Call for Proposals
2008 STEP Partnership Grants for Community College Faculty

In an effort to increase the number of bachelors degrees awarded to young men and women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM), a consortium of four regional institutions of higher education, Metropolitan Community Colleges, Moberly Area Community College, St. Charles Community College, and Truman State University was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to provide high quality, faculty mentored research experiences to students in the first or second year of their undergraduate experience. Through the grant, Truman has organized a 10-week Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program each summer for students from schools in this partnership. Each year we have also invited faculty from the community college partners to participate as collaborators in the 10-week program. Because distance, length of commitment, and other factors have kept many faculty from participating in the program, we are making the expectations more flexible so that more community college faculty may participate.

Instead of restricting community college faculty participation in the summer program to the full 10-week experience, we invite faculty to submit proposals for projects that balance their need or desire to be in their home community for the summer with the benefits of working closely with Truman faculty and talented undergraduate students on a research-related project. Listed below are examples of possible structures one might employ.

- The standard, full 10-week research collaboration at Truman as has been offered in the past.
- A “take-home” collaboration which has a community college faculty member visit Truman during the first week of the summer program to collaborate with a Truman faculty member, after which he or she returns home to continue the work. While away, the two faculty collaborators will communicate about the project. The faculty member will return to Truman to work with his or her Truman counterpart.
- As the first two weeks of the summer program are devoted to giving students the skills to start and carry-out a research project, a small group of faculty from the community college travel to Truman for the first two weeks of the program to learn how we do this. Concurrently, the faculty explore opportunities they might have to conduct research with students on their campus. The faculty leave with a plan for starting a research program. The Truman collaborator will facilitate this process.
- A group of faculty from the community college plan a one-week retreat at Truman for curriculum development. They leave Truman with a plan for infusing some aspects of their STEM curriculum at home with interdisciplinary characteristics or open-ended problem solving. The Truman collaborator or collaborators would participate in the retreat and help facilitate discussions.
- An activity that has some contact with the Truman community in the summer but also includes follow-up contact during the academic year.
The application for the 2008 STEP Partnership Grants should be completed by the project’s lead faculty member. The application is online at http://step.truman.edu/forms/surefaculty.asp and consists of the following:

- Contact information
- Project description (including narrative budget)
- Possible collaborators
- Names and resumes or CVs for team members

Participants can receive a range of benefits from the following categories:

- Stipend
- On-campus housing (suite style) --- Note: on-campus room and board costs approximately $200 per week; (off-campus accommodations possible for faculty with families or special needs; please contact us)
- Funds for summer research supplies or curriculum materials
- Funds to travel to a national conference
- Funds to support research on your home campus during the academic year

Your proposed budget should accompany the proposed summer experience. The budget, including housing, stipends, travel costs, supplies, and so forth, should not exceed $13,000.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis as they are submitted, but those received by December 1, 2006 will be given priority consideration. Given the scheduling realities for summer positions at community colleges, interested faculty are strongly encouraged to submit project ideas early. Only those projects endorsed by a faculty member’s home campus will be considered for funding. Faculty who wish to submit proposals must coordinate the submission through their campus representative to the STEP Program (below).

Feel free to contact your campus program representative (listed below) or Jason Miller, the Program Director, with any questions you have about constructing a proposed experience for consideration.

For more information or assistance with the application, please contact Jennifer Thompson, Administrative Coordinator

- 660.785.7252
- step@truman.edu

| Metropolitan Community Colleges          | Todd Bowdish       | Todd.Bowdish@mcckc.edu | 816.759.4311 |
| Moberly Area Community College          | Jane Roads         | janer@macc.edu          | 660.263.4110 x246 |
| St. Charles Area Community College      | Pat Porterfield    | pporterfield@stchas.edu | 636.922.8281 |
| Truman State University                 | Jason Miller       | millerj@truman.edu      | 660.785.7430 |