

Thank You to Our Donors



May 2017

Thanks to your generosity, IDEA is coming off of a successful fundraising year. *We could not have done it without you!*

For IDEA, success is ultimately defined not as the amount of donations that were raised, but instead by the impact that those donations have on improving teaching, learning, and student success in higher education.

With that in mind, we gathered some testimonials from our grantees, and from others whose projects have benefited from your thoughtfulness.



Dr Megan Smith and Dr. Yana Weinstein
of The Learning Scientists

Impact Grant grantee Dr. Yana Weinstein, Project Investigator for University of Massachusetts - Lowell's *"Teaching the Science of Learning"* project says, "With funding from IDEA, we have been able to create and pilot an intervention to teach students how to study. We have also been invited to visit schools in the U.S. and abroad to present and discuss strategies for effective learning based in the science of learning."

Dr. Steve Benton, IDEA's Senior Researcher, notes that donations to Research and Papers had a direct impact on the *production of several IDEA Papers* during the past year.

According to Steve, the papers highlighted:

- Activities offered before, during and after lessons to facilitate students' metacognition and self-reflection.
- Strategies to help instructors promote positive interpersonal relationships in the classroom, increase student connectedness, and, thereby improve classroom climate.
- Approaches to facilitate active learning in the online asynchronous classroom environment.
- Methods to successfully transition from a traditional, face-to-face classroom to a technologically supported distance course, using group work and active learning teaching methods.



Dr. Steve Benton speaks at an IDEA Workshop

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As for Impact Grant grantee Dr. Maria Baldassare Hopkins of Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, Impact Grant funding represents an important source of funding for the development and study of their *Teaching Integration and Innovation Lab* (The TIIL). According to Dr. Hopkins, “The TIIL is a faculty-led support system for formative development of teaching, encouraging collaboration, feedback, innovation, and integration of ideas and techniques. IDEA Impact Grant funding is making it possible for us to hold focus group interviews with TIIL participants in order to understand the impact of programming on their teaching and ways that we can improve our offerings. It is also supporting our ability to have an impact beyond the walls of our institution by supporting travel to professional conferences where we share our outcomes.”



Dr. Maria Baldassare Hopkins

Dr. Sarah Zahl, IDEA Impact Grant grantee, and Marian University’s Director of Educational Assessment says, “Due to this grant award, *we have been able to provide additional faculty development events and resources* to facilitate conversations about how faculty development impacts student learning. We are collecting data to determine how student feedback and student learning metrics are impacted by the implementation of key takeaways from faculty development events. We have created a faculty learning community to discuss these topics and draw conclusions based on the data provided.”



Dr. Sarah Zahl



Karla Oty

Karla Oty of Cameron University offered, “*The grant project is going well. We offered five freshman-only sections with peer mentors* in the spring and three freshman-only sections with peer mentors in the fall. We’ve just gotten back the data from the course evaluations and the grade distributions so we haven’t had time to analyze any of the data, but plan to do so this spring. We are also planning on surveying the faculty who taught the courses with peer mentors to get their input.”

Dr. Jake Glover, IDEA’s Senior Education Officer, noted that “The funding we received through the Fund for IDEA made it possible to complete our first *SoundIDEA podcast* on building a learner-centered syllabus. We’re now working on a series of SoundIDEA podcasts that we believe will provide faculty with helpful, real-world best practices in a highly consumable format. I am grateful for donations to the Fund.”



Dr. Jake Glover at a recent IDEA Workshop

My hope is that these testimonials help tell the story of how your donations are having a direct impact on IDEA's ability to improve teaching, learning, and student success in higher education. I appreciate your support for these initiatives, and look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions as 2017 plays out.

Warmly,
Brad

Brad K. Mazon, Ph.D.
Director of Fundraising and Advancement