



MERRIMACK COLLEGE



Message from the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

It is always exciting to start a new semester and welcome the students back to our beautiful campus. On a personal note, it is wonderful and gratifying for me to start 2017 serving Merrimack College as Provost. I sincerely look forward to working with you on many academic initiatives. My plan this semester is to send off a short note to you each week on Monday morning to briefly discuss important news, announcements, and social activities from the academic community at Merrimack College. All of this information will also be recorded in [The Merrimack College Record](#) and posted on the [Provost Facebook](#) page and/or [website](#).

Go Warriors!

Allan Weatherwax, Provost

January 23, 2017

Open Office Hours with the Provost

Starting February 1, 2017, the Provost will have open office hours for faculty to drop in every Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Whether you have a specific topic or just want to say hi, all faculty are welcome to visit.

Faculty Development Grants Call for Proposals for 2017-18

The Faculty Development Grant Committee is now accepting proposals. Five (5) copies of all completed and signed application forms and supporting information should be sent to Laura Hall-Seelig, Mendel Hall 256, Mail Stop N5. **The deadline for applications is February 1, 2017.**

Application forms and details on application procedures are available in the [Faculty Handbook](#) under "Faculty Development Grants."

Provost Innovation Fund Call for Proposals for 2017-18

Employing Academic Technology to Enhance Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship

Purpose: The 2017 Provost Innovation Fund (PIF) *Call for Proposals* is focused on supporting innovative and collaborative faculty-led initiatives that employ academic technology to enhance teaching, learning, and scholarship in the classroom, laboratory, field and/or studio. Proposals should demonstrate clear linkage to the College's *Agenda for Distinction*.

The 2017 grant program is designed to offer a supplementary source of technology funding for collaborative teams. All faculty applying for projects will need to demonstrate at least Departmental-level impact for the proposed academic technology purchases. Priority will be given to proposals that emphasize intra and/or interdepartmental collaborations. In addition, collaborations and linkages between faculty and campus offices such as the McQuade Library, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and/or Instructional Technology are strongly encouraged.

This year's funding will **need** to be spent, and all academic technology encumbered, by June 1, 2017. Some key parameters of this year's grant program are noted below.

- The Academic Technology grant program will provide one-time funding for teaching and learning tools such as hardware, software, equipment, or any other relevant academic technology
- Reasonable recurring maintenance costs for hardware, software or technology beyond the grant period will be considered
- Reasonable training costs for learning how to use the technology are permitted
- Awards may not be used to fund or supplement pre-existing or in-process tools, services, or technology paid for by Departments, Schools, other grants, or the College
- Awards may not be used directly or indirectly for salary expenses

- A clear and concise rationale that outlines the implementation, use and evaluation of the impact of the technology will be required

Funding Level: There is no specific funding ceiling, although it is anticipated that grants would likely range from \$1,000 to \$30,000. If faculty have any questions about funding level, they should contact the Provost's Office to discuss their proposal.

Eligibility: Any and all collaborative groups of full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to submit an application. As noted above, all faculty applying for projects will need to demonstrate at least Departmental-level impact and priority will be given to proposals that emphasize intra and/or interdepartmental and multiple school collaborations.

How to Apply

Please submit a 1-2 page executive summary and estimated budget to the Office of the Provost by Wednesday, **February 15, 2017**. Please do not hesitate to discuss your ideas with our office in advance of the deadline. We want to work with you as needed. Each applicant will be notified in writing of the status of their application by February 28, 2017. All academic technology must be purchased by June 1, 2017.

We look forward to receiving your proposals and reviewing your efforts to enhance Merrimack College's teaching and learning. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Provost's Office.

Search for Grant Opportunities

Pivot Software Trial - Sponsored Funding Database

The search for private and federal funding opportunities at Merrimack is currently conducted by Corporate and Foundation Development (CFD) and Sponsored Programs (OSP). Many of our faculty and administrators are motivated to identify funding opportunities on their own, however they may lack the tools to facilitate those searches. Of the several subscription services available, Pivot is comprehensive (it generates lists of private and federal funding opportunities), is user friendly and allows for multiple users. Pivot also enables users to create individual profiles based on research interests. Users can then run their own funding searches and/or request the assistance of CFD and OSP. A subscription to Pivot will empower Merrimack faculty, staff and students to actively seek funding for their projects. This is one of many steps in building a sustainable infrastructure for sponsored programs.

The college is currently enrolled in a 30-day trial for the system through February 20, and we invite you to give it a try. For further information review [how to register and use the system](#).

