

Call for Proposals: Faculty Innovation Laboratory

SUNY Old Westbury

The COVID crisis, ironically, has had the positive outcome of inspiring exploration in new instructional methods. Many Old Westbury faculty are now at the cutting edge of distance instruction. The campus now faces a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is how to capture the positive benefits of this year of experimentation and growth for our campus and our students. The opportunity is to pool shared knowledge and provide a means to acknowledge the progress we have made, individually and collectively.

The health situation remains unclear, but we are operating on the assumption that we will be returning to primarily campus-based instruction in Fall 2021. **For those faculty who wish to continue using the new Remote and Hybrid/Blended modalities in Fall 2021, we offer a temporary option that allows you to translate current expertise and active participation in training into a valuable credential.***

The TLRC, CETL, and Office of Distance Learning invite faculty to submit proposals for an *Innovation Laboratory*, in Spring 2021. Over the course of the semester, our own creative faculty will conduct interactive, one-hour sessions to share innovative tools, techniques, and strategies that enhance student engagement and learning in featured components of distance instruction.

Innovation Laboratory sessions may cover high- or low-tech tools, techniques or strategies suitable for a) Remote (synchronous (live) activities), or b) Hybrid/Blended (inter-connected synchronous and asynchronous activities that work in tandem).

Faculty who have experience with Remote and Hybrid/Blended formats from the Pivot online in March 2020 and/or teaching in them in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, will be considered to have foundational knowledge sufficient to teach Remote and Hybrid/Blended courses in Fall 2021 or beyond, provided they participate in the Spring 2021 *Innovation Laboratory* in one of the following ways:

- **Active participation in at least three sessions** led by others, and thereby being recognized by the TLRC, CETL, and Distance Learning as obtaining **Practitioner** status in Remote (synchronous online) or Hybrid/Blended (inter-connected synchronous/asynchronous instruction), or;
- **Facilitation of a session** (twice, once during the semester and once between commencement and June 15) and active participation in one other session, thereby being recognized by the TLRC, CETL, and Distance Learning as obtaining both **Practitioner** status (as above), and **Instructional Innovator** status.

As with earlier formal asynchronous, hybrid/blended, and flex training, both Remote Learning *Practitioner* and *Innovator* statuses will be considered by Academic Affairs as significant instructional service in DSI decisions.

The *Innovation Laboratory* allows faculty and the College to recognize its shared knowledge base and experience during the COVID crisis. Those who do not participate in the *Innovation Laboratory* in Spring 2021, and wish to teach Remote or Hybrid/Blended courses in Fall 2021 and beyond, will be expected to complete more formal training comparable to the asynchronous and hybrid/blended trainings required prior Spring 2020 pivot.

Applications to facilitate an *Innovation Lab* session in Spring 2021 are due by **Friday, February 19, 2021**. To apply, please complete the [online application](#) at via Microsoft forms:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NJAi9TPyEk-nFji39JBDcHU36_d8ibFFr5gk-mAxnARUQUwwVUIQWU4zREpQWTIFUzdQN0hROE42TC4u

* As with all matters of scheduling, decisions about course modality are made by departments, and are subject to approval by School and Academic Affairs. Qualification to teach remotely therefore does not guarantee scheduling of any specific course in this modality. Distance learning policies, including those relating to faculty presence on campus, continue to apply.