Diversity Committee Grants

Spring 2012

Description of Grants:

A - Grants/Curriculum Development

B – Grants/Universal Design of Instruction

C - Grants Rules and Dates

A total of 8 grants ($500 each) will be committed to the following purposes:

A - Grants/Curriculum Development

General objectives of the grants:

The main objective of the Diversity Grants is to support the development of courses with diversity content that can be designated as meeting the “Cultural Diversity” requirement in the Niagara University General Education curriculum. Related to this main objective, the Diversity Grants support the development and/or enhancement of courses in any minor and/or major that help build programs related to diversity. Disciplines to consider include Business, Education, and Hospitality, as well as disciplines in Arts and Sciences such as English, Religion, Philosophy, History, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, and Analytical Skills.

5 grants ($500 each) are available for:

A grant proposal or description of an idea for developing or enhancing a course with a Cultural Diversity designation. Please submit a course proposal and description of the topic (not the syllabus), including the necessity and objectives of the course, as well as a brief description of the content. Please be specific about the content related to diversity and be explicit if the course is supporting the development of a minor or major. Proposals to enhance courses that are taught once or twice a year will be specially considered.

For more information about the grants please contact:

Dr. Chris Lee: tlee@niagara.edu

Dr. James McCutcheon: jm@niagara.edu

Dr. Sylvia Valentin: Valentin@niagara.edu

B - Grants/Universal Design of Instruction
General objectives of the grants:

The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Committee is accepting applications for Niagara University instructors who conduct classroom-based inquiry to create environments and academic activities that enhance the learning of all students, including students with disabilities, using the principles of Universal Design of Instruction. “The basic premise of universal instructional design is that curriculum should include alternatives to make it accessible and applicable to students with different backgrounds, learning styles, abilities, and disabilities” (Center for Applied Special Technology, http://www.cast.org). Universal instructional design includes alternatives, focuses on accessibility, includes many accommodations that already exist, and benefits many types of students (Curriculum Transformation and Disability, http://www.cehd.umn.edu/crdeul/books-ctad.html).

3 grants ($500 each) are available for:

The purpose of the grant is to provide faculty with resources to enable them to design their instruction to enhance the teaching and learning of students with different backgrounds, learning styles, abilities, and disabilities. Grants addressing the following themes are especially encouraged and will receive preference:

- Projects that incorporate technology to support teaching and learning.

Example: Placing lecture notes and other course materials online, using captioned videos/podcasts, using online discussions and feedback, etc. These strategies may help students with limited use of their hands, those with attention difficulties, poor handwriting, blind/low vision (who use screen reading software), hearing limitations (can read information online), people who miss class due to sick children and other life demands, non-native speakers of English to reinforce language skills, and other students who are seeking additional support or reinforcement of in-class material.

- Projects that promote student engagement of diverse groups of students.

Example: Create opportunities for students to get to know professor and each other, encourage group work and/or peer feedback, and allow students to turn in parts of a large project for feedback before the final project is due.

For additional information and a grant proposal application, please contact Diane Stoelting at 716-286-8076 or ds@niagara.edu.

C – Grants Rules, Criteria, Dates
General Rules:

1- Both full and part-time faculty can apply for Diversity Grants.

2- If a course has been previously revised with a Diversity Grant, it cannot be resubmitted for another grant.

3- Faculty who received previous grants can apply for a Diversity Grant if it is based on a different course development or revision.

4- Please indicate in the submission if you received a Diversity Grant previously.

Specific Grant Criteria:

A - Grants/Curriculum Development:

Applicants need to write a brief abstract of maximum 300 words. Include the following: a course proposal and description of the topic (not the syllabus), including the necessity and objectives of the course, as well as a brief description of the content. Please be specific about the content related to “Diversity” and be explicit if the course is supporting the development of a program or a minor; these proposals will be prioritized for selection in receiving the grants.

In addition, applicants should do the following:

a) During Fall 2012, the New or Revised course should be submitted to the Curriculum Committee of your College. For information about submission of a Course Proposal please contact the Curriculum Committee Chair.

b) During Spring 2013 faculty that were awarded Diversity Grants should participate in a Grant Showcase event organized by the Diversity Committee. At this time you will talk about your course and how it will contribute to diversity at Niagara University. The Grant Showcase event is open to faculty that would like to apply for a grant in 2013 and also for students who may be interested in taking a course with diversity content and to anyone generally interested in courses that have been enhanced with diversity content.

B – Grants/Universal Design of Instruction:

For a grant proposal application and more information, please contact Diane Stoelting at 716-286-8076 or ds@niagara.edu. The grants are available to instructors of credit-bearing courses or required learning
skills courses. Grant applications will be evaluated by a subcommittee of the ADA Committee. The following criteria areas will be used to judge the grants: presentation of application, methodology, addressing outcomes, and researcher expertise. Grant recipients will be expected to

a) conduct their research during the Fall 2012 semester, and

b) disseminate their findings, results, and evidence of instructional changes to other Niagara University faculty at a Grant Showcase event on campus during the Spring 2013 semester.

Faculty members of the ADA Committee who apply for a grant will not serve on the review subcommittee.

General Dates for Grants A and B

1 – April 23, 2012, 5:00 p.m.: deadline for submitting grants A and B. Please submit an electronic copy of your proposal to David Blackburn, Director of Multicultural & International Student Affairs (MISA), Gallagher Center, First Floor, deb@niagara.edu.

2 – May 16, 2012: deadline for the Diversity Committee to inform the applicants about the results.

Specific Dates

Grants/Curriculum Development:

1 - Fall 2012: submission of the course to the Curriculum Committee and send an electronic copy of the submission to David Blackburn (deb@niagara.edu).

2 – Spring 2013: participate in the Spring 2013 Grant Showcase event organized by the Diversity Committee.

Universal Design of Instruction:

1 - Fall 2012: conduct research.

2 - Spring 2013: disseminate findings, results, and evidence of instructional changes to other Niagara University faculty at a Grant Showcase event on campus.