We invite you to apply for a Mellon fellowship. Now in its fourth year, the Faculty Communities of Teaching Scholars (FaCTS) initiative is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support faculty in planning and implementing innovative curricular and/or pedagogical projects over the course of an academic year. The expected outcomes of the initiative include enhancing scholarly teaching practices, encouraging faculty involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning, and ultimately enhancing student learning experiences.

The theme of FaCTS for the 2012-2013 academic year is “Teaching for Social Responsibility.” According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities social responsibility includes:

- Civic knowledge and engagement (local and global)
- Intercultural knowledge
- Ethical reasoning and action
- Foundation and skills for lifelong learning anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges.

The mission and tradition of HBCUs in general and Xavier in particular encourage faculty to explore issues of social responsibility in the classroom.

Eligibility and Application Process

Proposals may be submitted by any full-time faculty member within the university. Two fellowships will be reserved for faculty members from neighboring HBCUs. Faculty members should submit a complete copy of their proposals to the Center for the Advancement of Teaching via email (cat@xula.edu), no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 6, 2012. It is anticipated that up to ten proposals will be funded. Funded participants will receive one course release during the academic year or one month summer pay plus an additional $500 in funding for materials, supplies, etc. that are directly related to enhancing proposed projects. In addition, faculty will have up to $1500 of funding to travel to teaching-related conferences to learn about the topic or to present their projects. Please note that Pharmacy faculty are not eligible for the course release or summer pay. Instead, Pharmacy faculty who receive a fellowship will work with the CAT director to rebudget available funds in ways to best meet the needs of their projects (e.g., extra travel funds to conferences that enhance pharmaceutical education, increased materials money).

Funding decisions will be made and communicated to faculty by February 1, 2012. See below for details regarding proposal requirements and format.

FaCTS Proposal Expectations

The focus of FaCTS for the 2012-2013 academic year is to encourage faculty members to plan, implement, and evaluate course projects designed to promote social responsibility.
Preference will be given to faculty who have not previously received funding through FaCTS. Preference will be given to proposals:

a) incorporating a service learning (or other civic engagement) component,
b) targeting interdisciplinary classes,
c) including a scholarship of teaching and learning component, directly tied to the mission of the University.

The following offers a sample listing of ideas that may be pursued for funding under this program:

- The creation of discipline-specific courses aimed to enhance social responsibility;
- The restructuring of an existing course to infuse issues or assignments related to social responsibility;
- The inclusion of innovative student-centered teaching methods relying on extensive reading, writing and/or speaking, group projects, and other non-lecture formats to develop social responsibility;
- Other ideas based on documented research suggesting the effectiveness of the idea or innovative practice as related to social responsibility.

Proposal Requirements and Format

The following requirements and format for FaCTS proposals is strongly suggested:

1) **Cover Page** (see attached)

2) **Project Summary** (not to exceed 200 words): The project summary should provide a clear description of the proposed project along with a statement of objectives. In addition, it should include a brief description of how the project will operate and how it will contribute to the promotion of social responsibility.

3) **Narrative**: The narrative should not exceed three single-spaced pages and should address the following points:

   a. **Project Description** – This section should clearly describe the proposed project and how it addresses the theme. It should explain the logic underlying the proposed project. The ability to incorporate recent research findings regarding best practices into project design will strengthen the proposal. An outline of proposed goals and outcomes for the project should also be included.

   b. **Impact on Curriculum, Instruction, and Faculty Development** – Describe how the proposed project will impact existing course offerings and/or departmental, college, or university initiatives. Explain how the proposed project will enhance your own teaching effectiveness.

   c. **Evaluation Plan** – Explain how you will evaluate the success of the proposed project. Clearly describe the proposed data sources that you will use to document successful implementation and outcomes associated with the project.

   *Note: Awardees may be asked to collect and submit specific process and outcome-oriented evaluation data related to their projects in order to facilitate an overall assessment of the FaCTS.*
d. **Budget** – Include a budget narrative that explains how you intend to spend resources provided under this initiative during the project period.

e. **Timeline** – Submit a brief timeline for your project indicating when the course project would be implemented and evaluated.

f. **Statement of Commitment** – Finally, submit a statement of commitment to participate in the FaCTS Summer Seminar and monthly meetings if funded through this initiative.

4) **Letter of Support:** Attach a letter of support from the department chair or academic dean. Please make note of the required signatures on the cover sheet.

**Criteria for Assessment of Proposals**

Proposals will be assessed based on the quality and specificity of each subsection and will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the CAT Advisory Group and CAT staff.

**Project Requirements**

*FaCTS Summer Seminar.* It is anticipated that funded faculty members will be available from 9:30-3:30, May 14th-18th (the week immediately following graduation) to plan their projects and attend the FaCTS Summer Seminar. In addition to the coverage of the theme itself, the seminar will include sessions on innovations in pedagogy and instructional technology, integrative learning, and student engagement.

*Monthly FaCTS Meeting during AY 12-13.* During AY 12-13, while projects are being implemented, CAT will host monthly meetings to allow FaCTS participants to exchange ideas and troubleshoot projects. Grant recipients will be publicly recognized for their academic leadership and asked to share their knowledge and experiences with other colleagues across the university through CAT sessions or future FaCTS Summer Seminars.

*Evaluation of Completed Projects.* Faculty will be expected to evaluate their projects and provide evaluation reports to CAT.

**Schedule of Payment**

Eligible faculty members can choose to take their course releases either semester or as a month of summer pay. Additional funds to purchase materials or support travel will be distributed upon submission of appropriate documentation verifying expenses.

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**Questions or Comments**

Any questions about the FaCTS grant initiative or this RFP should be directed to Dr. Elizabeth Yost Hammer at 520-5141 or eyhammer@xula.edu.
Grant Proposal Cover Sheet

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Department: _____________________________________________________________

Mailing Information: ______________________________________________________

Title of Project: __________________________________________________________

Your Signature: __________________________________________________________

Chair Signature: __________________________________________________________

Associate Dean of Scholarship Signature _________________________________