

# Sustaining the Dialog: Building Core Expertise in Contemplative Pedagogy at Xavier University of Louisiana

Funded by the 1440 Foundation through the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society

## Request for Proposals

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching invites you to apply for a grant. The “Sustaining the Dialog” grant is funded by the 1440 Foundation through the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society to support faculty in developing a contemplative curriculum. The expected outcomes of the initiative include deepening faculty understanding of contemplative pedagogy, sharing expertise with colleagues, and ultimately enhancing student learning experiences.

St. Katherine Drexel’s desire was for a contemplative way of life, but her discernment led her to believe God’s “call” was to provide quality educational opportunities for Native Americans and African Americans, eventually founding Xavier University of Louisiana. Yet she never neglected the contemplative aspect; she consistently described her mission (she used the term “apostolate”) and that of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as being two-fold, i.e. prayer and work. Today at Xavier we recognize the need to extend our foundress’ vision into the classroom and emphasize that *vita activa* and *vita contempliva* are not mutually exclusive but in fact necessary correlates that support and inform one another. In pursuit of Xavier’s mission to “contribute to the promotion of a more just and humane society,” the University community would do well to stay grounded in a thoughtful and considered approach to teaching, learning and life.

In this spirit we invite you to apply for support, with the aim of developing a learning community of faculty through travel to the Summer Seminar in Contemplative Curriculum Development, who can share their expertise with colleagues on campus. As such this grant will allow for faculty to become faculty developers themselves, focusing on the theme of contemplative teaching.

## **Eligibility and Application Process**

Proposals may be submitted by any full-time faculty member within the university. Faculty members should submit a complete electronic copy of their proposal to the Center for the Advancement of Teaching via email (cat@xula.edu).

*Due Date:* No later than 4:00 p.m. on March 15, 2013

It is anticipated that three proposals will be funded. Funded participants will receive travel support to attend the Summer Session on Contemplative Pedagogy (August 4-9, 2013 at Smith College, Northampton, MA).

Funding decisions will be made and communicated to faculty by April 1, 2013. See below for details regarding proposal requirements and format.

### **Proposal Expectations**

The focus of this grant is to enable faculty members to gain expertise in contemplative pedagogy. No prior experience is necessary. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a grasp of the basic concept and sincere desire to learn more.

### **Proposal Requirements and Format**

Please use the following format for proposals:

- 1) **Cover Page** (see attached)
- 2) **Narrative** (not to exceed 500 words): Explain your interest in contemplative pedagogy.
- 3) **Statement of Commitment:** Submit a statement of commitment to participate in the activities specified under Participation Requirements, below.
- 4) **Letter of Support:** Attach a brief letter of support from the department chair or academic dean. Please make note of the required signatures on the cover sheet.

## **Assessment of Proposals**

Proposals will be assessed based on the expectations listed above and will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the CAT Advisory Group and CAT staff.

## **Participation Requirements**

*Summer Session on Contemplative Pedagogy.* It is anticipated that funded faculty members will be available from August 4-9, 2013, to attend the Summer Session on Contemplative Pedagogy at Smith College in Northampton, MA. More information is available on the web at

[www.contemplativemind.org/programs/summer](http://www.contemplativemind.org/programs/summer)

*Learning Community Meetings.* During the 2013-14 academic year, while faculty are implementing what they've learned, CAT will host four meetings to allow 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.

*Workshop:* Each faculty member will conduct a CAT workshop, sharing what they've learned in the process of integrating contemplative practices with their professional lives as teachers, with an eye toward helping others who are interested in similar work.

## **Questions or Comments**

Any questions about the grant or this RFP should be directed to Mr. Bart Everson at campus ext. 5164 or [bpeverso@xula.edu](mailto:bpeverso@xula.edu).

**Xavier University of Louisiana  
Center for the Advancement of Teaching**

**Sustaining the Dialog**

**Grant Proposal Cover Sheet**

Name:

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Department:

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Mailing Information:

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Your Signature:

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Chair Signature:

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