Learning Assessment Development Grants
Request for Proposals

Focus

The Assessment Committee, a Standing Committee of the Academic Affairs Board, is requesting proposals from Departments and Programs (hereafter, Department) for funding that will enhance learning assessment practices on campus. The Committee recognizes that resources and expertise that make assessment more effective and/or more efficient can sometimes come with financial costs. Accordingly, the Committee is issuing this RFP to ensure that financial constraints do not hinder Departments' efforts to augment or improve their ongoing learning assessment activities.

The Committee is most interested in sustainable improvements to Departmental assessment plans. That is, the Committee seeks to support efforts to build learning assessment capacity and/or resources within Departments across campus. Efforts to develop capacity should focus on developing learning assessment expertise of: faculty responsible for collecting the data used for the Department's assessment of student learning; faculty most responsible for the execution of the Department's assessment plan; and/or faculty leading efforts to revise the Department's assessment plan. Efforts to develop resources can focus on developing measurement instruments (e.g., rubrics, surveys, etc.) or on gaining access to existing measurement instruments or systems.

A few examples of projects the Committee considers to be within the scope of this award include supporting: (1) a faculty member's costs to attend (or extending a stay to attend) a learning assessment training session; (2) the time and/or travel of a non-Colgate Faculty member within your discipline who can offer guidance based on their experiences in learning assessment at their institution, (3) the costs of training focussed on institutionally supported tools that the Faculty will use in their learning assessments (e.g., Qualtrics, Google Forms, etc.), (4) the purchase of licenses to use learning assessment instruments, (5) the payment of per-student fees for learning assessment instruments available for the assessment of knowledge in your discipline (e.g., Major Fields Tests created by ETS) or other dimensions of your Department's Learning Goals.

As stated above, the goal of this program is to support innovation in learning assessment in a timely manner. However, it is expected that any continuous funding that is necessary for sustaining piloted activities will become the responsibility of the Department receiving the award, and a commitment to budgeting for these sustained expenses in future fiscal years should be included in all requests.

Funding

The Assessment Committee will fund as many requests as possible, but funds are limited. Requests should be limited to $1,000. The Committee can make five awards per year, though additional awards will be made if funds are available. Evaluation of requests will focus on the likelihood that the requested funds will lead to a sustainable improvement of the Department's learning assessment activities.

Applications

Proposals should be 500-1000 words and accompanied by the Department's current Learning Assessment Plan. The proposal should focus on the activities for which support is being sought, the

estimated costs of sustaining the proposed work, and how those activities relate to student learning data and or the Department's Learning Assessment Plan. It is expected that all submitted assessment plans will include curricular goals, direct and indirect measurement of student learning for all curricular goals, and a plan for responding to the information gathered on an annual basis. Please email proposals to Neil Albert (nalbert@colgate.edu) with the subject Learning Assessment Funding Request.

Timeline
- All proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis. Please submit proposals no later than May 31, 2015 for funding for the current fiscal year.
- Notifications of award will be made within two weeks of application receipt.
- Awarded funds must be spent during the same fiscal year in which they were awarded.
- A final report must be submitted to the Assessment Committee within 60 days of the completion of the supported activities.