

Fort Hays State University Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows Program

Purpose

Fellows are appointed for one year at a time, and can serve as Fellows for up to two years. The length of the Fellowship is tied to the time period necessary to complete the project proposed by the individual and the individual's desire to remain a Fellow.

The Fellows Program was created to foster and celebrate inter-disciplinary collaboration around creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. We are focused on the role of entrepreneurial thinking and acting within any discipline or academic area on the Fort Hays State University campus. We approach entrepreneurship as:

- the recognition and exploitation of opportunity, where opportunity is pursued without regard to resources controlled;
- a process of creating value through unique resource combinations;
- a means of empowerment and transformation through creative and innovative behaviors;

As these perspectives suggest, it is a behavior that is not defined or limited by context. Beyond its conventional conception in a start-up context, it can include social entrepreneurship, public sector entrepreneurship, academic entrepreneurship, or notions such as the entrepreneurial artist or entrepreneurial engineer, among many other applications.

Our focus is the "entrepreneurial mindset", and how the talents, ingenuity and passion of faculty members can be used to affect innovative change. We see faculty innovations as a vehicle for transforming campuses, communities, disciplines and societies. The Fellows Program is a home for the "academic entrepreneur."

Eligibility and Selection of Fellows

To be eligible for the Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows, an individual must be a full-time, on-campus faculty member at Fort Hays State University at the time of applying, and while serving as a Fellow. Individuals selected can be of any rank, and may have been at Fort Hays State University for any period of time.

The initial pool of Fellows will include up to ten faculty members. Fellows will be selected based on the following criteria:

- submission of a project proposal;
- the strength of the entrepreneurship component in the proposed project -the project should link entrepreneurship to the faculty member's home discipline;
- the project should benefit university stakeholders (i.e., students, faculty, staff, alumni, a discipline as a whole) beyond benefitting just the faculty member;
- the project should be doable in 1-2 years;
- the faculty member should have the background to suggest he/she can complete the project;
- the project should be something relatively novel or new---or at least the defined elements addressed in the project should be significant advances to an existing project.

Further detail on the project itself can be found below. The department head or immediate supervisor of the faculty member must approve the individual serving as an Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellow.

The Project

Each Fellow will complete (or achieve agreed upon outcomes related to) a new project connecting entrepreneurship with their home discipline. Four different types of projects can qualify:

- Development of a new course linking entrepreneurship to the faculty member's home discipline, modification of an existing course to include significant entrepreneurship content;
- Pursuit of a scholarly research project examining some aspect of the interface between the faculty member's home discipline and an element or dimension of entrepreneurship;
- Engagement in research and development and business analysis and planning activity moving a technology or other intellectual property toward commercialization in the form of a new for-profit or non-profit venture;
- Design and implementation of a community engagement project combining aspects of entrepreneurship and the subject matter of the faculty member's home discipline, including some type of social entrepreneurship initiative.

Benefits to Fellows

The primary benefit of the Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellows Program is the interdisciplinary fellowship coming from interacting with a rich, intellectually gifted set of individuals engaged in leading edge initiatives that connect entrepreneurial thinking and acting to a diverse mix of disciplines. In addition, a stipend of \$4,000 per year will be provided to support the projects being pursued by the Fellows. Further, the Center for Entrepreneurship is available to provide assistance. All Fellows will also receive a plaque recognizing their efforts upon completion of their fellowship.

Expectations of Fellows

There are three primary expectations of the Fellows. Once selected, a Fellow's primary responsibility is to make reasonable progress and ultimately complete (or achieve agreed upon outcomes related to) the project they have proposed. In addition, Fellows will be asked to attend monthly lunches to discuss topical issues related to the nexus between entrepreneurship and other disciplines, and share progress on their projects. Thirdly, an annual Fellows Symposium will be scheduled and open to the campus where the work of the Fellows will be featured. The fellows program will be led by the Director of Entrepreneurship.