

## **Request for Proposals**

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE FOCUSED ON THE POWER OF STORY  
TO ADVANCE LEADERSHIP, PEDAGOGY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

*Funding Supported by the David H. and Pamela A. Monk Endowment*

### **Preamble: Importance of Narrative in Human Affairs**

Narrative has played an important role in human affairs since antiquity, beginning with oral narrative and continuing more recently with print and electronic means of communication. Narrative gives rise to stories that take many forms (personal accounts, folk tales, histories, parables, reflections, and non-fiction or journalistic accounts) that have been ubiquitous in human affairs. The rise of digital storytelling platforms (such as YouTube) highlights the attraction and the power of narrative as a way of organizing and understanding the world.

The power to advance leadership, pedagogy, and social justice through narrative is only partially understood and appreciated. Great leaders throughout history have been masters of “getting the story right” and communicating it effectively to share meaning and build support. Great teachers also have understood and harnessed the power of narrative as a means of helping learners understand both themselves and the larger world. Indeed, strides in the human condition, such as those around civil rights in the U.S., have been driven by the effective use of narrative that moves people to action.

The College of Education invites proposals for one-year projects aimed at advancing research and practice around the development and use of narrative to improve lives, learning environments, and social conditions around the world. Projects may focus on how leaders, teachers, advocates, and social entrepreneurs develop or utilize narratives to understand and transform education. The premise of the grant program is that the effective use of narrative lies at the heart of effective leadership, pedagogy, and socio-cultural advancement.

## Projects Supported by *David H. and Pamela A. Monk Endowment*

The College of Education invites proposals for one-year projects aimed at advancing research and practice of education that use the power of story to improve lives, learning environments, communities, and the world. Projects may focus on how leaders, teachers, advocates, and social entrepreneurs use narrative and story to understand and transform education.

Proposals will be accepted for the following three categories. We anticipate funding multiple projects.

1. **Seminar series:** Proposals may support the development of narrative and story to advance education. Expenses may include travel and support for guest speakers: Funding up to \$8,000.
2. **Workshops:** Proposals may include the preparation and delivery of workshops around uses of narrative to advance educational research and dissemination. Funding up to \$4,000.
3. **Seed Grants Supporting Educational Research:** Proposals should advance research and practice of educational programs using narrative and story. Funding up to \$20,000. The proposal should be designed to secure sustainable funding for the continuation of the line of research developed in the seed grant phase.

### ELIGIBILITY

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All full-time faculty members in the College of Education are invited to apply. Interdisciplinary teams are required to have leadership from at least one full-time faculty member in the College of Education.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

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Applicants are welcome to contact Senior Associate Dean, Greg Kelly (gkelly@psu.edu), for proposal consultation.

### Seminar Series

#### **I. Title & Project Summary Page** (1 page)

The following information should be included in the project summary:

- Name of individual (or unit), and academic rank
- Date of submission
- Department
- Title of project/request
- Amount requested
- Date range for the proposed project
- Summary/Abstract (limited to 200 words)

#### **II. Proposal Plan** (1000 words max., including tables and figures)

The plan should identify the following components of the seminar series:

- Rationale for the choice of topic and its relationship to uses of narrative and story to support education.
- Brief description of the expected audience.
- Expected outcomes.
- References (if any) for plan (not included in the word count).

#### **III. Project Timeline**

Include proposed dates for project (1 page maximum).

#### **IV. Budget**

Projects should be one year or less in duration, and the project budget may not exceed a total cost of \$8,000. A detailed budget with a written justification should be developed **through the College of Education Grants and Contracts Office**. Expected expenditures may include travel expenses and stipends for guest speakers. Because this is internal funding, the budget does not include indirect costs. Standard fringe rates do apply.

#### **V. Proposer(s) Bio Sketch**

Include a maximum two-page [NSF-style bio](#) for each investigator.

## Workshops

### **I. Title & Project Summary Page** (1 page)

The following information should be included in the project summary:

- Name of individual (or unit), and academic rank
- Date of submission
- Department
- Title of project/request
- Amount requested
- Date range for the proposed project
- Summary/Abstract (limited to 200 words)

### **II. Proposal Plan** (1000 words max., including tables and figures)

The plan should identify the following components of the workshop(s):

- Purpose and goal of the workshop(s) and connection to uses of narrative and story to support education.
- Brief description of the expected audience.
- Expected outcomes and next steps
- References (if any) for plan (not included in the word count).

### **III. Project Timeline**

Include proposed dates for project (1 page maximum).

### **IV. Budget**

Projects should be one year or less in duration, and the project budget may not exceed a total cost of \$4,000. A detailed budget with a written justification should be developed **through the College of Education Grants and Contracts Office**.

Expected expenditures may include travel expenses and stipends for guest speakers and materials related to the workshops. Because this is internal funding, the budget does not include indirect costs. Standard fringe rates do apply.

### **V. Proposer(s) Bio Sketch**

Include a maximum two-page [NSF-style bio](#) for each investigator.

## Seed Grants Supporting Educational Research

### **I. Title & Project Summary Page (1 page)**

The following information should be included in the project summary:

- Name of individual (or unit), and academic rank
- Date of submission
- Department
- Title of project/request
- Amount requested
- Date range for the proposed project
- Abstract (limited to 200 words)

### **II. Proposal Narrative (2500 words, including tables and figures)**

The narrative should be attentive to ways that leaders, teachers, advocates, and social entrepreneurs use narrative and story to understand and transform education.

The narrative must include:

- Objectives of the project.
- Review of relevant literature and description of the conceptual framework.
- Brief description of the research design, methodology, and data analysis procedures.
- Summary of the expected outcomes.
- Expected next steps and avenues for external funding.
- References for proposal narrative (not included in the narrative word count).

### **III. Project Timeline**

Include proposed dates for project plans and research (1 page maximum).

### **IV. Budget**

Projects should be one year or less in duration, and the project budget may not exceed a total cost of \$20,000. A detailed budget with a written justification should be developed **through the College of Education Grants and Contracts Office**. Because this is internal funding, the budget does not include indirect costs. Standard fringe rates do apply.

## V. Investigator(s) Bio Sketch

Include a maximum two-page [NSF-style bio](#) for each investigator.

## EVALUATION

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Proposals will be evaluated based on intellectual merit and potential to make lasting impacts in education. Decisions regarding funding will be determined by the Research Advisory Committee under the direction of the Senior Associate Dean for Research.

## DEADLINES AND FUNDING DATES

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Proposals **must be submitted** electronically as a single PDF file **through the InfoReady system**. This can be done by visiting <https://psu.infoready4.com> and filtering the funding opportunities as "Penn State Seed Grants." Proposals are due March 1. Award notices will be made by April 15 and projects may begin on May 1.

## REPORTING

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- A three-page written report summarizing the project is due 30 days following the close of the funding cycle (e.g., July 31, following year).
- Should the Investigator(s) seek renewed funding, the three-page written report should serve as an update, submitted concurrently with the proposal (November 1) requesting an additional year of funding.