

TERESA NEIL MEMORIAL RESEARCH FUND

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2016

The Theresa Neil Memorial Research Fund

The Summer Session Research Consortium, which consists of the North American Association of Summer Sessions (NAASS); the North Central Conference on Summer Schools (NCCSS); the Western Association of Summer Session Administrators (WASSA); and the Association of University Summer Sessions (AUSS), is pleased to announce a Call for Proposals for the Theresa Neil Memorial Research Fund.

Amount of Award

The total for the year 2016 that may be awarded is \$10,000. This may be awarded to one or more proposals at the discretion of the members of the Consortium committee. Generally, accepted proposals are funded for \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Research Topics

The Consortium invites proposals that address pedagogical or administrative issues that pertain to summer session at North American colleges and universities. For example:

- Analysis of summer faculty pay structures and administration of summer faculty.
- Assessment of student needs, preferences, and expectations.
- Effects of administrative reorganization (e.g. centralization/decentralization) and impacts of various organizational structures.
- Analysis and reporting of various funding models and impacts of changes (e.g. change from state support to self-support).
- Factors related to student choice to attend summer (e.g. availability of loans, grants, and other forms of aid, including reduced tuition and fees).
- The impact of technologies used in summer sessions.
- Learning outcomes of compressed or time-intensive courses vs. full semester-length counterparts.
- Relationship of economic factors (e. g. unemployment, recession, wage rate changes, etc.) and other factors external to the university environment to summer enrollment.
- The effectiveness of particular marketing strategies.

The research must be on a topic of ongoing concern to summer session deans/directors generally. A project that is highly parochial in scope, or that addresses a topic of unlikely interest beyond a specific campus, will probably not be selected for funding with this program.

Supportable Expenses

Grant funds may be used for supplies, mailing and telephone costs, the cost of data entry and statistical processing, salaries and fringe benefits for graduate students, and general direct expenses necessary for the research such as travel. The funds may also be used for purchase of the load of a researcher, for release time for a faculty/staff member, or as an added stipend

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for someone already employed. Given the small scale of this grant program, overhead charges are not considered a supportable expense.

Format for Proposals

The proposal must be written in clear and concise language. The narrative should not exceed four double-space pages. Please include the following elements in the order listed below:

1. Title page

Include name of project, name/address of researcher; name of institution and the Summer Session organization(s) to which it belongs; and a paragraph-length abstract of the proposal (single-spaced, 150 words or less).

2. **Statement of the specific problem** or research question(s) to be studied.
3. **Explanation of why this is an important issue** with a clear indication of how the study can provide insight for summer session deans/directors and other university/leaders on matters vital to the continued growth and development of summer sessions.
4. **Brief review of literature** (if applicable) relevant to the study.
5. **Description of the research methodology**, including any proposed data gathering instrument and statistical techniques.
6. **An itemized budget.**

Required Attachments

- Signed statement acknowledging that the researcher will protect human subjects' rights and confidentiality.
- Vita of the principal investigator(s).

Conditions for Funding

It is not necessary for the researchers to be involved directly in summer session work, but it is required that their institution is a current member of one of the Consortium organizations, in addition, the award recipients must agree to:

- Complete the research by November, 2017.
- Present the research findings/results at an annual meeting of NAASS, NCCSS, or WASSA. (The sponsoring associations reserve the right to include a shortened version of the findings/results on their Web pages.)
- Submit a précis or abstract of the findings/results for publication in *Summer Academe*.
- Submit a full paper on the findings/results for publication in *Summer Academe* or another journal in the field of education.
- Submit two copies of the full paper/report for the NAASS archives.

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It should be understood the Consortium expects the above presentation and publishing of the findings to be the minimum. The researcher should seek out additional opportunities to present the findings on behalf of the Consortium to a broad and influential audience to bring additional awareness and understanding to matters related to summer sessions held by college and universities in North America.

Selection of Awards

The review committee consists of the Research Committee Chairs of NAASS, NCCSS, WASSA, and AUSS. Crucial selection criteria include clarity and completeness of the proposal, significance and relevance of the topic(s), and suitability of the proposed methodology for the research question(s) posed. The committee's decision will be announced in June, 2016.

Multi-year, phased proposals may be submitted and will be considered, but the Committee is not able to guarantee funding for subsequent years/phases.

Deadline

Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Research Consortium Co-Chair, Patricia Suske (trish.suske@unlv.edu) by **Friday, April 29, 2016**. Prospective applicants should feel free to contact Patricia Suske by email or telephone at (702) 895-4351 with questions or to discuss their ideas.