

PROVOST BULLETIN

September 13, 2021



Greetings

The semester is now underway, and I hope your classes are going well so far. It promises to be an invigorating and challenging year ahead. As an Augustinian institution, we recognize that the individual members of our community can thrive when our community is attentive, welcoming and supportive. I ask that faculty and staff alike be mindful of the needs of those around us to ensure that we all begin this year's academic journey secure in the knowledge that none of us are walking alone.

In this week's Bulletin, I draw your

The first provides support for developing pilot exploration courses, and the second supports faculty teaching circles. More development support for teaching and research will be announced in an upcoming Bulletin.

I look forward to seeing you at Faculty Senate on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.

In addition to an address from President Hopey, I will introduce the 14 full-time faculty who have joined our ranks this year, and also recognize the 13 full-time

development.

- John "Sean" Condon, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Wednesday, Sept. 15: Sabbatical Applications due to Department Chair (with copies to Dean and Provost's Office).

Friday, Sept. 17: Block Party, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Faculty Senate Meeting, 4 p.m. The first meeting will be dual modality with in-person attendance option and reception to follow; location TBA. The meeting will include an address by President Hopey and an introduction of new faculty by the Provost.

Tuesday, Sept. 21: Faculty Reception Following the Senate Meeting. Please join us for a faculty reception after the Senate Meeting. The reception will take place in the tent outside the Rogers Center.

Saturday, Sept. 25: Admissions Open House

Friday, Oct. 1: Deadline to notify Provost, Dean, and Department Chair of intent to seek promotion to full professor in 2021-22.

Proposals

Faculty interested in applying to be a part of a Faculty Learning Community to develop Explorations Course Pilots, [please see the call listed here](#). Stipends for participation in the Faculty Learning Communities are funded by the Davis Education Foundation and President Hopey's initiatives on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Civic and Community Engagement

Award: \$4,000.00 stipend

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021.

Applications should be submitted using the [Explorations Pilot Course Development Application](#).

There will also be two informational sessions that faculty may attend to learn more about this opportunity:

- Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. - Arcidi Meeting Room B (light refreshments will be served)
- Monday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. - [Virtual Zoom Session](#) (meeting ID: 932 5088 9764; passcode: 047940)
- Tuesday, Sept. 21 at noon - Grab a lunch and bring it to the Mack Club Conference Room (space is limited)

[RSVP](#) here to attend either informational session. For more information and for questions, contact the General Education Committee at gec@merrimack.edu.

CETL: Teaching Circle Call for Proposals

As part of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) program of support for faculty development and teaching innovation, we are pleased to announce a call for proposals for the 2021/22 CETL Fall-Spring Teaching Circles program. Circles are composed of faculty from across departments and are self-directed within the general structure of the teaching circles. The collegial nature of the circle is intended to foster openness, mutual support, and innovation. Teaching circles are founded on the idea that teachers can learn from each other. For more information on proposing a circle visit [CETL Teaching Circles](#).

Nominating Students for the Professional Development Retreat

connections with members of Merrimack's Board of Trustees, the College Leadership Council, alumni and corporate partners to help support their professional growth.

The PDR is Nov. 4-5, 2021, and selected students must attend one orientation session. This year's retreat will be held in Boston at the Hotel Commonwealth with views of Fenway Park.

Topics throughout the Retreat include:

- Utilizing strengths and skills to influence outcomes in a project-based environment
- Networking, both a workshop and sessions with alumni, friends and industry partners of Merrimack College
- Effective collaboration and the impact of professional presence within a group
- Communication styles, and articulation of strengths and skills in an interview setting

[Please complete this quick form](#) to nominate any student(s) you believe should be invited to this premiere Merrimack College event. Students will receive a personalized invitation and a request to complete an application as well as a Quinnia interview. The deadline for applications is Monday, Sept. 20 at midnight.

Please contact Samantha Medina via email medinas@merrimack.edu or phone 978-837-5439 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your nominations!

Centering DEI in the Classroom and Beyond

In preparation for a new and exciting academic year, we have compiled a [list of resources](#), designed to help faculty and students embrace education as an inclusive practice. Faculty are also invited to join a virtual community of practice to share resources and discuss student responses. If you are interested in joining this community, please email diversity@merrimack.edu.

McQuade Library Hours



The McQuade Library has started its fall 24/5 hours. 24/5 means that the Library opens at 10 a.m. on Sundays and remains open 24 hours until midnight on Fridays. The library is open 10 a.m.-midnight on Saturdays. Library staff are available to assist you.

McQuade's virtual library is always open for access to ebooks, journal articles, databases and streaming media. Faculty, staff and students can access e-resources off campus by using their Merrimack email credentials (note: please log in with your username only, without the @merrimack.edu).

Please submit book, video (online and physical) and Reserve requests as soon as possible to ensure availability by the time they are needed. Requests can be submitted to mcquade@merrimack.edu.

