May 2013

Dear Colleagues:

We are very excited to announce the Provost’s Challenge awards.

For the Reframing and Acceleration categories, please see the hyperlinked list of awarded projects below totaling $2,310,000.

- Meeting (and exceeding) student goals in mathematics and statistics ($250,000)
- University Studies Online General Education Pathways ($275,000)
- A coherent set of ten fully online courses at multiple levels that meet university, general education, and departmental requirements ($135,000)
- Online Master of Social Work (MSW) Degree with Specialization in Community and Leadership Practice ($250,000)
- Giving Credit Where Credit is Due ($250,000)
- Making Learning Visible: An Eportfolio Initiative to Transform Learning and Assessment at PSU ($50,000)
- Pathways to Innovation: Reframing Chemistry and Biology Education at PSU for the 21st Century ($200,000)
- Cluster of Projects from SBA (Totaling $900,000)

Let Knowledge Serve the City and Our Students: Preparing SBA Students for Success by Positioning Practicum/Career Skills as a Centerpiece of the Curriculum by Leveraging the Efficiencies of a Collaborative, School-Wide Credit-based “Mini-MOOC”

Social Entrepreneurship Certificate

Expanding the PSU Sphere of Influence: A Vision for Increased Access Through Highly Effective Online Programming in Business Education

For the Inspiration Challenge projects, please see the hyperlinked list of awarded projects below totaling $200,000.

- Online Academic Advising & Career Development Modules
- Continuing Engagement for Social Change: At and Beyond Portland State
The Reframing and Acceleration Challenge projects reflect a diverse portfolio of ways in which Portland State University faculty and staff have envisioned using technology to empower learners; while at the same time enhancing the important role that faculty and staff play in the delivery and support of our mission.

The Inspiration Challenge was modeled on the success of the Last Mile initiative at PSU, which has shown that it is possible to have a large impact with very modest cost when we are inspired to collaborate around an opportunity or issue that affects our students. The Inspiration Challenge projects offer a variety of solutions that use technology to lead to improved student success and graduation.

The purpose of the Provost’s Challenge at the onset was to solicit ideas and allow our institution to imagine and implement changes that provide leadership in response to issues in higher education. Over one third of our faculty and staff engaged in one or more of the over 160 concepts submitted. This “crowd sourcing” effort created many important campus conversations that we hope will continue. The funded projects are designed to create “hot spots” where the work will continue to be public and create additional opportunities for exploration and rich conversation.

As a reminder, the Provost’s Challenge is part of a larger initiative to reTHINK PSU. It was made possible by one-time funds collected from online fees. These fees are restricted funds; they could only be used for efforts too enhance the curriculum via technology.

For more details on the funding of these projects, please see LINK.
There were so many great ideas generated by the Provost’s Challenge—the majority of which we could not fund. We are happy to hear that some of these will continue through the efforts of our faculty and staff. They reflect a forward thinking approach to how we deliver instruction and these ideas should not be abandoned.

We are excited about the work ahead and the innovative ideas and energy of our faculty and staff. If it any time you have questions, comments, or ideas related to the Provost’s Challenge or the reTHINK PSU initiative in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sona K. Andrews
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sukhwant Jhaj
Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Student Success