Call for Proposals to Enhance Scholarship of Team-Based Learning Pedagogy

Funding for up to four (4) internal 1-year grants (maximum of $2,500 each) to promote research on the pedagogy of team-based learning is offered by the TeamUSA Quality Enhancement Plan. Team-Based Learning (TBL) is an engaging educational approach that includes a specific sequence of individual work, group work, and immediate feedback to create a learning environment in which students are accountable for coming to class prepared and contributing to discussion. As the focus of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), TBL is implemented in courses with the aims of 1) improving student learning outcomes, 2) achieving higher levels of critical thinking and problem-solving skills, 3) enhancing collaboration and communication, and 4) applying course content to real-world situations.

The purpose of this program is to support pedagogical research by faculty utilizing team-based learning in their courses. Specifically, funds will support projects that explicitly examine the impact of TBL on student factors (e.g., student learning outcomes, engagement, communication, collaboration, or job readiness) or faculty factors (e.g., best-practices for implementation, online/blended use, assessment). The funds may be used for tool development, travel, necessary equipment/supplies, and student assistant support. Funds may not be used to support faculty or staff salaries.

Project Timeline
Data collection will occur during the Spring 2017 and Fall 2017 semesters. An interim progress report will be due 5/15/17. A report of final outcomes and expenses will be due 12/15/17, with all funds utilized by this date. Upon award, the awardee will meet with program staff to determine milestones linked to disbursement of development funds.

Eligibility
Full time instructors and appointees in the rank of assistant, associate, and full professor, (without regard to tenure status) are eligible with the exception of persons known to be in their last year of employment.

Proposal Submission Guide
1. Proposals, including application documents listed below, must be submitted through the InfoReady Review platform by the proposal due date. Detailed instructions can be found at: https://southalabama.infoready4.com/#homePage
2. The submission deadline is 5:00PM, October 3, 2016.
3. A complete application document will contain the following items:
   a. Abstract (summary of research project description—150-word maximum);
   b. Research Project Description including:
      background/rationale, purpose of the study, research questions, methodology, planned measures/analysis, proposed outcomes, and plans for disseminating findings and/or seeking external funding (three-page maximum);
   c. Proposal Budget and Budget Justification (one-page maximum);
   d. Curriculum Vitae – include a narrative account of your research activities and pedagogical philosophy (two-page maximum).

Items b-d must be compiled as a single PDF and uploaded into the InfoReady Review application (detailed instructions may be found on the InfoReady Review site). The proposal should be presented in 12-point Times or 11-point Arial font, page margins should be set at 1” (right, left, top and bottom); line spacing must be 1.0 or higher; pages should be numbered consecutively beginning with the Research Project Description.

**Proposal Review Process and Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and administrative leaders on the following criteria:

1) Clarity of proposed study purpose and research questions
2) Strength of rationale for study with clearly stated impact
3) Alignment of study with the aims of the Quality Enhancement Plan
4) Feasibility of project
5) Effectiveness of research design, proposed metrics, and planned analyses
6) Impact of study on best practices for TBL broadly

Applicants will be notified of the funding status of their application by November 15, 2016.