

Announcement of a New Indiana University School of Education Initiative to Enhance Distance Education

Initiative for Distance Education Advancement, the New IDEA Project funded internally by the School of Education

Application deadlines

5 p.m. January 15, 2009 for Training & Planning Program

5 p.m. January 15, 2009 for Round 1 for Development & Implementation Grants

5 p.m. April 24, 2009 for Round 2 for Development & Implementation Grants

Background & Introduction

The purpose of the New Initiative for Distance Education Advancement or the “New IDEA” Project is to facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of high quality web-based and hybrid distance education in post-baccalaureate certificate and degree programs in the School of Education. To this end, the Dean’s Office announces two competitions to encourage collaborative teams of faculty to engage in this project to help address an increasing need to provide alternative course delivery options for higher education and professional development to students and practicing professionals off campus. This project responds to both University and School-related goals regarding the appropriate use of technologies to enhance the teaching and learning experiences and opportunities of our students. (See *Celebrating the Progress, Continuing the Journey: Strategic Planning for Information Technology* <http://ovpit.iu.edu/itsp2/>, as well as the long-range goals of the School of Education published on our web site.)

The first level of competition, the ***Training & Planning Program***, is best suited for teams of faculty who either have less experience or knowledge related to the pedagogies or technologies of distance education, or who simply have lacked the time to spend planning a new program or initiative. It is designed to give participants time and resources they may need to accomplish the goals of developing or refining skills related to distance education, and for designing and launching new programs or redesigning existing ones. The second level of competition, the ***Development and Implementation Grants***, is particularly suited to individuals and teams that have experience in distance education course or program delivery, or have already given much prior effort to the planning of such courses and programs.

A general requirement within the New IDEA Projects Initiative is that all participants commit to engagement in the overall project. Faculty recipients across both the Training & Planning and Development & Implementation programs will be asked to participate in an ongoing “brown bag” discussion series to be held once a month in which they share ideas and concerns as they develop and implement their projects over the course of the next two years.

Examples of types of projects that might be expected under this initiative:

- A group of faculty from one department applies to participate in the Training & Planning Project with the goal of developing the technical expertise and having the planning time to write a Development and Implementation Grant to redesigning an existing master’s degree program currently delivered on campus so there is a distance option for the degree.
- A faculty team writes a Development & Implementation Grant to receive support as they develop and launch a new certificate program to be delivered via distance which meets a current and widely recognized professional development need and that they have shown articulates into an existing masters program that can also be earned via distance.

I. Training & Planning Program

A total of 4- to 5 teams of faculty, each with up to 5 participants, will be supported by the New IDEA Training & Planning Program with funds provided by the Dean's Office. Applications are due by 5 p.m., January 15, 2009 for teams interested in being considered for this initiative.

Description

Applications are now being accepted for the Training & Planning Program through the New IDEA competition. Applicants for this training and planning phase of the program should be faculty teams of two or more members (up to 5 total individuals per team). These teams may include faculty from within the same department and program area or from across different areas and departments, depending upon the scope of the project to be implemented. To be eligible for funding teams should include at least two full-time faculty members (clinical and tenure/tenure-track faculty). However teams can also include other participants such as class teachers, building administrators, graduate students, and other participants with relevant expertise.

Teams are required to send at least two representatives to one of two scheduled Training and Planning Workshops, but all 5 members of a team are welcome to attend. The grant pays for all expenses related to this initiative including food and refreshments, consultants' fees, technical support, and resources and training materials for all team members. Resources in the form of technical assistance and instructional support will also be available for the team during the training and planning period beyond attendance at the formal workshops.

Team members are to select from one of the two workshop series to attend:

Workshop Series A	Workshop Series B
A day-and-a half Training & Planning Workshop: Thursday, February 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m., ending at 4:00 p.m.; and Friday, February 6, beginning with breakfast, includes working lunch, and ending at 4:00 p.m. Followed three weeks later by a one day Development & Implementation Grant Writing Workshop: Friday, February 27, beginning with breakfast and ending at noon with lunch.	A day-and-a half Training & Planning Workshop: Thursday, March 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m., ending at 4:00 p.m.; and Friday, March 6, beginning with breakfast, includes working lunch, and ending at 4:00 p.m. Followed four weeks later by a one day Development & Implementation Grant Writing Workshop: Friday, April 3, beginning with breakfast and ending at noon with lunch.

Participants of the Workshop Series will have the opportunity to learn more about distance education and develop or improve their knowledge and skills related to the technology and pedagogy of distance learning and education. Teams will be encouraged to use part of their retreat time preparing proposals for Round 2 of the New IDEA Development & Implementation Grant Competition, due April 24, 2009.

