LEADING AND LAUNCHING AN ACADEMIC INNOVATION INITIATIVE

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| • New administrator in the office with a portion of time allocated from another division.  
• $100,000 from university budget to Academic Innovation Fund.  
• Grant priorities were innovation and recruitment/retention.  
• Year 1 had 33 projects proposed and 6 projects funded.  
• Year 2 had 25 projects proposed plus two "Phase 2" funding requests from Year 1 projects. 4 projects funded starting Dec. 2018.  | • Provost convened work group to design rubric and lead first year of grant process.  
• Project leaders submitted Letters of Intent using online form.  
• Work group selected finalists based on grant priorities and rubric.  
• Finalists submitted Project Proposals and made presentations at "Shark Tank" day.  
• Provost took feedback and made final decisions.  | • Makerspace opened Nov. 2018.  
• Math Bootcamp offered Summer 2018.  
• TESOL Certificate Program launched Fall 2018.  
• Aviation Dispatch Certificate launched Fall 2018.  
• Teaching Online in K-12 Certificate launched Fall 2018.  
• Digital Audio Production curriculum developed, but not yet launched due to space and equipment needs.  |

LESSONS LEARNED

• Our process had to be nimble, accessible, inclusive in order to reflect priorities around innovation.  
• We found success when faculty proposed their ideas and made the case for what is innovative. A broad definition of innovation would have been too limiting.  
• Set priorities around what results you want from the innovation you support. Where do you want to "aim" the work?  
• Support faculty in writing good proposals through giving access to data, university resources and information on established costs for things you know already.  
• Focus on the "coalition of the willing" and elevate their work.

If you’d like a copy of our forms and a look at some of our materials, visit the Info Folder we developed!  