December 5, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

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 2012-2013. 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 based on specific pedagogical elements of the course. 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, tenure-track, and clinical faculty who are teaching full time during the grant period. The grant sum is $5,000 for individual grants and up to $8,000 for collaborative grants (to be split equally between all applicants), with 80 percent of this amount given in June 2012 and the final 20 percent upon completion of the grant. Final completion includes a presentation, discussion, or similar sharing of the grant outcomes at the Center for Teaching Excellence and submission of a final report to the CTE by the grant recipient. The project may be completed during the summer of 2012 or during the 2012-2013 academic year. In order to receive the final 20 percent of the grant stipend, the report and concluding CTE event must be completed no later than December 6, 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. For detailed guidelines, see the application package.

You may obtain the application materials from the CTE website. The application packet includes: 1) Guidelines for the grant proposal, 2) An outline of the project description, 3) A timetable for the grant process, 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. Proposals are due by email in ONE pdf file to the Center for Teaching Excellence (teachers@lmu.edu) by Friday, January 27, 2012, 5pm PST. Forward that email with
your proposal and a link to or copy of the appropriate evaluation form to your Chair and Dean by the same deadline.

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.

Please contact the Center for Teaching Excellence if you have any questions about the grants and/or application and selection process.

Sincerely,

Dorothea K Herreiner, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

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