

Pilot Project for a Diversified Curriculum: Faculty Learning Community

Muhlenberg College has recently been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with the specific aim of infusing issues of diversity into and across the curriculum. An important centerpiece of this project is the Faculty Learning Community. This Community will function as a seven-month faculty development seminar devoted to the integration of diversity curriculum into the College curriculum-at-large. The aims of the Community are broadly centered on four interconnected directives:

- (1) Participants will propose, research, and produce an individual “pioneer project” to be put into effect as a new course, a revised course syllabus and/or a pedagogical technique.
- (2) Participants will identify key issues for discussion with regard to diversity, plurality, and the College curriculum. Topics discussed may include the current D perspective, the construction of race, non-standard epistemologies, and pedagogical strategies for engaging in class discussion in a context in which few minority voices are present.
- (3) Participants will collaboratively author a summative report identifying strategies of engagement with issues of diversity campus-wide. This report will be made available to future cohorts and to the members of the College community.
- (4) At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will present their work to faculty and staff in a two-day on-campus workshop.

Participation

The Faculty Learning Community will meet biweekly (once every other week) from December, 2006 – May, 2007. The capstone campus workshop will be held in May, 2007.

Faculty participants will receive a \$750 stipend as compensation for their work. Participation in the Learning Community is by application (see below).

Application

The application consists of a statement of purpose and a copy of your current CV. The statement should be no longer than 2-3 double-spaced pages and contain:

- an articulation of your **goals** in participating in the Learning Community. Your goal statements should reflect on both pedagogical *practice* and *philosophy*.
- a clear and succinct description of your **pioneer project** and the contribution you expect this project to make to issues of diversity across the curriculum. Please ensure that your proposal is written in language which is comprehensible to faculty of other disciplines.

The deadline for the application is Friday, November 3. Please send application materials to the Office of the Provost.

Faculty Trips to Develop International Study Sites

An additional directive of the Mellon Pilot Project will be the development of two research and teaching “study sites” in Africa and Asia. Country-specific sites will be determined by capitalizing on existing faculty expertise and institutional relationships. If you would be interested in connecting your proposal to the development of one such “study site” please indicate this on your application. Faculty participants in the workshop will be eligible to apply for funding to visit and structure programming around these sites in Summer, 2007.