

WORLD-WIDE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FACULTY GRANT COMPETITION

www.case.edu/artsci/wle

June 2007

The McGregor Fund has committed funds over three years to expand undergraduate student and faculty participation in international learning experiences. A total of \$150,000 will be available for faculty-initiated proposals that broaden and enhance international experiences by utilizing educational and communication technologies.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The World-Wide Learning Environment (WLE) supports the expansion of student and faculty participation in international learning experiences by broadening and enhancing the kinds of experiences available. Specifically, the project invites faculty innovation in the form of internally competitive proposals that focus on international experiences, establish sustainable educational relationships with institutions abroad, and incorporate cutting edge information technology that will enhance such educational opportunities. The goal is not only to increase the numbers of international learning experiences available and the number of students participating, but also to transform these experiences by leveraging the university's information technology structure. Faculty will be assisted and supported in this process by institutional expertise in education, technology, and grant and fellowship support that will be conveyed to interested faculty in seminars required of all applicants. We envision WLE funding as seed money that will help faculty launch successful programs and seek proposals that 1) are educationally innovative 2) employ technology to broaden students' access to international experiences, and 3) will be sustainable programmatically and financially by attracting external funding.

We seek proposals that develop new and innovative ways to build international experiences into the educational lives of Case's undergraduates through:

- exploration of issues that are relevant internationally through establishing international ties in courses and programs,
- the use of advanced educational and communication technologies,
- innovative teaching and learning initiatives

Towards this end, we seek to fund faculty proposals through four more rounds of applications over the next two academic years. We anticipate that most proposals will be funded in the \$5,000-\$8,000 range, meaning that we can expect to support 6-10 initiatives per academic year. Proposals with more modest budgets also are encouraged. **Support will not be available for student scholarships, travel, or expenses.** Projects should not exceed 12 months in length, and must be completed by the designated date in the award letter, generally 15-18 months from the time of award.

Prior to submitting a proposal, faculty will be required to attend a seminar developed specifically for this initiative. The seminar will address three elements, each of which is a critical component of a successful proposal. In addition to a Summer, 2007 seminar, we will hold two seminars per semester for four more semesters, from Fall 2007 through Spring 2009. Faculty whose schedules prevent them from attending a particular seminar will have additional opportunities in subsequent semesters. Traveling faculty may also request to attend the seminar via videoconferencing. We will do our best to facilitate a connection, providing technical logistics can be worked out without incurring costs. Video-conferencing requests must be submitted no later than one week prior to the scheduled seminar. We can accommodate a limited number of requests and will review them in the order they are received.

The WLE Seminar

- Molly Berger will introduce the initiative, including a discussion on how to work towards financial and programmatic sustainability of the project.
- Thomas Knab, Chief Information Officer of the College of Arts and Sciences, will lead a presentation and discussion of the educational and informational technology currently available to Case faculty. Faculty will also be given guidance on searching for resources available elsewhere. The use of cutting edge technology is an important part of the grant initiative.
- One or more grant recipients will discuss his or her project(s), serving as a resource for faculty regarding ideas, teaching with technology, and fostering international student collaborations.

The goal is that funded projects eventually lead to programmatic institutionalization, ideally collaboratively among departments and faculty, rather than residing in a single faculty member or course exchange. Projects should also be financially and programmatically sustainable.

Eligibility: Fulltime faculty holding the ranks of instructor through professor in all disciplines in the College of Arts & Sciences who have attended the WLE Seminar may submit proposals.

Descriptions of Funded proposals:

- Virtual classroom initiative that enabled a history professor to teach a course on museum history and policy jointly with Case undergraduates and students at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. Funding supported the purchase of hardware and software that facilitated the interaction and enabled “virtual” office hours for Turkish students. The WLE grant was leveraged to raise funds for Case students to travel to Turkey over spring break and for Turkish students to travel to Case early Fall 2007.
- Research-based laboratory biology course that will facilitate interactions between Case students and South African students and faculty. Students will work on developing molecular markers for under-utilized African crops. Students will gain a greater appreciation of the practical application of their work as they work with scientists and students for whom the research results are extremely relevant and important. Funding supported faculty travel to South Africa to establish research links and travel for a visiting South African researcher.
- Enhancement to departmental IT capabilities to facilitate informal student interaction with international peers. Faculty will introduce students to international disciplinary peers

through structured course activities but will then encourage informal contacts through access to departmental videoconferencing-equipped presentation cart. Funding supported hardware and software to upgrade departmental presentation cart.

