December 1, 2010

Dear Faculty Member:

The Center for Teaching Excellence announces that we are accepting applications for the R. Patricia Walsh Grants in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for 2011-2012. These grants are given to assist faculty in implementing pedagogical innovations in classes and in documenting the results of these innovations. The grants are named in memory of the late Dr. R. Patricia Walsh, former director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, who encouraged and strongly supported scholarly work related to new pedagogies, student learning, and teaching excellence.

The grants may be used to improve teaching and student learning in a variety of ways, including devising new instructional strategies, implementing innovations in class curricula, developing culturally diverse materials, or exploring new ways of assessing student learning. Examples of proposals that have been funded in the past include: 1) building conceptual understanding in introductory physics, 2) a dialogical team teaching model for philosophy instruction, 3) integrating student-designed experiments into a science class and 4) designing scoring rubrics that reveal expectations and provide feedback to students. Grants are awarded for innovations in particular courses, not for overall program development. Grants are normally not made for items such as computer software, web page design, or equipment. Grants are sometimes given for the development of new courses, but innovation in teaching methods within the course must be the focus of the proposal rather than the presentation of new content within a discipline.

These awards are limited to tenured and tenure-track faculty who are teaching full-time during the grant period. The grant sum is $5000, with 80 percent of this amount given in May 2011 and the final 20 percent upon completion of the grant. Final completion includes a presentation of the grant outcome in the Center for Teaching Excellence and submission of a final report to CTE by the grant recipient. The project may be completed during the summer of 2011 or during the 2011-2012 academic year. In order to receive the final 20 percent of the grant stipend, the report and presentation must be completed no later than September 15th, 2013. Faculty may not receive additional funding from other sources for the specific project proposed in the grant application to CTE. In addition, faculty may not receive funding for CTE grants in two consecutive years.

You may obtain the application materials from the CTE website at www.lmu.edu/cte.
The application packet on the web includes: 1) Guidelines for the grant proposal, 2) A calendar for the grant process, 3) An outline of the project description, 4) Instructions for the proposal cover sheet, 5) Conditions pertaining to CTE grants (this page requires your signature) and 6) Evaluation forms for your Chair and Dean. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the application materials, call CTE at 310.338.5866 or email teachers@lmu.edu. Proposals are due to your Chair and Dean, and to the Center for Teaching Excellence by Friday, January 28, 2011.

The applications will be evaluated by your department’s Chair and Dean, and will be blindly reviewed by the members of the Committee on Excellence in Teaching.

These awards are central to the mission of the Center for Teaching Excellence, and I hope you will give serious consideration to submitting a proposal. The shared results of your project enrich the ongoing dialogue on teaching at LMU and contribute in significant ways to the commitment to excellent teaching at the University.

The Committee on Excellence in Teaching invites you to view a podcast of a CTE workshop on tips for writing these faculty grant proposals. Contact the Center at (310)338-5866 or email teachers@lmu.edu if you would like information on how to view the podcast.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Larson, Ph.D.
Interim Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

Cc: Kevin Wetmore, Ph.D.
Chair Committee on Excellence in Teaching