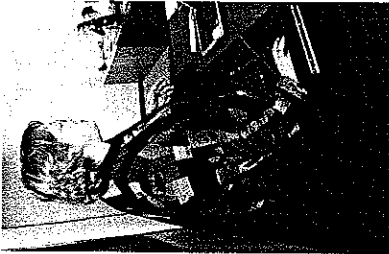


## Fund for the Improvement of Teaching

A limited number of grants of up to \$700 are available to full-time faculty members for innovative teaching projects under the Fund for the Improvement of Teaching. These projects may include the acquisition of materials which assist in strengthening a particular course. The use of such funds for travel to professional conferences is permitted under this program only if it can be demonstrated that conference participation will assist a faculty member in incorporating specific new materials into instruction.

Faculty members should send their requests directly to the associate vice president for academic affairs/programs and policy. Copies should also be sent to the chair and the dean.

**Eligibility:** All full-time faculty members, including those on sabbatical leave, are eligible to apply for funding for the improvement of teaching. Eligible faculty members can receive funds only once each fiscal year.



### **Application Deadline:**

Applications for funding for the improvement of teaching can be submitted and are approved throughout the fiscal year.

## Committee on College Teaching and Learning Mini-Grants

To foster inquiry into college teaching and learning, the Committee on College Teaching and Learning offers \$1,000 mini-grants to full-time and part-time faculty to conduct classroom-based inquiry into active teaching and learning.

Questions that drive the faculty inquiry may come from several sources, for example:

- Faculty and/or student experiences with learning and teaching that provoke questions to be investigated.
- Publications on active teaching and learning that motivate faculty to experiment with innovative teaching strategies, course projects or assignments.

For further information on eligibility to apply for mini-grants and the application process, contact CCTL chairpersons Dr. Paul Vermette, ext. 8554, and Dr. Peggy Choong, ext. 8168.

**Deadline:** Submit eight copies of a one- to two-page proposal to the CCTL chairs no later than the last Wednesday of April.

## Professional Conferences

Each college has a limited budget to support faculty travel to conferences. Faculty who are presenting research at conferences may be eligible to apply for research support grant funding.

**Eligibility:** Faculty members who (1) present a paper, (2) exercise a role as an officer of a professional organization, or (3) chair a session which they have coordinated may apply for up to \$900 to attend a professional conference.

## Sabbatical Leaves

The sabbatical leave program is designed to promote activities which will assist faculty members in their teaching or research.

**Eligibility:** A faculty member must be tenured to apply for sabbatical leave. Leaves may be granted for one or two semesters, but are not granted for more than one academic year. Persons who have been granted leaves under this program are ineligible for a second leave until they have accumulated six additional years of service as members of the faculty.

Sabbatical leave activities include, but are not limited to: (1) the publication of books, monographs or articles; (2) the preparation of papers that may be presented to scholarly or professional conferences; (3) the preparation of grant requests which involve scholarly research; or (4) the initiation of new scholarly activity within or beyond one's current area of specialization, which results in the enlargement of one's teaching competence.

**Application Deadline:** All applications for sabbatical leave must be sent to the vice president for academic affairs, with copies to the chairperson and dean, no later than Sept. 20 of the year preceding the academic year for which the leave is requested.

For more complete information on sabbatical leaves, consult the collective bargaining agreement between Niagara University and the Niagara University Lay Teachers Association. The NULTA agreement contains important details regarding application, approval, deadlines, and compensation.

# Faculty Development Programs and University-Sponsored Research Grants



## Research Council Grants

The Research Council was established in 1969 to encourage, facilitate and disseminate faculty research at Niagara University. This is accomplished primarily through funding of faculty research projects and on new annual events to share projects and results.

The council consists of faculty members appointed by the vice president for academic affairs. There are five voting members representing different academic disciplines, plus a secretary.