- Collaboration to establish institutional exchange between Case and University of Buea, Cameroon. Funding supported technical connections, a visiting scholar who will participate in classes, give a public lecture, and work with various offices to establish formal student and faculty exchanges.
- Development of a course on international children's rights that will be co-offered to students at Queen's University in Belfast and possibly to students at Fisk. The course will invite a number of international experts to speak with students and will use communication technology to meet with a member of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. Funding supported faculty travel to establish international collaboration, guest honoraria, and technical communication costs.

Please see <http://www.case.edu/artsci/wle/FundedProjects.html> for more information on these projects.

For more information: <http://www.case.edu/artsci/wle> or write to worldwidelearning@case.edu

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Proposals: A single pdf document, named Lastname_WLE.doc, should be sent to worldwidelearning@case.edu Proposals must include:

- A single paragraph abstract of the project (approximately 150-words), suitable for posting on the web and transmitting to the McGregor Fund.
- A 3-4 page description of the proposed project that defines the project and explains its relevance to the mission of the WLE Faculty Grant competition and importance to undergraduate education. The proposal should clearly address the WLE Seminar topics of educational innovation, technology, and financial and programmatic sustainability. If the proposal is for a course, please submit a syllabus.
- A one-page description of how program outcomes and success will be defined and measured.
- A one page *detailed* budget for the grant period. Requests for funds for technical support must include good faith estimates of technical costs based on preliminary inquiries. We strongly encourage consulting with Tom Knab regarding these and other costs, i.e. testing connections, which might result in unforeseen charges.
- A timeline for the project. Projects may be as long as 12 months, and must be completed by date indicated in the award letter, generally 15-18 months from date of letter.
- A letter of endorsement from the chairs of all departments involved in the project. The chair endorsement must include a commitment for department assistant help to manage the grant's financial aspects. This includes, but is not limited to, tracking expenses, submitting reimbursement requests, ordering supplies and equipment, journaling expenses to grant account, and submitting financial reports to the WLE project as required.

The grant may be used for direct expenses of the project only. Funds may not be used for salary, course release, or any type of student expense. Appropriate expenses include faculty travel expenses, research materials, reasonable honoraria or fees for visiting experts or consultants, etc., technology related expenses, and equipment that is not available on campus, but critical to the project. Please refer to the FAQ <http://www.case.edu/artsci/wle/FAQ.html> for answers to frequently asked questions.

REVIEW PROCESS

A faculty committee will review all proposals and make funding recommendations to the Dean. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

REPORTS/DELIVERABLES

Grant supported faculty will be required to report on their project to the WLE steering and faculty advisory committees. This will include a spending report, a description of program activities, including number of participating students and faculty, and a plan for securing future funding for continuing implementation.

Deliverables include:

- Acknowledgement letter to the McGregor Fund within two weeks of award letter
- Interim narrative and budget report (6 months from project onset)
- Final narrative and budget report (12 months from project onset)
- A 1-2 page report that will be published on the WLE website describing the goal and outcome of the funded project. Please submit images, if possible.
- Participation in a UCITE or other forum such as the WLE Seminar to share the progress and results of the funded project.

TIMELINE

Round Three

July 10, 2007:	WLE Seminars
September 18, 2007	
September 24, 2007	
November 26, 2007:	Proposals due
Mid-December, 2007:	Award letters to successful applicants

Round Four

January 25, 2008:	WLE Seminars
January 29, 2008:	
March 21, 2008	Proposals due
Mid-April, 2008:	Award letters to successful applicants

The McGregor Fund

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation organized "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." It was established by a \$5,000 deed of gift from Tracy W. McGregor in 1925, and later augmented to nearly \$10 million through subsequent gifts from Mr. McGregor and his wife, Katherine Whitney McGregor.

Through their generosity, over the past 80 years the Fund has provided more than \$160 million in assistance to organizations serving the metropolitan Detroit area. The Fund conducts a special program of competitive grants for private liberal arts colleges and liberal arts colleges within private universities in Michigan and Ohio.