

**The EX[L] Center for Experiential Learning and the Institute for Teaching and Learning announce the  
EXL/ITL Pedagogical Exploration Fellowship  
Application Guidelines 2020-2021**

**Origin of the Fellowship**

Originally called the EX[L] Faculty Fellowship, this opportunity was shaped by the experience of Dr. Matt Lee who used his experience with EX[L] and Open-Space Teaching to shape his Faculty Development Leave goals.

**Goal and Award**

The EX[L]/ITL Pedagogical Exploration Fellowship (PEF) awards the recipient \$5000 to support one year of focused professional development that aligns with ITL and EX[L]'s missions *and* the faculty member's own disciplinary trajectory in experiential learning.

A primary goal of the PEF 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 and/or enhance the effectiveness of EX[L], and enrich communities of practice on campus.

**Proposal Details**

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

Proposals are limited to two-page (single side, 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 Christin Seher, EXL Co-Director via email [cseher@uakron.edu](mailto:cseher@uakron.edu)) by **September 25, 2020**. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of the EXL Faculty Steering Committee. The fellowship will be awarded by October 9, 2020. It is expected that proposal projects will be completed by the end of the 2020- 2021 fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021).

Proposals should address the following:

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

- What need within your discipline is being met through your proposed project/research?
- In what way does this activity deepen your particular teaching practice and

scholarship?

- In what way does this activity 1) explore and develop relevant pedagogical philosophy, 2) build capacity or enhance the effectiveness of EXL, and/or 3) promote communities of practice on campus or in your discipline?
- What deliverables or outcomes do you anticipate producing through this fellowship period?
- What does success look like for this project?

If any aspect of these criteria prevents 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 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.

#### *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.*

#### *ITL Mission*

- *The Institute for Teaching and Learning supports faculty by focusing on improving teaching and enhancing student learning. We offer workshops, information sessions, and training related to professional development, general education, student learning assessment, course design and development, and implementation of technology to enhance teaching.*