CETL Course Design Tips

Watch for this weekly feature where you will learn a variety of tips and strategies that can help you in the classroom!

This week's tip: **Using Do Not Disturb** - Require students to place their device (iPhone, iPad, or laptop) in "Do Not Disturb" mode upon entering your class. This will allow students to use technology more efficiently in the classroom by reducing the distractions common with text messaging and social media. Make it a routine from Day One and include this policy on your syllabus. Do Not Disturb mode can be used on all devices. For iPad and iPhone: swipe up to access "control center" and tap the "moon." For Androids: tap "settings" > "Sound and Notification" > "Do Not Disturb."

First Year Experience Program Call for Instructors

The First Year Experience Program is now accepting applications from faculty and staff members interested in serving as instructors for the First Year Experience program during the fall 2017 semester. For more information please review the [role of FYE Instructors and application form](#).

First Year Experience Instructor candidates must have a master's degree, be an employee of the College for a full year at the start of the fall 2017 semester, obtain the signature of a current supervisor/department chair, and if they are a new applicant they must also attend a brief interview with one of the FYE Co-Chairs in the spring semester. The academic department in which an applicant has received their terminal degree will certify the qualifications of each FYE Instructor.

To apply, please complete the application form and send it via email to Dr. Jacob Turner at turnerjs@merrimack.edu or hard copy to 17 Cushing Hall, the Main Office for the Department of Communication and Media, no later than February 6, 2017.

Other Events this Week

January 25th

LISTENING TO THE CANARY IN THE MINE: HOW A SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION CAN HELP US RESTORE CIVIL SOCIETY

4:00-5:30 PM, Murray Lounge

Thomas Piñeros Shields, Ph.D., Lecturer in Sociology and Director of Master of Public Administration, UMass Lowell will give a talk on how the way we think about social problems impacts the actions we choose to take to address these issues.

January 26th

2016-2017 PAUL E. MURRAY SYMPOSIUM

12:30 - 3:30, Cascia Hall

[Dr. Jimmy Franco](#), Department of Chemistry, will give his talk titled, "The identification of L,D-transpeptidases inhibitors for the treatment of Tuberculosis."
Light refreshments will be served.

January 26th

THE CHALLENGE OF BIAS: THE CASE FOR GLOBAL INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

4:00 PM, Murray Lounge

Join us for the inaugural lecture of the Interdisciplinary Institute, where the keynote speaker will be Dr. Maghan Keita, Professor of History and the founding Director of the Institute for Global Interdisciplinary Studies at Villanova University. Drinks and appetizers will be served before and after the keynote address.

January 27th

Making Project-Based Learning Work for You

January 27, 2017: 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM. Location: Blue Line Club

Rich with many different examples including capstone projects, global-problem-focused projects, and smaller-scale projects, this full-day workshop facilitated by staff from the Center for Project-Based Learning at Worcester Polytechnic Institute will guide participants through a multi-step process to design effective project-based learning experiences. The workshop will culminate with each participant developing an action plan to incorporate project-based learning into work with students. Bring the learning outcomes that you use to guide your teaching. Feel free to invite a colleague and work together on a project!

Agenda

8:30 -9:00	Coffee and Informal Conversation
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:30	Elements and Learning Objective of Project-based Learning (Brief review)
9:30 -10:30	Examples of Different Types of Project-based Learning (Including Q & A)
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Designing Project Based Learning Experiences to Develop Specific Skills and Abilities - Part I: Articulating Outcomes
12:30-1:30	Designing Project-based Learning Experiences to Develop Specific Skills and Abilities - Part II : Identifying Evidence
1:30 - 2:30	Designing Project-based Learning Experiences to Develop Specific Skills and Abilities - Part III: Designing Project Assignments and Activities
2:30 - 2:45	Break
3:30 - 4:05	Creating Action Plans
4:05 - 4:15	Evaluation and Wrap Up

Register Now

Future Events

HURON CONSULTING GROUP Presenting the LS Core Evaluation

Peter Stokes from the Huron Consulting Group will be presenting the results of the Liberal Studies Core evaluation to each school. The schedule is below. Please try to attend your school's meeting if possible, but if you have a conflict, feel free to attend another meeting.

Girard School of Business

February 6, 2017

O'Reilly Hall room 310 / 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

School of Education and Social Policy

February 6, 2017

Cascia Hall / 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

School of Liberal Arts

February 6, 2017

Murray Lounge / 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

School of Science and Engineering

February 6, 2017

Cascia Hall / 11 AM - NOON

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