

THE TEAGLE FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: IMPROVED ASSESSMENT METHODS

Many colleges with which the Teagle Foundation is acquainted report good results from using the National Survey of Student Engagement (<http://nsse.iub.edu/index.cfm>) and the Collegiate Learning Assessment produced by the Council for Aid to Education (http://www.cae.org/content/pro_collegiate.htm). While these and other means of assessment are proving their utility, the Foundation recognizes that additional methods and approaches are needed to help assess student progress toward the wide range of liberal education goals. For example, student progress in areas other than problem solving and analytical reasoning is often difficult to assess. These areas include global understanding, the ability to recognize and think through moral and ethical issues, creativity, leadership, etc. The cognitive goals that individual disciplines emphasize are also often in need of better means of assessment. Cost efficiency and the ability to build the necessary testing into existing curricular patterns are other important considerations.

The Teagle Foundation is prepared to consider a very limited number of proposals to assist the development of better means of assessment in the liberal arts. Since the development of instruments of assessment is often a long, technical, and expensive process, our support is more likely to be directed to planning, start-up, or testing of instruments rather than the full cost of their development. We are willing to collaborate with other funding sources through the use of matching grants.

Assessment methods that are likely to win our support need not be purely quantitative but should be rigorous, well-grounded in knowledge about student learning and cognition, and allow for cross-institutional comparisons.

Before submitting a proposal or asking for an appointment, a brief (250 words maximum) email message describing the project should be sent to cdching@teaglefoundation.org. If the general approach is of interest, we will respond with questions or an invitation to submit a formal proposal.

We expect that this Request for Proposals will remain open through September, 2006. There are no deadlines within this period, but since the number of projects we can fund is very limited, early responses will be advantageous.