

Successful Application of Learning Technologies (SALT)

2008-09

Introduction

In the early 1990's, the Reich College of Education adopted *constructivism* as a basis for a conceptual framework to guide its work in teaching, learning and curriculum design. Today, faculty in their classrooms are continuing this work by drawing on the rich body of research and theory of such authors as Vygotsky (1978), Berger & Luckman (1996), Kegan (1996), and others. The organizing question has been: "What would teaching and learning look like if they were intentionally informed by constructivism?" Conversations continue throughout the College focused on an additional question: "What would our day to day work in the College look like if it, too, were intentionally informed by constructivism?"

A corresponding question comes from our increasing uses of technology to enhance learning. If the integration of learning technologies is about more than simply using computers in a class; if it is also about transforming how we do what we do and how we can better prepare ourselves and our students to teach and work in technology-rich schools and environments, then what role(s) can technology play in creating learning that incorporates the principles of our conceptual framework and the constructivist philosophy? In addition, what can we do to tap into the growing technology expertise that our students bring to our classes; how might we capitalize upon that expertise to enhance our own as instructors? What should the classroom approach to instruction look like in 2010?

Request for Proposals

Interested faculty are invited to submit proposals for projects that focus upon the questions above. Proposals must address innovative uses of technology, particularly Information and Communication Technology (ICT), in the context of enhancing the social constructivist philosophy of the college in teaching and learning. Priority will be given to proposals from collaborative teams of faculty; we particularly encourage collaborative projects involving our colleagues in other colleges in the university as well as K-12 teachers and administrators and our own students, both undergraduate and graduate. Adjuncts are eligible to participate as team members also. We ask that faculty be involved as much as possible with only one project, rather than multiple ones as has sometimes happened in the past. In this way, we may be able to involve more faculty and distribute the opportunities more broadly. **Deadline for submission is October 3, 2008. Decisions on grant awards will be made by October 9, 2008. Grant funds must be expended by May 1, 2009.**

Please note that except in very unusual circumstances, our technology staff are not eligible for extra funding from SALT grants; the staff are here to assist all faculty and should be considered and used as resources for these grants but please make every effort to be reasonable in your requests for their time and expertise. The university has available other resources--instructional designers--whose services can be obtained, especially if off-campus instruction will be involved.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals with an explicit focus on uses of technology in one or more of the following areas (*italics denote new areas of focus for this year*):

- Enhancing existing curriculum with particular emphasis upon social constructivism
- *Program revisions to meet new DPI requirements*
- *Alignment of a program's curriculum with the new General Education framework*
- *Development of assessments to meet accountability goals at either the undergraduate or graduate level*
- Literacy initiatives which connect underrepresented groups with our students in meaningful ways;
- Studies of how utilization of blogs, text messaging, webcasts, Smart Boards, YouTube, FaceBook and other related applications have implications and or uses for instruction.

The intent of funding SALT grants is to support program development using emerging technologies to create distributed communities of practice that demonstrate the social constructivist principles of the college's conceptual framework and that support our students – **particularly those off-campus** – as they learn and develop in our programs and beyond. Applicants also are encouraged to consider ways proposed activities will provide residual benefits within on-campus experiences.

Proposals should show a link to off-campus programs, wherever possible, and address programmatic needs. We strongly encourage proposals that reflect the following characteristics:

1. Involve faculty from different departments, programs and/or colleges whenever possible.
2. Have a clear plan for developing changes that can be sustained after funding ends.
3. Have a workable plan for sharing the results of the projects.
4. Do not focus primarily on attending conferences or traveling.
5. Have potential for positive impact for on and off-campus programs.
6. Engage members of the communities (schools, school districts, etc.) being served.
7. Have as a central focus the integration of technologies into the teaching/learning process.
8. Encourage student involvement in the development and application phases.

Because funding sources for these activities may not be consistent from year to year, multiple year projects should probably not be undertaken, although a project could be designed in specific phases with each phase resulting in a usable product, independent of being funded for a succeeding year.

