

2006-2007 College Faculty Awards for Excellence

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Acknowledgements

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Background

- 2005 legislature: \$12M for “competitive compensation for faculty and staff for initiatives to promote excellence in student learning”
- \$6.6M for College Faculty Awards for Excellence
 - ❖ \$0.9M for university administrative and service faculty Special Initiative Awards
 - ❖ \$0.5M for university faculty professional improvement funds
 - ❖ \$6.6M for institutional Initiatives to Promote Excellence in Student Learning
- Program launched Dec, 2005

<http://awardsforexcellence.project.mnscu.edu>



Executive Summary

- **1,220 faculty projects**
 - ❖ 940 complete
 - ❖ 280 open (most may be complete)
 - ❖ 1,350 reported approved by CAOs
- **\$6.1M spent**
 - ❖ Range: \$40,457 - \$462,320
- **\$178K campus match funding**
- **Estimated 1,000+ faculty rewarded**
- **98% of projects met or exceeded their goals for promoting excellence in student learning**



Project Outcomes Met or Exceeded Goals

- **Student Learning - 98%**
- **Teaching Methods - 99%**
- **Student Assessment - 98%**



Strategic Values and Principles

- Encourage successful student learning outcomes - 35%
- Enhance program quality - 21%
- Active collaboration, partnership - 18%
- Encourage innovation using technology - 17%
- Meet community needs - 9%



Program Benefits

- ❖ **Projects launched that may not have otherwise been accomplished**
- ❖ **Courses enhanced**
- ❖ **Courses and student services augmented online**
- ❖ **Connections made or extended with K-12 partners**
- ❖ **Faculty learning circles formed**
- ❖ **Faculty collaborated across disciplines.**
- ❖ **Assessments developed**



Program Benefits

- ❖ Faculty motivated to conduct work over the summer
- ❖ New programs developed
- ❖ Best or successful practices disseminated more broadly
- ❖ College faculty learned new grant proposal and management skills
- ❖ More scholarship of teaching and learning



Program Challenges

- Sustainability
- Quality, completion of projects
- Administrative burden
- MyGrants maintenance
- Campus committee support
- Some loss of connection with student learning
- “Above and beyond” and scale/benchmark for \$5000
- Consistency among colleges



Conclusions/Implications

- **Unique system offering**
 - ❖ Academic grants process and special funding elicit faculty innovations in instruction.
- **The enthusiasm generated among participant faculty is great**
- **Funding cycle not yet reliable—creates sense of uncertainty, “one time only”**
- **Annual review should continue to remove administrative burden from program**
- **When funding is available, this program should be maintained on an ongoing basis, and used as a possible model for others.**
- **Significant goals are being achieved**



Conclusions

- Significant goals achieved; many innovative, most strategic
- \$3M annually in compensation funds leverages outcomes that program money alone can't achieve
- Long-term followup study could evaluate sustainability
- Ongoing program could encourage sharing, re-use of products, materials, ideas



Next Steps?



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