, and *Right Message, Right Messenger: The Currency of Compassion*).

As a faculty-led program, we are inviting all tenured, tenure track (TT), and non-tenure track (NTT) faculty to apply for support for their ideas for this second year. Described projects may be experimental in nature, such as pilot projects in an area, or broader templates that create the framework for future activities.

**Proposal Details**

Proposals are limited to two-pages (front-side) with 11 pt. font (minimum) and should be submitted to Carolyn Behrman, EXL Center Faculty Collaboration Director by Friday, December 2, 2016. It is expected that proposed projects will commence in the summer or fall of 2017 and that all funds will be spent by the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (ending June 30, 2018). Proposals may be resubmitted for subsequent years if appropriate.

Proposals should address the following within the two-page limit:

- A brief statement on the objective(s) of the proposed activity and what particular need this experiential opportunity is addressing for the student
- A brief discussion addressing how the objectives of the proposal will be evaluated (i.e. what will determine if the activity is successful)
• How the scope of the proposed activities fit with the goals of the EXL Center, including how the activities cross multiple disciplinary units, if applicable
• A description of how the EXL Center can assist, financially or administratively, in developing achieving the objectives and goals of the proposal
• A brief budget (included in the two-page limit) written in narrative form. If the project is leveraging other funds in support of this work (internal or external), please indicate this as well
• The number of UA students this activity will impact during its execution and nature and intensity of that impact
• The degree to which this activity meets curricular requirements within a program or programs (sometimes not possible in the short term with very innovative ideas, but when possible this is preferred)
• A brief statement on the possible expansion of this activity to impact a larger number of students after the pilot phase
• Describe community/industry partnerships, as appropriate
• If any aspect of these criteria prevents you from adequately explaining your innovative idea, ignore that criteria and focus on explaining your idea. We will absolutely 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.

Additionally, it is requested that each faculty member involved in the proposal submit a brief (1/2 page) biography that provides a background underscoring their interest and experience as it relates to this project.

Here are some of the current ways we deliver experiential learning to our students:

• Undergraduate Research
• Field Work
• Student Teaching
• Service Learning
• Community-based Research (Participatory Action Research)
• Internships
• Co-Ops
• Discipline-specific and Interdisciplinary Team Competitions
• Practicum
• Clinical
• Directed Volunteer or Co-Curricular Activities
• Study Abroad
• Juried Exhibitions and Performances