
Announcing

CTE's Ideas to Action Program- Fall 2019

Apply by September 9, 2019

The future of the university depends on innovating teaching and learning in ways that attract students, create new opportunities for student growth and discovery, and support their success now and in the future. A new CTE program called **Ideas-to-Action** will help KU-Lawrence departments develop ideas and plans for such innovations. It is a semester-long program in which department teams will explore questions, challenges, and opportunities in their programs and develop a vision for evidence-informed changes. The program will support exploration, ideation, and planning by providing access to data, tools, guidance, funding, and community.

Program Summary

Ideas-to-Action is designed to lead to actionable plans for innovating teaching and learning in a department. We also encourage departments to use the program to explore the impact of prior program enhancements, or to develop and focus proposals for funding to support next steps, such as the Curriculum Innovation Program (due 12/4/19), Course Transformation Grants, or external grants. Departments will identify a team of faculty to develop questions about their curriculum or their students, explore evidence related to their questions, and develop plans based on the results. Relevant questions might include:

- *How well is our program aligned with the future needs of our students and the future of our discipline?*
- *How well are entry-level courses preparing students for later courses in the program?*
- *Do our sequences have inequities in achievement for some groups of students? How effective are our efforts to reduce such gaps?*
- *Where in the curriculum are students leaving our program or stalling in their progress toward a degree? Why?*
- *What types of curricular changes are likely to have the greatest impact on our students?*
- *What skills do students in our program struggle to master, and how can we improve learning in those areas?*
- *How can we better use assessment results to make meaningful revisions in a curriculum?*

What Will You Do in Ideas-to-Action?

Department teams will:

1. Have one or more team members participate in three program meetings, tentatively scheduled from 10-11:30 on September 20, October 18, and November 8, 2019.
2. Meet on their own in between program meetings, to develop questions, discuss results, and envision next steps.
3. Share their completed work with their department and the broader KU community.

What Will Ideas-to-Action Do for You?

To support your work, CTE will provide:

1. **Consultation, guidance, and support** in defining high-impact inquiries; gathering and interpreting evidence (e.g., learning within courses, student learning analytics, evidence from the teaching and learning literature); and developing a vision for next steps.

2. **Access to tools and dashboards and reports**, and collaboration with data analysts in Analytics and Institutional Research, that enable use of student learning analytics (e.g., patterns of student flow through the curriculum, grade distributions or retention data disaggregated for student subgroups) to address inquiries.
3. Opportunities to connect with **an intellectual community of colleagues** from other departments who are working toward similar goals and solving similar problems.
4. A **\$1000 fund** for the team (e.g., can support student assistance on the project, professional expenses/small stipends, or food or supplies for department meetings/retreats).

Eligibility and Expectations

Any KU-Lawrence academic department is eligible to apply. Department teams should be composed of at least three faculty members who will play an active role in the activities, with demonstrated support of the department chair. "Faculty" include multi-term lecturers, teaching specialists, and professors of teaching who have an ongoing role in their departments.

Department teams are expected to send at least one team member to program meetings, and share their work (questions, results, and proposed next steps) in at least one department meeting and in a poster at CTE's annual Celebration of Teaching held the afternoon of May 8, 2020 (with poster-writing support from a CTE graduate student fellow).

Application

Interested departments should submit a brief application (1-2 pages) by 5 p.m. Monday, September 9 at the following link: <https://cte.ku.edu/ctes-ideas-action-program>. Applications should address the following:

1. **Faculty team and leader.** Who will lead the team, and what other faculty members will participate? Why is this the right team for this work? How might you go about sharing your work with other department colleagues?
2. **Goals.** What are your goals for participating? What sorts of questions are you interested in exploring and why? What types of next steps might you consider taking in response to the results of your Ideas-to-Action participation?
3. **Other Efforts.** How would the project connect with prior or current department efforts to support effective teaching and learning?
4. **Funds.** How would you use the \$1000 to support your work?
5. **Availability.** Will at least one team member be able to attend the three working group meetings (10-11:30 on 9/20, 10/18, and 11/8)? Note that all members are welcome to attend.

Selection

Ideas-to-Action projects should promote cooperative, integrated participation among faculty members. Preference will be given to departments that will have broad engagement by faculty and seek to explore questions with meaningful implications for the teaching and learning culture in the unit. We will notify departments of decisions by 9/13/19. Funds will be available shortly thereafter.

Questions? Contact Andrea Greenhoot (agreenhoot@ku.edu) or Judy Eddy (jeddy@ku.edu).

The CTE Ideas-to-Action program is an outgrowth of the KU STEM Analytics program, supported by a grant from the [AAU Undergraduate STEM Education Initiative](#), funded by the Northrop Grumman Foundation. The Fall 2019 program will be partially supported by these funds.