USM’s Title III Grant focuses on improving student learning, engagement and retention through high impact educational practices. Many faculty, staff and students already engage in these practices, and with positive results. Mini-grants are designed to support this work, and to encourage the adoption of these highly effective practices by others.

High impact practices include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborative assignments and projects
- Intensive writing experiences
- Common intellectual experiences
- Learning communities
- Undergraduate research and other project-based learning
- Community based learning

For spring 2016, we will be awarding a total of $10,000 in mini-grants, with a maximum individual grant of $500. Funds are available to support a variety of activities. Preference will be given to projects that use funds to create a sustainable, on-going practice. Mini-grant funds must be expended by June 30 2016.

For spring 2015, $500 Title III mini-grants will be awarded directly to select recipients of CTEL’s Course Innovation Grants. Faculty are encouraged to apply for these grants at http://usm.maine.edu/ctel/ctel-course-innovation-grants. Selected CTEL course innovation grant awardees will receive information about the accompanying Title III mini-grant when they receive their CTEL award letter.

For spring 2016 Title III mini-grants of up to $500 will again be awarded directly for EYE and EISRC courses. EYE and EISRC faculty will receive a separate communication about their mini-grants.

Examples of previously funded activities include:

- supplies and materials associated with an engaging learning experience (e.g., technology, instructional supplies, subscriptions/access fees for software or other web-based resources, etc.)
- training and development (such as consultation with instructional designers or other experts)
- student assistance (such as peer tutors or other student work directly related to engaged learning)
- field trips and other off-campus learning activities (e.g., entrance fees to museums, transportation costs, etc.).

Please complete the proposal form on page 2 of this document and e-mail to Susan McWilliams at susan.mcwilliams@maine.edu by Dec. 11, 2015.
USM Title III Mini-grant Application Spring 2016

Name:

Department/Program Affiliation:

Course Number and Title (if the activity is course-based):

Date/timeline of activity:

Other Learning Site (if not course based):

Course Affiliation:
  ___Core Requirement: Please Specify:
  ___Major Requirement
  ___Other: Please Specify:

1. Description of how funds will be used to support design/implementation of a high impact practice. A formal budget is not required, but please provide as much detail as possible regarding how funds will be used to support the high impact practice.

2. Description of how the learning experience will enhance student learning and engagement. Please provide as much detail as possible.

Submit application as Word document to susan.mcwilliams@maine.edu.

Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:
  • Clear identification of the high impact educational practice
  • Clear statement of how the expenditure of funds will directly support student engagement in the high impact practice
  • Overall sustainability of the activity, especially beyond one-time funding
  • Overall likely impact on students (either in terms of number or any other significant criteria).

More information on high impact educational practices can be found at https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Title III management team, a group of faculty and staff which oversees USM’s Title III grant, including High Impact Practices.

This information and a list of past proposals, recipients and projects are available at: http://usm.maine.edu/titleiii/high-impact-educational-practices