The Application

The New IDEA Training & Planning initiative is for collaborative teams, and therefore, applicants are asked to submit a statement from the team. This statement should be no longer than 1-3 pages total, excluding title pages and any additional supporting material you may wish to provide. Please identify a “team leader” or contact person and provide the names of the members of the team (up to 5 members per team maximum) along with complete names, job titles or positions, and email addresses for each. Also, please provide a goal statement of what the team hopes to accomplish. For example: “Our xxxxxxxx education program wants to offer a 12 credit certificate program online that would articulate with our existing master’s program. We’d like to plan the program, develop the skills to teach these 4 classes, and write a proposal for a Development & Implementation grant to have more time to work on this idea and perhaps expand it to include our entire master’s program.” Successful proposals should also address anticipated student demand for the program and whether the proposed program meets any state or national licensure or certification requirements. Applications must be received by Don Hossler by email hossler@indiana.edu or in person, delivered to his office, Room 4140, by 5 p.m. January 15, 2009.

The Review Process

A multidisciplinary committee of faculty members and administrators from the School of Education will review the applications. Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program within 2 weeks of the application deadline.

Application deadlines

5 p.m. January 15, 2009 New IDEA Training & Planning Program

to

Don Hossler hossler@indiana.edu
School of Education, Room 4140

II. Development & Implementation Grants

There will be two rounds of funding of the New IDEA Development & Implementation Project Grants. The first proposals are due January 15, 2009, and the second competition ends April 24, 2009. Team may apply for a maximum of \$75,000.

Description

Faculty teams may apply for New IDEA Implementation Grants. Teams consist of two or more individuals and may include faculty from within the same department and program area or from across different areas and departments, depending upon the scope of the project to be implemented. To be eligible for funding teams should include at least two full-time faculty members (clinical and tenure/tenure-track faculty). However teams can also include other participants such as class teachers, building administrators, graduate students, and other participants with relevant expertise.

Application Guidelines

Proposals should not exceed 5 typed pages, excluding the budget and the cover page, and should include the following elements:

1. Cover page: This should include the name of the project director and team members, if any. The project director should be a regular, full-time faculty member (clinical or tenured/tenure track) in the School of Education in Bloomington. Names and contact information (email addresses) of all participants should be provided.
2. Text of the Proposal
 - a. Description: Applicants are expected to provide a description of what they propose to do in sufficient but not exhaustive detail. Please address such issues such as whether the program planned is for certification or degree, if courses will all be on-line or hybrids, and how they relate to existing programs. There should be some level of specificity about how many students would be in classes (instructor to student ratios), how many instructors would be involved, who the instructors would be (i.e., faculty, adjuncts, or AIs) and how they will be trained, the number of sections that might be offered, and the frequency of these offerings.
 - b. Objectives and Rationale: In this section, applicants should outline what they hope to accomplish and why. Included should be an analysis of market demand for the program, a description of the target audience and where they may expect enrollments to come from. Also, please indicate if what you propose meets some state or global need, such as the need for more teachers in a given area.
 - c. Development, Implementation, and Assessment Plan: Applicants should provide information about how and when (timeframe) they will engage in the process of developing, implementing, and assessing the project or distance education program that they propose. Teams must be specific about when the first courses in the proposed program will begin.
3. Budget
 - a. Budgets should not be in excess of the targeted \$75,000 limit of these awards. Funding can be for no longer than 24 months.
 - b. If support for a graduate research assistant is included in the proposed budget, a limited fee scholarship will be awarded in addition to the total budgeted amount. A

fee scholarship of up to 10 semester hours is available for each of fall and spring semesters, proportional to the time the student is appointed on the project. An additional award of up to 3 semester hours is available during the summer if the student is employed in the summer.

- c. Budget requests may include summer salary for faculty members.
- d. Purchase of equipment is not generally encouraged but will be considered.
- e. Professional travel is not included in this award.

The Review Process

A multidisciplinary committee of faculty members and administrators from the School of Education will review the proposals. Evaluators will consider how well the stated objectives of the project relate to the goal of improving and enhancing the delivery of distance based education to students; whether the objectives are stated clearly, concisely, and coherently; if the objectives are justified by a compelling rationale such as how the new or improved program will meet a need in the field or in the market; overall validity and feasibility of the proposal; and whether the budget is congruent with the objectives and plan as presented. The selection process will be based, in part, on available funding at the time, how soon the proposed program will be implemented, and current School priorities.

A multidisciplinary committee of faculty members and administrators from the School of Education will review the proposals. In general, evaluators will consider how well the stated objectives of the project relate to the goal of improving and enhancing the delivery of distance based education to students and available funding at the time. However, only those proposals addressing current School priorities will be funded. Such priorities include the development of viable, high quality distance education certificate and master's programs that can be serving students within the next 2- to 3-years.

Additional criteria used for evaluating proposals will include the following:

- Whether the description of the plan and its objectives are stated clearly, concisely, and coherently;
- If the objectives are justified by a compelling rationale such as how the new or improved program will meet a need in the field or in the market;
- Overall quality, validity and feasibility of the proposed activities;
- Ability of the team to carry out the proposed plan;
- Potential for strengthening SoE research/teaching;
- Prospects for continuation; and
- Whether the budget is congruent with the objectives and plan as presented.

Please direct your questions to either Mary McMullen at mmcmulle@indiana.edu or to Don Hossler at hossler@indiana.edu.

Application deadlines

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5 p.m., April 24, 2009 for Round 2 of New IDEA Development & Implementation Grants

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