Transdisciplinary Faculty Fellows Program – Call for Proposals

Project summary: This program is designed to help facilitate the creation and teaching of transdisciplinary courses, many of which are connected to the Destination Area (DA) initiative. This program is intended to address an expressed need to have resources that would support faculty who want to teach outside of their home department and/or faculty who want to engage in design and implementation of transdisciplinary courses that require innovative models of faculty collaboration. Faculty who wish to participate can apply to the program by submitting a proposal that includes the following information:

- Proposed Course Description or Proposed Curricular Research Description (500-800 words): Identify which course(s) or module(s) they plan to develop and/or teach. This could include a Gateway/Capstone experience in a Pathways Minor or an undergraduate or graduate course. It can also include special studies courses. Faculty may also identify modules that they want to create that could be applied across many different courses and student experiences. Additionally, a limited number of grants will be available for research projects that further transdisciplinary learning at Virginia Tech. This can include studies of ongoing curricular efforts, explorations of alternative administrative models, or external site research that VT faculty can draw on to develop future curricular efforts.

- Additional detail (300-500 words): Identify which DA the teaching effort is connected to and how the effort outlined in this proposal addresses how to build a sustained transdisciplinary learning experience for students. Applicants should outline if the course has received funding from other internal or external sources for development. If interested applicants need to be connected to the DA network they can email LSIE@vt.edu to learn more. There is also information posted on the following website, https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas.html, including an example of current course efforts highlighted on the following website: https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas/da_courses.html

- Letter of Support and Matched Commitment: A letter from the applicant’s department head describing their support must also accompany the proposal submission. The strongest proposals will identify a matched commitment that could include a description of how the faculty member will teach the course in the future with departmental support or other commitments from the department that will help build a sustainable model for transdisciplinary curriculum.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from the Office of the Vice Provost for Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness (LSIE) inclusive of the Destination Area Initiative, and Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS) inclusive of 4VA will review proposals and determine awards.

If accepted into the program:

-Fellows agree to participate in a meeting with other Transdisciplinary Faculty Fellows to build a community of practice. These meetings will allow fellows to discuss their teaching and research experiences, build community, and address common needs and/or challenges. Other professional development activities will be offered to help faculty fellows successfully teach a transdisciplinary course.
- Fellows agree to mentor future Transdisciplinary Faculty Fellows by participating in community of practice events or other planned activities.

- Fellows will be required to present on their experience teaching a transdisciplinary course and engaging with other Transdisciplinary Fellows at relevant events (e.g., Transdisciplinary Communities showcases on VT campus, Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy sponsored by CETL, professional societies that are relevant to the faculty member, etc.). Likewise, fellows that are working on research projects will provide an overview of their work.

- Fellows agree to include a brief student assessment in their courses that will provide information about the efficacy of the courses in building complex problem-solving skills among students and help facilitate accountability to 4VA regarding impact.

- Total awards are limited to $8k with $5k allocated in a single semester.

**Deadline: March 1st, 2020. Submit proposals to LSIE@vt.edu.** Applicants are welcome to submit questions to this email address as well prior to proposal submission.

This call for proposals is funded through the 4VA initiative: [https://4-va.org/virginia-tech/](https://4-va.org/virginia-tech/)