

**TIME SENSITIVE**  
**Due April 20, 2012**  
**Fresno State Teaching Innovations Academy Minigrant**  
***Overview and Application***

**Invitation:** Title V, in collaboration with the Deans' Council, invites faculty to participate in an institutional program that will explore ways of increasing the quality, effectiveness, and learning experience of undergraduate students. Faculty teaching large enrollment, multi-section, or especially challenging courses are strongly encouraged to participate, however, faculty teams from any department or program are invited to apply to take part in this summer's **Teaching Innovations Academy**. During the Academy, faculty will re-envision and restructure a course in ways that will enhance student learning using active learning methods, technology, and other innovations. Stipend funds and tablet computers will be provided by Title V. Technical support will be provided by Technology Innovations for Learning and Teaching staff.

**Project Teams:** Teams of two or three faculty members per course will work with a support team that includes an instructional designer and assessment facilitator. Individual faculty members teaching a high enrollment or especially challenging course will also be considered. Part time faculty members may participate as part of a team, but each team must have at least one full time faculty member. Also instrumental in your team's success will be your department chair and college dean who will have active roles. The 2012 Academy will be limited to a maximum of 10 teams.

**Problem Statement:** Large enrollment or multi-section courses on our campus are being placed under continuing stress to serve more students with fewer resources. This stress is exacerbated by the following constraints:

- Current teaching practices often fail to help faculty develop new strategies to cope with increasing class size without increasing their daily teaching and class support activities.
- Many faculty members, for various reasons, would like to incorporate newer technologies into their teaching, but are unfamiliar with the resources available and how to leverage specific technologies for the greatest benefit.
- Fresno State is beginning to evaluate course redesign models that demonstrate effective practices while preserving or enhancing student learning and student/faculty satisfaction. More information is needed to determine best practices for our campus.

**Proposed Solution:** There is a growing body of research, from a variety of disciplines, demonstrating that course transformation increases student learning, provides students with quality learning experiences, improves the use of learning spaces, and reduces the cost of instruction. Fresno State's Teaching Innovations Academy is modeled on the successful work of the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT), [www.thencat.org](http://www.thencat.org), and successful efforts around the country including Carnegie Mellon, the University of Massachusetts, Portland State University, and Chico State. The NCAT website includes case studies and examples to study in preparation for our own Teaching Innovations Academy.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Teaching Innovations Academy is to provide an intensive learning and planning experience with fellow faculty and support staff. Together we will transform a part of your selected course that will improve student learning and engagement.

## **Project Objectives:**

- Demonstrate innovative and pedagogically sound practices to enhance student learning outcomes in a variety of course formats.
  - Pilot a redesigned course that incorporates the use of technologies and innovative instructional practices.
  - Implement, under normal circumstances, successful pilot models across all sections of the course, within one year of the newly redesigned course roll-out. Collect data on the effect of faculty and staff resources, workload, attitudes, and teaching methods required to support the new model.
  - Collect data to evaluate the effect of the course transformation on student learning.
  - Explore ways in which the above information can be leveraged by faculty into various research projects or publications.
  - Collect data to evaluate the fiscal impact of the course transformation.
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### **1) Application & Selection Process**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY** to your college dean by April 20, 2012. Deans will forward proposals they recommend to the Director of Academic Technology & Innovation for participation in the summer 2012 Teaching Innovations Academy. Selection of faculty teams and notification will be made by April 25, 2012. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will follow acceptance along with a technology needs assessment survey.

### **2) Preparation**

By May 4, 2012, the individual teams will meet with Teaching Innovations Academy project leaders (Rudy J. Sanchez, Sue Yang, and Scott Sailor) to prepare a project plan with committed objectives and to begin a dialog regarding assessment goals and strategies.

### **3) Timeline & Implementation**

- Teaching Innovations Academy sessions will meet in a hybrid manner from June 4 - 15.
- One-third of the \$5,000 team stipend will be paid in June 2012. The other two-thirds will be paid when the transformed course is piloted in August 2012. (The second part of the stipend will not be paid if the course is not launched in August 2012.)
- Each member of the faculty team will receive a tablet (16GB, Wi-Fi, iPad™ 3" or 16GB, Wi-Fi, ASUS Eee Pad) in mid-May. Academy participants are encouraged to become familiar with their new tablets prior to the start of the Academy. Instructional designers and other staff will be available for team and individual consultation on how to use tablets in a university setting.
- Summer 2012 is designated for learning, planning, and course development with your teams.
- Early Fall 2012 will include a lunch/meeting with the Deans for teams to outline what course is being transformed and the course transformation strategies you have and what components you will pilot in the Fall 2012 semester.

- Fall 2012 is for teams to further develop course delivery and assessment techniques, and pilot elements of the redesigned course, as agreed upon with their Chair, Dean, and the Director of Academic Technology and Innovation.
- The course transformation will be assessed using tools developed by the faculty and support team, combined with student outcomes including grade distributions.
- Teams will be invited to present at a teaching and learning event during the 2013 calendar year to share transformation results and lessons learned.
- In January 2013, teams will present their transformed course to the Deans, Chairs, and the Academy community (staff, fellow Academy participants).
- In Spring 2013, teams will implement modification of the transformed course.

**4) Assessment & Follow-up**

Teams will submit a short written summary report, including assessment outcomes, by June 1, 2013 to their Dean, the Director for Academic Technology and Innovation, and the Title V Director.

# Application for Fresno State Teaching Innovations Academy Minigrant

Submit electronic application by April 20, 2012 to your chair and dean.

## Instructor 1

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructor 2 (if applicable)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructor 3 (if applicable)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dean: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

## Target Course Information

Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

During which term(s) is this course normally offered?

Estimated number of students served each term this course is offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of sections offered each term: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of instructors who teach this course each term: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the average percentage of students who earn at least a C in this course?

If you do not know, please leave the item blank. \_\_\_\_\_

Which type of students typically enrolls in the target course? Select all that apply.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year       GE  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Year       Major/Minor  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Year       Certificate  
 4<sup>th</sup> Year       Other

**Please briefly respond to the following items.**

Why are you interested in redesigning this particular course?

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Visit the **NCAT Web site** ([www.thencat.org](http://www.thencat.org)) and look over their resources.

Familiarize yourself with the **6 NCAT Models** ([www.thencat.org/PlanRes/R2R\\_ModCrsRed.htm](http://www.thencat.org/PlanRes/R2R_ModCrsRed.htm)), and the **Course Redesign Checklist** ([www.thencat.org/PlanRes/R2R\\_ChList.htm](http://www.thencat.org/PlanRes/R2R_ChList.htm)).

Indicate which NCAT Model you think you will use. (*We realize this may change.*)

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How do you think you will transform this course, and how do you anticipate assessing student outcomes?

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**Electronic Signatures**

By typing my name below, I certify that have read and understand the content of this application.

Instructor 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean \_\_\_\_\_

**After completing the application, please save the file using the following naming convention:  
2012AcademyInvitationApplication<insert your last name>.pdf**

For more information on completing this application, contact Rudy J. Sanchez, 278.2344, [rjsanchez@csufresno.edu](mailto:rjsanchez@csufresno.edu).