Carnegie Mellon University

Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Call for Proposals: Andrew W. Mellon Seed Grants for Technology-Enhanced Learning and Digital Humanities

Carnegie Mellon University's Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences announces a call for proposals for Dietrich College faculty. Funds are available to support promising new humanities research and education activities in two domains: (1) learning science and technology-enhanced learning (TEL); and (2) digital humanities (DH) and computationally-assisted humanities research. These funds are intended to seed a community of DH and TEL collaborators at CMU, welcoming projects from faculty who have not yet worked in these areas, and pilot projects that can lead to larger external grant proposals.

Funding of up to $10k per project is available through a generous Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant combined with matching CMU funds to foster DH and TEL. Faculty may also request up to 30 days of technical personnel time (e.g., for pedagogical or assessment support, production of instructional resources, digital humanities consulting, multimedia design, programming or tool development, and data analysis) available from DH and TEL staff. Projects may be budgeted over 1-2 years. It is expected that 4-8 grants will be awarded. Full-time visiting faculty or non-Dietrich College faculty are welcome to apply as co-PI, as long as the primary PI is a Dietrich College faculty member.

Deadlines
Application Deadline: February 12, 2016
Decision letters: March 18, 2016
Funding available: No later than May 1, 2016
Questions? Contact Andy Norman at anorman@cmu.edu.

Funding proposals can be submitted for either of the following programs:
Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) Seed Grants

Objectives:
The Mellon Foundation supports ongoing innovation at CMU through increased faculty involvement in the development of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) resources in the humanities. Mellon TEL Seed Grants are intended to allow CMU faculty to pursue research or education projects aimed at improving student learning outcomes through technology. This may include the development of new technology-enhanced tools for CMU courses, technology-enhanced course modules, assessment tools, and learning science research (including data collection). Awardees of seed grants should ultimately contribute to demonstrably improved learning outcomes at CMU and beyond through research results, technology products, and pedagogical practices.

Proposals should strive to do one or both of the following:

1. **Demonstrably improve teaching and learning in the humanities at CMU**, e.g., by creating/assessing/refining a compelling technology-enhanced course innovation and demonstrating improved student learning from a technology-enhanced course innovation, here in Pittsburgh or on CMU’s global campus.

2. **Pursue humanities-related learning research within or outside of CMU**, e.g., by developing and assessing a technology-enhanced instructional method or principle of technology-enhanced learning within a course, by contributing to the scholarship of technology-enhanced teaching and learning; by developing and assessing a novel educational technology or using an existing technology in a novel way; or by leveraging educational data to make a scientific discovery.

Criteria:
Successful proposals will:

- **Deploy technology-enhanced learning in some form.** Novelty of educational technologies per se is not the focus of this program but rather the effective and innovative use of educational technologies to enhance learning outcomes or learning science. Proposed work may involve the integration/application of existing educational technologies OR the creation of new educational technologies.

- **Collect and analyze data on student learning outcomes.** Projects should specify what direct measures of student learning will be used to assess the effectiveness of educational interventions, guide ongoing improvements, and/or test hypotheses about learning. Note that colleagues at the Eberly Center are available to support the design of technology-enhanced instructional tools, as well as of measurements of learning outcomes. We encourage applicants to participate in a workshop offered by the Center (Jan 19 or 20, 10:30-11:30am; see [http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/facultyworkshops/](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/facultyworkshops/)) or arrange time for 1-on-1 consultation with members of the Eberly Center staff.
• **Articulate a sustainability plan.** Projects should explain how the proposed work will likely be maintained and extended beyond the scope of the seed grant. Examples include: implementing a course innovation that is likely to be used in other courses and that inspires other faculty to re-use, or adapt it; disseminating the work inside and outside of CMU in a way that likely leads to further adoption or expansion; or producing a basis of work for writing future, successful grants to external funders. Where possible, PIs are encouraged to indicate specific potential sources of funding.

In addition, proposals should, as much as possible:

• **Describe meaningful contributions to learning research or educational practice.** Proposals should provide a compelling case that the proposed work will make a difference within the project’s scope and beyond, e.g., by describing likely impact(s) in the target context and then estimating transferability to other contexts; by discussing opportunities to disseminate the work inside and outside of CMU.

