

# Center for Learning Innovation

## Request for Proposals

### Faculty Fellowship Program

In an effort to promote and support faculty in advancing knowledge in the field of online teaching and learning, the Center for Learning Innovation (CLI) announces the initiation of the Faculty Fellowship Program. This program will be open to all faculty including adjunct professors. As online education and research at Illinois Tech advances, CLI will lead the way in supporting faculty in both developing original scholarly research as well as innovative pedagogy within a virtual or in-person classroom. Specifically, CLI's support includes, but is not limited to, research and development in such areas as instructional design, learning theory as relates to the use and exploration of technologies, establishing and implementing best practices to enhance online learning, methods to improve online course delivery with new skills and/or pedagogy, developing master classes, and innovative methods in flipping classes through innovative course materials development, especially at 100 and 200-level courses.

CLI's support of faculty for research and development will be in the form of faculty fellowship awards. These awards are open to all faculty members (including adjunct faculty). The awards will be selected through a process involving a formal proposal submission by the faculty member and review by a subcommittee made up of the CLI Faculty Affiliates and staff.

The following summarizes the proposed details of the faculty research fellowships.

- There will be up to five or more faculty fellowships awarded by the Center per year.
- Each fellowship will have a duration of up to one semester. The faculty may select the award over the summer with implementation of the results in the following fall or spring semester. Alternatively, the faculty (on a full-time track) may select to request a course reduction in the fall or spring semester. In such a case, the implementation of the research is expected in the following semester.
- When appropriate, the faculty are encouraged to disseminate the results of their findings in the form of conference presentations, and publications. CLI will also expect winners of faculty fellowships to help disseminate their findings here at Illinois Tech.

The following presents samples of topics for research and development or communities of practice that will be considered by CLI.

- Developing innovative online learning pedagogy, technology, and best practices that will enhance the learning experiences of students.
- Building synergies between discovery research and the enhancement of current online education practices.
- Developing new programs (whether certificate, a variation of a current program or a degree program or a bridge program) that will promote Illinois Tech's initiatives in both online and flipped classroom education growth.

- Building partnerships with industry in joint projects in promoting online education and course offerings as well as experiential learning.
- Building new online collaborations with other educational institutions, local government agencies, and area businesses.
- Developing master classes.
- Developing innovative methods in flipping course materials especially at 100 and 200-level courses.
- Developing workshops and symposia, through CLI, in offering new and innovative directions in online education.

For faculty who wish to conduct their research over the summer, the fellowship will pay up to \$7,500 per award. The faculty will need to prepare a budget outlining the details of their expenses, which may include summer compensation, equipment or hiring undergraduate and graduate students as research assistants. This option is open to both adjunct and full-time faculty. Full-time faculty members who wish to use the fellowship over a regular semester will receive a reduction equivalent to one course in either fall or spring semester.

Faculty fellows and their research and development areas will be featured in the CLI website and its publications.

### **Proposal Submission**

Proposals are limited to five pages and should include (1) a complete description of the proposed research or project; (2) anticipated outcomes; (3) an implementation plan; and (3) benefits to Illinois Tech in terms of enhancing online and/or in-person education, increase in enrollment, etc.

In addition, a budget summary, budget justification and time table limited to one page; and a resume of the PI, limited to two pages, should also be included in the proposal.

Proposal should be submitted in a pdf format via an email attachment to [CLI@iit.edu](mailto:CLI@iit.edu).

### **Deadline**

The deadline for submitting proposals is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.