GRAND CHALLENGE FOR 16-17: ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Four things to know about the Grand Challenge

1. **Programming Calendar.**
   As you finish drafting your fall syllabi, check out the calendar for a wide variety of on-campus events. Economic Freedom is the thematic focus for the upcoming year and this calendar details multi-disciplinary opportunities for you and your students to take part in the conversation. Consider encouraging attendance at these events as part of a class assignment, extra credit, or just food for thought for your students. The calendar is regularly updated, so check back regularly.

2. **Database of resources.**
   A list housed through the University Libraries website contains texts, media, and other resources to facilitate the incorporation of the Economic Freedom Grand Challenge into your courses.

3. **UNV 101 connections to the Grand Challenge**
   Research that Reaches Out, Academic & Advising Services, Service-Learning, and the Center for Community Engagement are partnering to provide a special opportunity for our incoming freshman to engage in service-oriented experiential education in Fall 2016. UNV classes will participate in the annual campus-wide service event, Be a Good NeighBear in addition to discussing the meaning of service and Grand Challenge during the weeks preceding and following the event. Teaching UNV this semester? Contact Hannah Vann for more details.

4. **Visionary Student Panel & Projects Initiative**
   The 2nd annual Visionary Student Panel will take place October 11 & 12 at 6pm each night (Location TBD). The panel is a way to challenge students and student groups to share their ideas on Economic Freedom in a public forum. Presenters can receive feedback from a professional panel, and are invited to submit proposals for financial support of their idea. We’d love for you to use the panel in your class! Consider asking top students to participate or requiring that students attend as a class assignment. You can find more details on our website.
What does it mean to integrate research and service?

2015-2016 brought many quality and impactful pilot projects led by both students and faculty. We've highlighted a few of them in our new QEP videos. Check them out!

Project funding

The new academic year brings a new round of funding to support projects which allow students to integrate research & service. There are two ways to fund your projects:

- Semester Project Support: for projects during the academic year. Applications will be accepted in 3 rounds: September 1, December 1, & February 1. Download the application here.
- Summer Student Research Program: supports students working directly with faculty on Research that Reaches Out Projects. The program includes stipends for faculty & up to 2 students, student housing, and $750 for supplies. Download the application here. Applications will be due on November 1 for the 2017 summer program.

We're happy to discuss project ideas and/or applications before you submit. Contact Dr. Bridget Trogden if you would like input.

Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups will continue in the 2016-2017 Academic Year. These groups are designed to connect faculty, staff, and students with common interests in cross-disciplinary areas. You can find the list of Affinity Groups here. To join a group, fill out the form on our website and submit to Judy Wilbanks.

Faculty Development

2015-2016 was full of opportunities for faculty development. If you missed any of them, all of the handouts and presentations are available here (Mercer Login required). Topics from 2015-2016 faculty development events include:

- Adapting your existing classes to civic-mindedness
- Scholarship of Engagement
- Conducting Community-Based Research
- Research Opportunities Related to the Arts
- Integrating Research & Service: Examples from our colleagues
- Conducting Research with Undergraduates

Stay tuned for details regarding faculty development events planned for the upcoming semester. You can always find the most up to date information on our website.

Travel Funding

We're trying something new this year. Many disciplinary conferences now have tracks on undergraduate research, community engagement, and service-learning. We're willing to fund up to 20% of the costs of those trips with the expectation that the attendee share what they learn at a department meeting, affinity group gathering, etc. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and are available here.