Call for Proposals

Washington College has received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop interdisciplinary collaboration between the arts and the sciences, with a strong focus on the natural environment. One of the key elements of the SANDBOX program is to encourage faculty/student collaboration for research and creative projects with the aim of developing work that will eventually be published, or presented, or exhibited before an audience of peers and, possibly, the broader community. Grant funds are available to support this aspect of the initiative. The projects envisioned by SANDBOX are ones that incubate ideas and expose students to a broad field of creative possibilities. It is important to note that the simultaneous inclusion of the arts and the sciences is a key component of the program. Research projects and creative projects which maximize cross disciplinary approaches are favored.

We now invite proposals for projects that will engage and challenge students in new ways. This call for proposals is open to all departments within the College and is open to proposals for the Summer, the Fall semester, or the Spring semester. Preference is for projects that can be developed and pursued without the addition of overload or adjunct staffing.

For Fall or Spring semester proposals:
- Total project budgets of up to $4,000 will be considered.
- Each individual stipend (faculty or student) cannot exceed $150 per week.
- Project must be within the greater Chestertown area.
- Projects which combine the Fall and Spring semesters into one time frame will be considered.
- Proposals must include within their budget an allocation for materials necessary to the fabrication of any project, if such are foreseen.

For Summer proposals:
- Programs of up to 10 weeks in duration will be considered.
- Total project budgets are not to exceed $8,000.
- Each individual stipend (faculty or student) cannot exceed $300 per week and cannot exceed $3,000 total.
- On campus student housing should be included in the project budget proposal. (This expense changes annually. Contact Residence Life for the latest figure.) If the collaboration is situated in Chestertown and students are provided the maximum stipend, they should be expected to cover the costs of their meals.
- If the project is situated in a remote location, funds can be put toward travel in lieu of stipends, but in this case, student housing and meals must be covered by the project.
- Project budgets can include expenses for travel and equipment, but it must be clear that such expenses are primarily for the completion of the project itself, as opposed to annual conference travel or departmental equipment.
Proposals will be accepted for research and creative projects occurring Summer or after, and will be evaluated in a two-stage process.

**Stage One:** Concept Statement, due February 6th of each year.

In one or two pages, describe the basic concepts of the project you are proposing:
- What is the focus of the project? Where will it occur?
- What disciplines form the basis of the collaboration?
- Which faculty and students are to be involved?
- What curricular tie-ins are envisioned?

A faculty advisory committee will evaluate all submitted proposals for their promise to contribute to faculty/student collaboration, their feasibility, and overall educational value. Several will be selected for development into full proposals, with notification of selection January 26, 2015. The faculty selection committee consists of Emily Chamlee-Wright (Dean and Provost), Alex Castro (Director of SANDBOX), Martin Connaughton (Biology), Dale Daigle (Performing Arts), Karl Kehm (Physics), Jonathan McCollum (Music), Jehanne Dubrow (English Literature), Heather Harvey (Studio Art), Leslie Sherman (Environmental Science), and Aileen Tsui (Art and Art History).

**Criteria for Selection:**
- Projects must be financially sound, delivering high impact at reasonable expense.
- Projects must have significant value in terms of student learning and faculty development.
- Projects must have clear and tangible results, either scholarly or aesthetic.
- Project must be feasible. If a creative project, how will it be manifested and where?
- Participants must be prepared for the experience.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have questions or wish to discuss ideas.

Concept Statements should be submitted to the Director of SANDBOX, acastro2@washcoll.edu by February 6th. Selections for full proposal development will be announced February 20th.

**Stage Two:** Full Proposal, due by March 26th

Provide a detailed description of the project being proposed, incorporating suggestions made by the faculty advisory committee. Additionally, this full proposal should include a brief endorsement by relevant department chairs. The course description should address:
- What is the scope and focus of the project?
- What are the responsibilities of each team member?
- What is the duration of the project? (Please give specific dates)
- What disciplines form the basis of the collaboration?
- Which faculty and students are to be involved? (Please include the faculty member’s CV and a current transcript for each student collaborator)
- What curricular tie-ins are envisioned?
- How many units of academic credit will the student earn for this experience? (Maximum of 4)
- For proposals for the Summer semester, will the student(s) live on campus?

Notification of accepted projects will occur the week of April 9th of the given year.