

NSF Inclusive STEM Teaching Project

Proposal for Funding

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Proposed program	The National Science Foundation (NSF) has created a program to train STEM faculty and instructors to become more inclusive instructors. The program consists of two parts: 1) a 6-week online, asynchronous, MOOC course hosted through edX which can be taken for free or be used to earn a certificate for a \$49 fee, and 2) a local Learning Community that supports and extends what is presented in the MOOC, facilitated by trained campus liaisons. Amber Handy and Natalia Taft have completed the NSF’s learning community facilitator training and are prepared to begin a UWP learning community with the launch of the next NSF Inclusive STEM Teaching Project MOOC launch in early October of 2022. If it goes well, additional Learning Communities can be launched alongside subsequent MOOC opening periods, roughly once per semester/summer, as needed.		
Rationale	Improving inclusive teaching practices in our STEM courses is vital to improving overall student success and graduation rates, especially among BIPOC and low-income students who stand to benefit the most from inclusive practices. Many STEM faculty have historically not been trained in how DEI work and inclusive teaching practices apply within their disciplines and have not had the opportunity to incorporate inclusive pedagogy into their courses. Training programs in the STEM fields have been slow to understand and adopt these practices that have been more incorporated in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. However, the awareness is growing in the College of Natural and Health Sciences at UW Parkside, and there is increased interest among instructors to learn more. We believe that a STEM-focused approach to inclusive teaching, with the added cache of the NSF involvement and structured program through the MOOC, will help attract UWP STEM instructors and faculty who could benefit from this training.		
Dates	Learning Community: Weekly 90-minute meetings Sept. 30 – Nov. 18, 2022 MOOC: Asynchronous online Oct. 3 – Nov. 22, 2022		
Target audience	1 st priority: Math instructors and STEM faculty/instructors who teach 100-level courses. 2 nd priority: Any STEM faculty and instructors 3 rd priority: Any STEM-adjacent faculty and instructors		
Costs (Assuming 8 participants)	Item	Unit Cost	Total Cost
	Participant Stipends	\$1,500	\$12,000
	MOOC Certificate Fee	\$49	\$392
	Book on Inclusive Teaching Practices in STEM	\$25	\$200
	S&E (printing & food per week for 8 weeks)	\$40	\$320
	TOTAL		\$12,912
Possible additional cost	Natalia Taft is very likely to be brought on as an official Faculty Fellow in the CEITL, which will grant her two course releases per semester to support CEITL work. This project would occupy roughly half of her Fellow time during the fall semester. If the Faculty Fellow program does not go through, then she will need a single course release to allow time to support this project. Her chair is aware of		

	<p>this shift and tentative plans have been made to cover her course load, but if the Faculty Fellow role does not go through we will need an additional \$3,000 to transfer to her department to cover the adjunct fee for her course release.</p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<p>Participants: Participants will develop a better understanding of the importance and reasoning behind inclusive teaching practices and leave with concrete examples and plans to implement in their own courses. Further, participants will serve as ambassadors to their departments and help to spread these practices throughout their college(s).</p> <p>Students: Students who take courses with participants will see improved outcomes, especially among BIPOC and low-SES students. Improved STEM outcomes at the 100 level will reduce attrition, improve timely progress toward degree, and perhaps encourage more BIPOC students to pursue STEM majors.</p> <p>Community: Since the Inclusive STEM Teaching online course is available to instructors and staff at any college or university, in future trainings the local learning community could be expanded beyond the UW-Parkside campus. STEM instructors at other nearby institutions such as Carthage, Gateway, MATC, or UW-Milwaukee could also be invited to participate as part of our other collaborative DEI efforts like Moonshot for Equity.</p>