



Call for Proposals: Synthesis of Lessons Learned During the Pandemic Response of Spring 2020: Practical Advice for Teaching, Learning, and Educational Development in Fall 2020 and Beyond.

Project Goal

Create a narrative account of lessons learned during the Spring 2020 academic experience, highlighting the dramatic shift in instruction at post-secondary institutions and what higher education needs to do to prepare for the immediate future. The account should consist of three sections, each highlighting experiences of three different classifications of colleges and universities (the Institutional Groups) - research-oriented institutions, regional and community colleges, and smaller independent colleges, as well as an overall synthesis of the results of the three Institutional Groups highlighting similarities, differences, notable successes and failures, and actionable advice for Fall 2020. The account should be concise and available to distribute through academic networks no later than July 1, 2020.

Activities

We welcome proposals that involve collaboration amongst teaching/learning scholars representing Centers for Teaching and Learning (CTLs) within each identified Institutional Group for the project, and envision a lead scholar coordinating the overall project with one teaching/learning scholar responsible for each Institutional Group. Each scholar on the team should interview at least 20 CTLs in their Institutional Group (or the academic representative in charge of teaching and learning should a CTL not exist on campus), asking a set of common questions about experiences in undergraduate education either in writing or with interviews, or both. The team will be responsible for design of the survey/interview format as well as the questions asked. The analysis should focus on answering two overarching questions:

1. What have you learned about learning, teaching, and educational development that is related to our current pandemic context?
 - a. At your institution, what practices/experiences so far have been most effective in learning, teaching and educational development?
 - b. What has been most painful/challenging in learning, teaching, and educational development? For whom? How/Why?
 - c. Have any risks (to the institution, students, faculty, educational quality, etc.) emerged, or become more salient? What/How? Why?
 - d. What insights/lessons do you think should impact near-term future work? How? Long-term work?
2. What do you need to support faculty, students, and instruction at your institution for 2020/21?
 - a. Resources? What kind?
 - b. Knowledge/expertise? What kind?
 - c. Collaboration and/or input from associations/professional organizations? In what form?

The analysis should be sensitive to the entire academic experience on campus and probe for experiences involving faculty members, students, educational developers, and academic leaders. The report should synthesize the results of these inquiries, describing both notable successful and unsuccessful efforts and the evidence for these conclusions.

This project is more like journalism than academic writing in that it should be done with accessible writing style suitable for distribution to and reading by a wide range of academic personnel, regardless of field. The reports can be brief, practical, and action-oriented, and they also should include links to more resources as appropriate.

Expected Time Required

This project will begin no later than May 15, 2020 and be completed no later than July 1, 2020, including development of the questions, carrying out the collection of work examples, synthesizing the lessons, and preparing the material for full distribution. Each step of the process will be coordinated with the IDEA Executive Director on a collaboratively designed specific timeline.

Preferred Qualifications

The scholar(s) should have terminal degrees and academic experience. Skills in design and analysis of self-report measures (standard response and open-ended) are essential, along with experience in integrative analysis and writing. Experience with collection of evidence about academic processes would be beneficial, as would experience with or knowledge of educational development practices and scholarship.

Payment

The work will be done as a coordinated team of independent contractors, with a one-time payment of \$10,000 for each Institutional Group section, and \$10,000 for the synthesis of the research from the three Institutional Groups, for a total of \$40,000. Any reasonable additional expenses associated with the project can be negotiated.

Submission

Submit your proposal to The IDEA Center's Executive Director at execdirector@IDEAedu.org. Include:

1. Team Members. Identify Lead Scholar and include background and qualifications of all members including a brief CV from each.
2. Proposed Methodology
 - a. Basic timeline.
 - b. Outline of the inquiry design. Include proposed identification of participants, what questions/prompts will be asked, and how data will be collected.
 - c. Planned synthesis and analysis of data.
 - d. Changes suggested. If you have ideas for changes to the approach outlined above, you can suggest them in your proposal. Please keep proposals to 3 pages or less.

Submissions are due May 11, 2020 and a decision will be made by May 15, 2020.