

Kendall Center Individual Teaching and Learning Mini-Grant Application

**Name:** Jeff La Frenierre

**Department:** Geography

**Purpose:** Science Education Resource Center (SERC) Early Career Geoscience Faculty Workshop: Teaching, Research, and Managing Your Career (22-27 June, 2014)

**Amount Requested:** \$600

Please accept my application for Mini-Grant funding to support my participation in the 2014 SERC Early Career Geoscience Faculty Workshop, to be held in College Park, MD between June 22-27. I am a new tenure-track Assistant Professor of Geography at Gustavus Adolphus College, with an official appointment date of September 1, 2014. This position represents my first post-graduate academic appointment, and as such, I am seeking professional development opportunities that will aid my transition to the college faculty. The SERC Early Career Geoscience Faculty Workshop is an annual, competitive-application opportunity specifically aimed at new faculty in geoscience disciplines like geography. This week-long workshop covers topics such as effective teaching strategies, course design, establishing a research program in a new setting, working with research students, balancing professional and personal responsibilities, and time management. The workshop also offers the opportunity to visit the offices of the National Science Foundation for a series of funding-related sessions as well as for individual meetings with relevant program officers. More information about the workshop is available at <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer2014/index.html>. I have been formally accepted to participate in the workshop.

This workshop will help me further hone a number of teaching skills, all of which will be applicable to the range of geography courses I will be teaching at Gustavus. Specifically, I will participate in sessions on course design, active teaching methodologies, lesson design, improving laboratory assignments, using data in the classroom, assessing student learning with exams, and bringing research into the classroom. There are also multiple sessions aimed at further developing research skills, including developing research proposals, starting new research projects and building collaborations, and research with undergraduates. Direct measurement of the outcomes of this workshop will not be immediate, however I expect that the results will manifest over the long-term in more enjoyable and efficient learning environments for students, greater success in obtaining research funding, an increased level of research output, and stronger research collaborations with students and other faculty at Gustavus and beyond.

The total workshop cost of \$1100 includes round-trip transportation to College Park, MD from Columbus, OH (where I currently reside as I complete my PhD), as well as conference registration (which includes lodging and meals). The Department of Geography has committed \$500 to defray a portion of these costs, which is why I only request a \$600 grant. The detailed budget form is attached.

Thank you for considering my application.



Jeff La Frenierre

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