

Faculty Fellows Program in Community-Based Learning

Request for Proposals

Submission Deadline - May 13, 2011

The Faculty Fellows program is a year-long learning community experience. Designed to enhance teaching, research, and scholarship, the purpose of the program is to assist the Center for Servant Leadership in integrating the philosophy, pedagogy, and process of community-based learning into the academic programs at Gustavus Adolphus College.

The goals of the program include:

- support faculty to improve their mastery of community-based learning;
- make a tangible contribution to the field of civic engagement;
- build a faculty learning community of scholar-practitioners;
- deepen students' academic learning and civic development;
- increase both the quantity and quality of community-based faculty and courses at Gustavus.

Fellows will:

Teach: Within the program period, each Fellow will teach a course with a significant community-based learning component. The expectation is to advance and improve one's own teaching by focusing on the integration of best practices into one's work (i.e. project design, assessment tools, civic learning outcomes, refined reflection, etc).

Research: The Fellows will work as a cadre to implement a research initiative designed to provide a tangible product or outcome that will contribute to the field of civic engagement and deepen mastery of best practices among faculty and academic programs at Gustavus.

Mentor: The Fellows will provide opportunities for faculty development by executing community engagement roundtables, and through peer support for project and course development.

Disseminate: Fellows will share knowledge gained of project development, pedagogical strategies, course outcomes, and research findings with faculty colleagues and community partners in order to disseminate and further the integration of knowledge into the Gustavus academic programs and broader invested community.

Faculty Stipend and Additional Support: Each Fellow (up to three per academic year) will receive \$3500, which may be taken as personal compensation, put towards professional development, or divided between both. Support will also be provided to each participating community partner (one per fellow) in the form of a \$500 honorarium.

Eligibility: Continuing faculty from all academic departments and interdisciplinary programs utilizing a community-based learning approach (i.e. service learning, community-based research, etc) are eligible to apply for the program.

Selection Criteria: The goal of the Fellows program is to involve faculty from a wide-range of disciplines and interdisciplinary programs. Evaluation of applications will be based on the following criteria:

1. Understanding of and commitment to community-based learning;
2. Understanding of and commitment to students' civic development;
3. Understanding and commitment to campus/community partnerships;
4. Alignment with professional goals;
5. Clarity of proposed curricular improvements or development;
6. Feasibility.

Timeline:

- Proposals Due: May 13, 2011
- Award Notification: May 20, 2011
- Period Begins: June 1, 2011
- Period Ends: September 30, 2012

Schedule and Expectations:**Orientation: Planning and Partnership Meetings**

Fellows will be expected to participate in an initial kick-off planning/orientation lunch at the conclusion of spring semester (**location, date, and time TBD**). In addition, Fellows and their respective community partners will be expected to participate in a ½ day retreat on **Thursday, August 25 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm (location TBD)** for purposes of 1) fostering group familiarization, 2) forming a collective identity through peer support, 3) identifying a special project to be researched collectively by the team, and 4) general project planning for the continued development and execution of each faculty member's community-based learning course.

Faculty Learning Community: Fellows are expected to participate in four learning community meetings throughout 2011-12 (two in fall/two in spring) with CSL staff to discuss progress on community-based learning course development and the research project. These 1 ½ hour lunch meetings are designed to provide scheduled opportunities for check-ins, peer mentoring, general support, and planning. In addition, Fellows will execute two community engagement roundtables (one in fall, and one in spring) designed to increase understanding of community-based learning practices among community organizations and Gustavus faculty.

Community-Based learning Faculty Development Workshop: On **Wednesday February 1, and Thursday, February 2, 2012**, Fellows will assist the Center for Servant Leadership in executing a workshop series designed to support faculty in establishing a new community-based learning course. The workshop will bring faculty and community members together to connect academic knowledge and community knowledge for the purpose of fostering a reciprocal learning community.

Assessment and Evaluation: Fellows will be expected to collect evidence of student civic learning outcomes from the community-based learning course they will revise/develop. The CSL has several resources available for faculty to utilize, however faculty may select or develop an alternative tool that meets their particular purposes. In addition, Fellows and their respective community partners will be expected to participate in a final 3-hour lunch assessment and evaluation meeting on **Wednesday, May 31st, 2012 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm (location TBD)** for purposes of 1) sharing collective outcomes, 2) identifying learning and future needs, 3) conducting final (faculty/community partner/CSL) evaluations, and 4) executing a final wrap-up and closure.

Executive Summaries: Fellows are required to submit a final executive summary (**due July 1, 2012**) to the Director for Community-Based Service and Learning within the Center for Servant Leadership. Details about the executive summaries will be shared at the orientation meeting. Contents from these summaries will be compiled for the CSL academic reports concerning excellence, outcomes, and plans for future work.

Showcase for Civic Engagement: Each September, the previous year's Fellows will highlight excellence in civic engagement by showcasing their work and sharing research findings with the broader campus and community. The Showcase may be through a poster exhibit, public presentation, or other as appropriately identified by the Fellows.

Application and Notification: Please submit your application via email to Jeffrey Rathlef, Director for Community-Based Service and Learning within the Center for Servant Leadership, jrathlef@gustavus.edu, X6011, **no later than May 13, 2011**. The faculty selection committee will review all applications and notification will be made by **May 20, 2011**.

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2011-2012

APPLICATION

Instructions: Please submit your completed application **electronically** to Jeffrey Rathlef, Director for Community-Based Service and Learning, jrathlef@gustavus.edu, X6011, in the Center for Servant Leadership no later than **May 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.**

YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

1. Applicant Information:

- a. Last Name:
- b. First Name
- c. Primary Department/Affiliation
- d. Campus Mailing Address (Building and Room)
- e. Campus Phone
- f. E-Mail Address
- g. College Status (Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Adjunct Faculty, Other)

2. Narrative: Please limit your narratives to a **maximum of 3 pages**. As you prepare your narrative consider the following criteria:

- a. **Understanding of and commitment to community-based learning.**
Summary of key lessons you have learned from using a community-based learning approach and brief description of any assessment, evaluation, or research you have completed on community-based learning to date.
- b. **Understanding of and commitment to students' civic development.**
Brief description of the role(s) you see community-based learning playing in students' civic development.
- c. **Understanding of and commitment to campus/community partnerships.**
Brief description of your plan for engagement with and stewardship of a desired or targeted community partner.
- d. **Alignment with professional goals.**
Description of how your participation as a Fellow is congruent with your professional development at this point in your career, how your participation will advance the mission of your department, and contribute to the campus goals for undergraduate learning and civic engagement.
- e. **Clarity of proposed curricular improvements or development.**
Description of what you would like to learn through participation in the Fellows program including 1) one aspect of a course that you would like to improve upon or develop during your time as a Fellow (e.g., improved reflection products; incorporation of community-based research; improved community partnerships; assessing the impact of service-learning on students' civic development), and 2) what specific outcomes do you expect to see as a result of your curricular improvements or development?
- f. **Feasibility.**
Provide a brief/draft timeline of your plan for the development, implementation, and assessment of curricular improvements for the coming year.