**Texas State University**

**College of Applied Arts**

Learning Communities Grant

**Description:** In an effort to support the university goal to “promote the success of all students” (Goal 1, Strategic Plan 2017-2023), and more specifically, goal 1.3, which is to “provide all students with quality engagement opportunities that model the values associated with equitable competition, engender university pride, positive community relations, institutional prestige, and promote student well-being and development,” the College of Applies Arts has responded by developing a goal to “support learning communities for the purpose of increasing student retention and graduation rates” (College of Applied Arts, Strategic Plan 2017-2023, Goal 4). The Dean’s office is providing up to $20,000 annually to support such projects that are between $1,000 and $5,000 each. An emphasis will be placed on engaging undergraduate students in conducting research.

**Eligibility:**  All full-time Texas State University faculty in the College of Applied Arts are eligible to apply for these funds.

**Application Guidelines:** The proposal must not exceed five-pages (double-spaced, 12 point Cambria or similar font with 1” margins). The proposal must include the following: (1) faculty name(s), Department/School, with contact information, (2) brief description of the (local, national, and/or global) problem being addressed, (3) description of impact of the project, including which courses (including number of students) will be affected with an emphasis on the number of undergraduate students who will be engaged in conducting research; (4) discussion of evaluation criteria that faculty will use and a plan to carry out the evaluation[[1]](#footnote-1); (5) a proposed budget with justification for each item; and (6) a letter from the Chair/Director should be attached confirming any matching funds from the Department/School. Matching funds are required only after the first year. Matching funds are encouraged, but not required in the first year. Projects should be executable in one to two semesters. All recipients are expected to provide a report (not to exceed 10 pages) to their Chair/Director and the Dean within three months upon completion of project.

**Due Date:** All submissions for each academic year are due on **August 1st.** Awardees will be notified by **August 21st. Submit via email to: vandiver@txstate.edu**

**Selection Process:**  All Chairs/Directors within the College of Applied Arts will access the applications via TRACS and score the applicants (excluding applicants from their own Department/School) in accordance to the criteria below (10 points = highest merit). Those with the highest scores will be awarded.

The following will be considered in assessing each proposal:

* Opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research (20 points)
* Relevance and scope of the problem addressed (i.e., degree to which the project impacts students and the community at large). (10 points)
* Potential to impact retention and/or time-to-graduation for undergraduate students. (10 points)
* Level of innovation of the project. (10 points)
* Potential for grant funding to continue and/or expand the project. (10 points)
* Potential to increase interest in research and graduate education and conducting research. (10 points)
* Project includes potential for policy recommendations. (10 points)
1. Examples would include student outcome measures (e.g., 10 students will present research at a national conference), or assessment of impact (e.g., provide at least 100 community members with education regarding growing one’s own food, etc.). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)