Funding for released time is not possible at this late date; certainly not for fall semester. However, in recognition of time and effort expended, stipends may be a part of the proposal; in figuring stipends, be certain to include a 15 percent benefits cost into the

proposal budget. **NOTE: stipends should not exceed \$3,000 per individual and should reflect appropriate distributions of labor and responsibility. These stipends will not count against the academic year cap, since they will not be paid until all work is completed, May 31 being the final deadline. They will, however, be considered part of the summer cap of 38.4% for faculty.**

Equipment can be part of a proposal but the primary purpose of these projects is not to support acquisition of equipment. Proposals should clearly indicate the role that equipment will have in the project and show evidence that the proposed equipment is not available through any other source. Consult with the RCOE technology staff before listing equipment for proposals. All equipment purchased through this funding remains the property of the College of Education.

SALT Proposals should include the following components:

Abstract (including statement of purpose, rationale, problems to be addressed, and benefits to the college--150-200 words)

Objectives (a concise statement of purpose)

Description of the project (including detailed description of work activity, participants, and anticipated timelines; **insure that participants have agreed in advance to participate if the project is funded.**)

Outcomes and Assessment (including specific products and how the products and overall impact of the project will be assessed)

Dissemination & Sharing Plan

Budget (a detailed account of necessary resources)

Sustainability (indicate the feasibility of the project being integrated into the regular curriculum/operation of the college)

Format: Proposals should be 2 to 5 pages in length and include the signatures of all Department Chairs for whom there will be an impact indicating they are aware **and approve** of the proposed activities.

Proposals should be submitted to: Charles R. Duke, Dean, Reich College of Education. Questions about proposals can be directed to the dean as well. See attached for proposal form.

See form below.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS OF LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES (SALT)

Proposal

Deadline for Submission: Oct. 3, 2008

Total Amount Requested:

Title:

Abstract (including statement of purpose, rationale, problems to be addressed, and benefits to the college--150-200 words)

Objectives (a concise statement of purpose)

Description of the project (including detailed description of work activity, participants, and anticipated timelines; **insure that participants have agreed in advance to participate if the project is funded.**)

Outcomes and Assessment (including specific products and how the products and overall impact of the project will be assessed)

Dissemination & Sharing Plan:

Note: in any presentations or publications that are based upon the work done in this SALT grant, please acknowledge the support from the Reich College of Education.

Budget (a detailed account of necessary resources)

Note: any stipends will be paid only upon completion of project activities and products as indicated in timeline; deadline for completion of activities and all expenditures of funds is May 1, 2007. Final report due by June 30, 2008 Requests for budget changes should be kept to a minimum; funds at the

end of the project can not be diverted for other purchases or activities not originally included in the grant and approved. Unspent funds will be returned to the Dean's Office.

Sustainability (indicate the feasibility of the project being integrated into the regular curriculum/operation of the college)

See attached required signature page.

SALT GRANT SIGNATURE PAGE

Title of Grant: _____

Grant Participant Signatures:

_____ date: _____

_____ date: _____

_____ date: _____

The following individual will serve as grant coordinator: _____

(this individual will be the contact person and the one held responsible for budget, submission of expenditures, and submission of final report.)

Note: all invoices, purchase requisitions and requests for budget draw-down on the grant will come only through the designated grant coordinator with the necessary paperwork prepared in the individual's home department; all budget requests must be submitted to Ms. Lynn Church in the RCOE Dean's Office and carry the appropriate SALT number for identification purposes. When any goods have been received (i.e., equipment, software, other materials), please notify Ms. Church immediately.

Department Chair(s) signatures and dates indicating approval of faculty participation.

_____ date: _____
_____ date: _____

Deadline for Submission: Oct. 3, 2008.

(Please submit proposals electronically except for the signature page; the latter should be submitted in paper form with all signatures present. Proposals will not be considered without the signature page. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.)