

2014-2015 Faculty Senate Mini-Grant summary

Timeline:

1. Call for proposals: February 16th
2. Deadline for receiving proposals: March 16th (Proposals received by deadline: 77)
3. Mini-grant awardees announced: April 3rd
4. Reports of mini-grant initiative results: due next fall (preferably in September)

Funding breakdown:

1. From the Madison Vision fund: \$9,950
2. From the Provost's office (E&G funds): \$11,900
3. Total funding: \$21,850

Awardees, project titles (with brief descriptions), and grant amounts:

1. Stephanie Stockwell (Dept. of Integrated Science and Technology, CISE)
“Biotechnology Mobile Lab” (\$3500)
Brief Description: “There is a widespread call of STEM education reform, characterized by the enrichment of inquiry-based science at the K-12 level and integration and engagement in higher education. (...) I propose to construct a biotechnology mobile lab comprised of the basic biotechnology equipment and student protective gear needed for on-site inquiry-based lessons. (...) [This] dedicated equipment... will provide the infrastructure needed to support sustained community partnerships, one example of which is a service-learning course I've designed for JMU ISAT, Biotechnology, and Honors students.”
2. Israa Alhassani¹ (Dept. of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, CAL)
“Collaboration between JMU students and the Youth Group of the Islamic Association of the Shenandoah Valley” (\$3500)
Brief Description: “The purposes of [the recently-formed Youth Group of the Islamic Association of the Shenandoah Valley] are to give [their 40 or so members] a sense of belonging to the community, to engage them in healthy and educational activities, and to steer them away from harmful influences... On the other hand... I am aware of the limited opportunities for JMU students... to converse with, meet, and get to know people of this rich heritage outside their classes. (...) The collaboration between JMU students and the Youth Group may happen between the months of April and May when JMU students organize four to six different activities, [which] may include: sports tournaments, Jeopardy or trivia competitions about the Middle East, trips to museums/exhibitions, camping, discussion of a documentary, [or] debates on controversial issues.”
3. Anne Stewart (Dept. of Graduate Psychology, CHBS)
“Support for Page County Outreach” (\$3500)

¹ Part-time instructor

Brief Description: “The purpose of this proposal is to provide support for innovative clinical training and research opportunities for JMU students to address the...mental and behavioral health needs of children and families in Page County. The proposal will enhance and expand the range of activities JMU students can offer child and family clients by providing therapeutic materials and specialized assessment protocols to use while completing practicum exercises at The Health Place in Page County. The proposal will enrich the quality of the services we provide to the children and families of Page County, enhance the knowledge base of our students in assessment, clinical intervention and research, provide students with in-depth experiences with a rural population, afford students the opportunity to engage with an eminent scholar [Dr. Sandra Russ] while advancing the study of the therapeutic value of play, and, importantly, address critical community mental health care needs.”

4. Elizabeth Richardson and Marsha Longerbeam (Dept. of Health Sciences, CHBS)
“2015 Summer Autism Clinic” (\$3400)

Brief Description: “The prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) has risen significantly, from 1 in 88 to 1 in 68 children, within the last 6 years (CDC, 2014). This has resulted in an increase in demand for effective, evidence-based practices for these children and their families. (...) The 2015 Summer Autism Clinic (SAC) will be held at the JMU Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Services building located on Grace Street. (...) Twelve [local] children will be selected [to take part]...The camp staff will consist of 12 CSD students, 4 OT students, and 4 ABA students who will be supervised by 2 licensed and certified speech/language pathologists, 2 licensed and certified occupational therapists, and 1 licensed ABA clinician. The daily sessions will provide activities that integrate speech/language development, motor development, sensory regulation, play and social skills, and behavior management techniques.”

5. Karen Ford and Margaret Sloan (School of Strategic Leadership Studies, COB)
“The Alliance for Nonprofit Partnerships” (\$3500)

Brief Description: “[we seek funding] to continue our ongoing work with the Nonprofit Institute by kicking off a community supported expansion called the Alliance for Nonprofit Partnerships. (...) Specifically, mini-grant funding support 1) a board orientation with new community advisory board members, 2) the Alliance’s partnership with Valley Business Keynote’s conference and include sponsoring for the first time a nonprofit breakout session, and 3) a nonprofit networking event to officially launch the Alliance as a community resource.”

6. Leah Kirkpatrick² (Dept. of Theatre & Dance, CVPA)

“Drama Workshop for Area’s Homeschooled Children” (\$950)

Brief Description: “The JMU School of Theatre and Dance Theatre Education Track is seeking a 2015 Faculty Senate Mini-Grant for the purpose of developing and sustaining a drama workshop program for the area’s homeschooled children. (...) This workshop would allow two JMU students to gain valuable hands-on

² Part-time instructor

teaching/directing experience while also providing theatre education opportunities to a potentially underserved student population. If funded, the workshops will take place this fall, culminating in a play performance. The workshop series will be twelve weeks long, with workshops occurring once a week for two hours per session.”

7. Aaron Bodle (Dept. of Early, Elementary, and Reading Education, COE)

“Breaking Bread and Breaking the Bubble” (\$2000)

Brief Description: “The proposed project addresses [the challenge of creating meaningful, non-disingenuous, two-way, lasting connections between community organizations and student volunteers] by promoting mutually beneficial engagement through a community and cultural engagement fair to be held during the first week of classes, Fall 2015. At the fair, organizers will call together three distinct groups to Memorial Hall: (a) Local food truck vendors with their diverse offerings... (b) community support organizations with a mission to support local K-12 students and their families... and (c) JMU students to are both hungry and have a desire to plug into the community. At the fair, JMU students will be invited to converse with three community support representatives. Students who complete the requisite number of conversations will be given a token for a free lunch. In the end, students will select a community support organization with whom they would volunteer for the academic year.”

8. Shanil Virani (Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, CSM)

“Scale Model of Solar System on the JMU Campus” (\$1500)

Brief Description: “Currently, there is no science exhibit in Virginia that emphasizes the scale of planetary sizes and distances... We can create a world-class exhibit illustrating the size and scale of the Solar System on the JMU campus. Such a model would put science and engineering front and center, and create a beautiful art exhibit that would span the campus, providing JMU students, area K-12 students, and visitors to our Planetarium a unique way to visualize the size and scale of our solar system. (...) Our plan to the community includes encouraging Valley schools to ‘adopt’ a planet to create the information panel and online content that would be accessible from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. We would also collaborate with the Art department to have their students design pieces that would be placed at the locations of each of the planets on campus. [The grant] would allow us to begin designing and installing informational panels at the location of the 8 major planets, our Sun, as well as the dwarf planets Ceres and Pluto... Matching funds from Physics and the Planetarium will assist with costs.”