



LEARNING IN ACTION SPRING FELLOWS APPLICATION

Submissions Due:

September 29, 2017 (For participation beginning in Spring 2018)

All applications should be submitted by campus mail to Learning in Action, Box 870166
Questions or Comments? Contact the QEP Director at experience@ua.edu or 205.348.7899

OVERVIEW

Providing high quality experiential learning to University of Alabama students requires high quality professional development opportunities for the faculty and staff who lead our campus in this area.

Through a competitive application process, Learning in Action supports faculty and staff interested in designing and implementing best-practices based experiential learning opportunities (ELOs) to improve undergraduates' problem solving skills. Selected participants design, implement and assess an ELO over the course of an academic year; meet with national experiential learning experts, participate in a professional learning community and the UA Learning in Action Summit; engage in other professional development opportunities; and contribute to the ongoing evaluation of effective teaching and learning practices at UA. For more information about best-practices based ELOs, visit learninginaction.ua.edu.

ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

All University of Alabama faculty and staff interested in using best-practices based ELOs to assist undergraduates in developing strong problem-solving skills are eligible to apply to Learning in Action. Learning in Action has particular interest in engaging diverse student populations and providing unique opportunities to actualize creativity and innovation in teaching and learning. Faculty and staff who are selected will:

- be recognized as campus leaders in experiential learning;
- receive guidance from national leaders in the field of experiential learning through on-campus and off-campus events;
- be supported by collaborative peer network via professional communities and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness;
- be eligible for reimbursement up to \$1,000 to be used for professional development related to teaching, research, or service in their discipline and/or experiential learning; and
- be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in reimbursement for resources needed to implement the ELO.

Note: As members of professional learning communities, faculty/staff selected for participation are expected to attend all meetings with their learning community and the Fall Learning in Action Summit (August 15-16, 2017). Each cohort will also contribute to the implementation and assessment of ELOs at UA.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Title:

Department:

Box #:

Office Phone Number:

Office Email:

Department Chair/Supervisor:

Department Chair/Supervisor Email:

Department Chair/Supervisor Signature: _____

Please explain why you are interested in designing and implementing an experiential learning opportunity through the Learning in Action Program.

Will your planned experiential learning opportunity be (check one option below):

Part of a specific course

A co-curricular (not for academic credit) experience

If your ELO will be part of a specific course, please provide the course # and name (e.g. PSY 491: Seminar in Psychology)

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When do you expect to offer your ELO?

Spring

Summer

Fall

Has the course or co-curricular experience been offered before?

Yes

No

Please describe the ELO you would like to design and implement, including a description of the anticipated student learning outcomes:

Below, please provide elaboration regarding:

How the ELO will assist students in developing stronger problem solving skills:

How the ELO will assist students in making connections between academic experiences/knowledge and work they will pursue in the future:

How the ELO will include characteristics typical of high quality experiential learning (intentionality, preparedness, feedback, reflection assessment, and evaluation; see experience.ua.edu):

If relevant, how does the proposed ELO purposefully assist students in exploring issues of diversity within individuals, groups and contexts?

Please describe how participation in the program will support your professional interests. In what ways might participation in the program provide you with unique opportunities for creativity and innovation?

Please read the following statements and click each box to indicate your agreement.

I understand that I am expected to design an ELO during my first semester of participation, implement that ELO during the second semester of my participation in the project, and apply for certification of my ELO after implementing the ELO.

I understand that I will be participating in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) for two semesters, and that I must be an active participant each semester to receive grants and/or reimbursement. Active participation includes attendance at PLC meetings and related events as well as submission of relevant artifacts related to my planned ELO.

I understand that I must submit required artifacts and reports by the end of the semester of implementation. Artifacts will include student and faculty reflections and other tools as determined by the Learning in Action Assessment Team, such as a measure of students' problem-solving abilities, and that grants and reimbursements are dependent on meeting this requirement.

I understand that the purpose of this project is to improve student learning through the implementation of quality experiential learning opportunities as a part of the University's SACSCOC-accepted Quality Enhancement Plan. Participants in this project will be among a select group of faculty and staff who are expected to engage in best practices in teaching, learning, and assessment. Participants are expected to share all related results regarding the process and student learning with the campus community during the Learning in Action Summit. Participants in this project can expect support from the Office of the Provost and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, including the QEP Director, in the professional development needed to design and implement a quality experiential learning opportunity.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE LEARNING IN ACTION FELLOWS PROGRAM.

APPLICANTS SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION BEGINNING IN SPRING 2018 WILL BE NOTIFIED BY
OCTOBER 27, 2017.