• **Leverage results from previous learning research** (need not be the PI’s). Proposals should include an evidence-based rationale for the feasibility and success of the proposed work.

**Funding details:**
Proposals for TEL Seed Grants are encouraged to request funds of $10,000 or less; while larger awards may be requested, they are unlikely to be awarded. In addition to direct funding, recipients will have access to support from an educational technologist with expertise in the humanities; as a part of the Eberly Center, this specialist will be available to support grant recipients in their TEL resources. Further details about budget are described below.
Digital Humanities (DH) Seed Grants

Objectives:
The Mellon Foundation supports ongoing innovation at CMU through the development of Digital Humanities (DH) research initiatives. Mellon DH Seed Grants are intended to allow CMU faculty to pursue technologically-inflected humanities research projects, broadly construed. These may include computationally-driven humanities analysis; humanities digital tool building; public or crowdsourced humanities mediated through computers or the web; or humanistic explorations of technology & digital culture. Pilot projects are welcome if there are strong prospects for further funding via foundations, government agencies, or other external sources.

Criteria:
Proposals will be evaluated on:

- **Intellectual Significance.** The project would stimulate or facilitate new research of value to scholars and general audiences in the humanities, or would use digital technologies to communicate humanities scholarship to broad audiences. It would encompass work of intellectual significance in its potential to enhance research, teaching, or learning in the humanities.

- **Merit of Approach.** The idea, approach, and/or methods under consideration would be innovative, and the technology employed in the project would be appropriate.

- **Project Organization.** The conception, definition, organization, and description of the project are clearly expressed.

- **Feasibility.** The project’s plan of work could be accomplished during the grant term, and the start-up activities will significantly contribute to the project’s long-term goals. The qualifications, expertise, and levels of commitment of the awardee and collaborators are sufficient to achieve the project’s short-term goals. (note: the PI does not need technical expertise if the proposal shows they have sufficient support from the DH Specialist, DH Developer, or other collaborators).

If applicable, pilot project proposals should discuss opportunities for obtaining additional sources of support and likelihood of the project being sustained beyond seed funding.

Funding Details:
Proposals for DH Seed Grants are encouraged to request funds of $10,000 or less; while larger awards may be requested, they are unlikely to be awarded. In addition to direct funding, recipients will have access to consulting from the digital humanities specialist and some programming assistance from a digital humanities developer. Further details about budget are described below.
How to Apply:

Proposal Details:
Proposals for both the Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and Digital Humanities (DH) Grant programs should be prepared as follows:

Cover Page (1 page) with the following information:
- Principal (or Co-Principal) Investigators’ names, affiliations, and contact information
- Title of the project
- Grant for which you are applying: TEL or DH
- Dietrich Department (all proposals should have a primary affiliation with one Dietrich department)
- Abstract (up to 200 words)

Project Narrative (2 pages maximum): Summarize the proposed activities, including the motivation for the project and any relevant prior work, who will be involved in the work, and the projected timeline. Note: In the case of TEL proposals, PIs who are simultaneously submitting to the ProSEED/Simon Initiative Faculty Seed Grants program are encouraged to use the same project narrative for both programs, see Simon Initiative instructions here under “Project Narrative”.

Project Budget (1 page maximum): Identify specific budget items and amounts requested, with brief justifications as needed. Some specific details on project budgeting:
- There is no explicit restriction on the use of funds. Funds may be used to cover summer salary and course buyout. However, these expenses must be clearly justified and consistent with college and/or departmental policies.
- Overhead will not be charged. However, benefits do need to be accounted for if using funds to pay for salary.
- Use of support staff (budget up to 30 days). Technical Specialists in Humanities TEL and Digital Humanities Development are available to provide support for funded projects; this support can include consultation around learning/DH research and best practices, use of learning/DH data, and technology development. Indicate which kinds of work are most relevant to the proposed project, and for each, estimate the number of working days that the project will likely need. This is expected to be a rough estimate of your anticipated needs; details (e.g., in amount, nature and scope of work) will be adjusted before awards are finalized, based on a further discussion of project needs and the match to available personnel.

Note: It is the responsibility of the PI of funded proposals to ensure that all appropriate IRB approvals are in place prior to the initiation of the project.

Application materials should be submitted to Andrew Norman (anorman@cmu.edu) as a single document in PDF or Word format by February 12, 2016.