Faculty Openings on the Institutional Research Board (IRB)

There are faculty openings for the 2021-22 academic year on Merrimack's Institutional Research Board (IRB). IRB members are appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

An IRB should be composed of individuals with varying backgrounds to promote the complete and adequate review of research activities commonly conducted by the College. As noted in the faculty handbook, the IRB should be sufficiently qualified through the experience and expertise of its members and the diversity of its members, including consideration of race, gender, cultural backgrounds and sensitivity to such issues.

[Learn more about Merrimack's IRB](#) and please contact the Office of the Provost at officeoftheprovoat@merrimack.edu, if you are interested in serving as a member of Merrimack's IRB.

Fall 2021 Unity in Diversity Days



Mark your calendar! The Fall 2021 Unity in Diversity Days are now set as Tuesday, Oct. 19, and Wednesday, Oct. 20. More information about the program and strategies to integrate this work into the curriculum and other campus activities is forthcoming.

If you have ideas for topics or speakers and/or are interested in integrating the event into your syllabus, please contact diversity@merrimack.edu.

Please continue to check the [DEI webpage](#) for a draft program and a comprehensive list of upcoming events.

Leadership and Professional Development

As part of Merrimack's ongoing efforts to invest in and build the capacity of faculty and staff, the College has purchased a license through Academic Impressions, a platform that provides extensive online leadership and professional development resources specifically for employees at colleges and universities.

This partnership will provide faculty and staff with access to:

- Hundreds of hours of online training, both live and on-demand (with new training added weekly)
- All Academic Impressions virtual conferences
- Hundreds of additional tools, resources and articles
- Exclusive member resources for: [current and aspiring women leaders](#), [improving online teaching and student support](#), [the latest DEI resources](#) and [academic leaders](#)

- Direct access to the Academic Impressions research team to discuss emerging topics

To start accessing these resources, [log in to the Academic Impressions website](#) using your Merrimack College credentials. Member benefits will be granted automatically.

External Funding Opportunities

Below you will find a couple of upcoming external funding opportunities. If you have any questions regarding submitting an external grant, please email the Office of Sponsored Programs at research@merrimack.edu. If you are planning to submit an external grant, please fill out Merrimack's [intent to propose form](#).

NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Research Initiation Initiative (CRII) [21-591]

The NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) seeks to award grants intended to support research independence among early-career academics who specifically lack access to adequate organizational or other resources. It is expected that funds obtained through this program will be used to support untenured faculty, research scientists or equivalents in their first three years in a primary academic position after the Ph.D. Applicants should be no more than six years removed from completing their Ph.D. for proposals submitted in 2021 and no more than five years removed for proposals submitted after 2022.

Applicants for this program may not yet have received any other grants or contracts in the PI role from any department, agency or institution of the federal government, including from the CAREER program or any other program, post-Ph.D., regardless of the size of the grant or contract. Certain exceptions are noted below. Serving as co-PI, Senior Personnel, Postdoctoral Fellow or other Fellow does not count against this eligibility rule.

The CRII program seeks to provide essential resources to enable early-career PIs to launch their research careers. For the purposes of this program, CISE defines "essential resources" as sufficient funds for 48 months of graduate student support. Faculty at undergraduate and two-year institutions may use funds to support undergraduate students and may optionally use the additional RUI designation, which requires inclusion of a RUI Certification and RUI Impact Statement.

Visit [this website](#) for additional information. Submissions from all institutions may use funds for PI salary, postdoctoral scholars, travel, and/or research equipment.

Website: [Computer and Information Science and Engineering Research Initiation Initiative](#)

NIH/NIGMS Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (R35 - Clinical Trial Optional) [PAR-19-367]

The Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) provides support for the program of research in an investigator's laboratory that is within the mission of National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The goal of MIRA is to increase the efficiency and efficacy of NIGMS funding.

It is anticipated that this program will:

- Increase the stability of funding for NIGMS-supported investigators, which could enhance their ability to take on ambitious scientific projects and approach problems more creatively;
- Increase flexibility for investigators to follow important new research directions within the NIGMS mission as opportunities arise, rather than being bound to specific aims proposed in advance of the studies;
- More widely distribute funding among the nation's highly talented and promising investigators to increase overall scientific productivity and the chances for important breakthroughs;
- Reduce the time spent by researchers writing and reviewing grant applications, allowing them to spend more time conducting research;
- Enable investigators to devote more time and energy to mentoring trainees in a more stable research environment.

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) allows both new applications from eligible NIGMS-funded investigators and renewal applications from current established and early-stage MIRA grantees.

Deadline: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022

Award Details: Maximum of \$750,000 in direct costs per year for five years

Website: [Maximizing Investigators' Research Award](#)

Share your News



News to share?

To submit an event or news item in a future bulletin, please fill out this google form:
<https://tinyurl.com/ProvostBulletin>



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