The Niagara University Research Council sponsors an annual Niagara University Research Day showcasing the diversity and quality of faculty research at Niagara University. Students, faculty and staff of the university are invited to attend one or more presentations, poster sessions or panels being held at this all-day event. The time, date and place of the Niagara University Research Day will be announced each year on the Research Council Web site:

[www.niagara.edu/library/council.html](http://www.niagara.edu/library/council.html)

The Research Council administers the following grant programs:

### ■ Summer Research Stipends

The university funds 17 summer research stipends in the amount of \$5,200 each. An important aim of the program is to provide seed money for projects that can lead to external funding.

All 17 stipends follow the same guidelines and are intended to increase accumulated knowledge through original work or through the refinement or application of existing knowledge. This can include:

- Basic research, which refers to investigation or experimentation for which no specific application is inherent.
- Applied research, for which specific uses are intended.
- Creative endeavors.

Two of the 17 summer stipends are reserved for special themes:

### **Scholarship of Teaching Grant:**

This grant was established to recognize the importance of teaching at Niagara University. The focus of research should involve an area in the scholarship of teaching.

**Vincentian Grant:** This grant was established to encourage the study of poverty, and is funded by the Vincentian Community.

**Eligibility:** All full-time faculty members, including those on sabbatical leave, who are not teaching more than two summer courses, are eligible to apply. Co-applicants may apply. Co-applicants who receive funding must fulfill the same expectations as individual applicants.

**Application deadline:** Thirteen copies of the complete summer research proposal must be submitted to the Research Council secretary in the library director's office by 5 p.m. on the last working day in October. Extensions will not be granted.

### ■ Research Support Grants

Research support grants are intended to encourage research as a continuous part of academic work. Grants may be used to offset costs for equipment, supplies, software, travel, student assistance, typing, printing, and other expenses which are associated with the conduct of research, and travel to conferences to present research.

Grant requests cannot include compensation to the researcher. The total annual budget for



research support grants exceeds \$50,000, and the number of grants awarded each year depends on the number of eligible grants received and the dollar amount requested.

**Eligibility:** All full-time faculty members, including those on sabbatical leave, may apply for research support grants.

**Application Deadline:** The deadline for applying for the research support grants may vary.

Applications for the summer research grants and the research support grants can be downloaded from the Research Council Web site:

[www.niagara.edu/library/council.html](http://www.niagara.edu/library/council.html)

### ■ Research and Project Award to Address Poverty

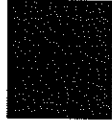
The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University's president, and the Vincentian Community provide \$6,000 to fund the Research and Project Award to Address Poverty. This award is intended to support research and/or direct service projects that will broaden our understanding of poverty, particularly its causes, consequences, and innovative ways to alleviate it. The award complements and expands upon the work accomplished by the Niagara University community toward understanding and ameliorating poverty both in our own region and on a global scale.

### ■ Graduate Assistant Grant

Five individual awards of \$2,000 tuition credit each are available for students to assist faculty in pursuing their research agenda. At least 200 hours of work should occur over the summer, one semester, or two semesters.

## ■ Undergraduate Student Summer Support Grant

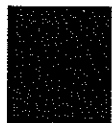
A total of \$10,000 is available to employ undergraduate students to assist faculty in pursuing their research agenda during the summer.



## Reduction in Teaching Loads for Approved Research Projects

Faculty may request a reduction in teaching loads from the vice president for academic affairs for approved research projects. All requests must be made on the approved application form for reductions in teaching loads and submitted in writing to the vice president for academic affairs with a copy to the appropriate dean and chair at the same time. Only six such research reductions in teaching loads are available each academic year.

**Eligibility:** All full-time faculty members not on sabbatical or other leave may apply. Requests must be received by 5 p.m. the last working day in September to be considered for the following academic year. A template for the application is available in the Office of Academic Affairs.



## Human and Animal Research

The university requires that students or faculty engaged in human or animal research first obtain approval from the appropriate Niagara University review board using the correct forms. These forms are available on the Research Council review board Web site:

[www.niagara.edu/library/crubrd.html](http://www.niagara.edu/library/crubrd.html)