**Curricular Innovation in the Post-Pandemic Digital Age**
**Request for Proposals**
**Response Due:  January 15, 2021**

**Project Goals**:  In the age of COVID-19 and beyond, the University of Texas System and institutions have an opportunity to spur and support deeper curricular innovation.  This project is designed to reimagine experiential learning in core curriculum and/or high-enrollment gateway courses for hybrid and remote learning environments that will strengthen relevance, responsiveness and resilience in UT System students and academic universities.

**Description**:  The UT System Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to make available funds to seed campus projects to develop virtual and hybrid models for experiential and project-based learning in the core curriculum and/or high-enrollment gateway courses.  A total of $150, 000 is available.  Projects will be funded at up to $5,000 (for individuals), $8,000 (for collaborations within a single institution), and $12,000 (for cross-institution collaborations).  Funds will be awarded primarily as stipends to compensate faculty and staff time; S & E required for project development and/or collaboration needs may also be designated in proposal budgets (see below).

Strong proposals will include some of the following components:

1) Reach the historically underserved students in the UT System, including adults, low-income, first-generation, transfer students and students of color.
2) Embed interdisciplinary, experiential and project-based learning into the curriculum focused on, e.g., essential learning outcomes, critical literacies, industry-relevant skills and the future of work.
3) Lead to curricula focused on solving the state/nation/globe's most vexing challenges (pandemics, institutionalized racism, energy, water, human migration, health disparities, etc.--all global challenges right here in Texas).
4) Reimagine existing High-Impact Practices (HIPs) that can be delivered remotely, including internships, study abroad and study away ("global learning at home" programs), community-based and service learning.
5) Support collaboration within and among faculty and other institutional units, across UT institutions, and with industry and community partners.
6) Leverage the digital age through curricula that are online, hybrid and F2F, as well as modular, competency- or credential-based.

Collaboration is strongly encouraged, especially across academic institutions.  While focused on the Core Curriculum and/or high-enrollment gateway courses, projects might involve student affairs, libraries, career services, and others involved in providing HIPs and experiences to students.  Proposals including collaboration with external partners (industry, community-based, non-profit) will receive special consideration.

Institutions may submit up to four (4) proposals and final determination of which proposals are forwarded to UT System will be made by Provosts.  Proposals are encouraged from instructors at all levels, and from diverse departments and units as well as faculty and staff.

**Due Dates**:
Proposals are due on January 15, 2021, and should be sent to Dr. Archie Holmes, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, at aholmes@utsystem.edu.  Provosts should determine internal due dates for proposals from their institutions accordingly.

**Funding Model**:  Funding will be allocated to faculty, departments and/or units for defined scope of work, through service agreements between the UT System and the institutional lead(s) as compensation for time spent on the redesign process.  The funding is not meant for course implementation.

**Review Process**:  Proposals will be reviewed by a committee including institutional and UT System representatives.

Committee membership and size will be contingent on number of proposals received.  The review committee will have five (5) weeks to review proposals and select recipients.

**Grants Announced**:  Recipients will receive notification by February 26, 2021.

**Template for Submissions**: proposals should include the following:

- Cover page with sign-off from Provost (please use the template provided).
- Scope of work to include:

  - project description and goals;
  - existing course or program selected for redesign;
  - description and estimated number of students served each academic year;
  - innovation and relevance to Core Curriculum, discipline, college and institution; and
  - identification of embedded learning outcomes, critical literacies, and/or workforce-aligned skills, along with internal and external partners (as relevant).

- Metrics and Evidence:  identify the metrics and evidence that will be used to evaluate the project's success.
- Proposals should answer the question, "why this course, why now?"
- Budget (please use the template provided):  stipend(s) to project lead(s); S & E.
- Proposals should be 6-10 pages, excluding the budget.

**Timeline**

- Provosts forward proposals to UT System Office of Academic Affairs – January 15, 2021
- Review committee selects projects and UT System notifies recipients – by February 26, 2021
- Expedited service agreements with UT System and funding to participants as soon as feasible, with work to take place during Spring and Summer 2021
- Course redesigns submitted to UT System Office of Academic Affairs – August 31, 2021
- Redesigned course implementation – Fall 2021
- Project reports due to UT System – January 2022
- UT System curricular innovation showcase of institutional projects – February 2022

***Please direct questions to Dr. Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, at rkaroff@utsystem.edu.***