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The Teagle Foundation is committed to helping today’s students have access to challenging, wide-ranging, and enriching college educations. We provide intellectual and financial support for liberal education, through grantmaking and other programs that we hope will enhance—and generate new knowledge about—teaching and learning. This newsletter is just one of a number of ways in which we are committed to disseminating this knowledge throughout the higher education community. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to a friend or colleague.

In this issue:
- $3.45 million in new grants
- Ongoing Work in Outcomes and Assessment
- $736,208 in New Grants
- Grantee Publications
- Ongoing Work in Fresh Thinking in Liberal Education
- $1,295,568 in New Grants
- Grantee Publications
- Recent Teagle Meetings
- Other Recent Publications, The Liblog, Podcasts
- “Picked up in passing…”

NEW GRANTS—The Teagle Foundation recently announced approximately $3.45 million in new grants to promote and strengthen liberal education.

Ongoing Work in Outcomes and Assessment

New Grants

- $545,714 will extend the work of the Council of Independent Colleges / Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), expanding the number of institutions that benefit from the consortium’s work, with an aim to ultimately creating a culture of assessment on member campuses.

- $165,494 will expand Teagle’s work in value-added assessment, funding projects at Indiana University and Marywood University to develop instruments for assessing student learning.

- A $25,000 planning grant to the Appalachian College Association will follow up on the results of an earlier Teagle-funded initiative, and will investigate and improve students’ achievement in mathematics.
Grantee Publications

- The Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media’s *Beyond the Rankings: Measuring Learning in Higher Education: A Primer*, on value-added assessment.

- The Association of American Colleges and Universities’ report, *Assessment of Liberal Education Outcomes: Findings from Interviews with Faculty, Administrators, and Students*.

Ongoing Work in Fresh Thinking in Liberal Education

New Grants

- $375,000 will support The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s project on how to integrate the benefits of a liberal arts education into undergraduate business programs.

- $446,651 will fund five multi-institutional Fresh Thinking Working Groups, led by Barnard College, Georgetown University, New York University, Project Pericles, and Williams College for projects on curricular and pedagogical innovation, civic engagement, and “big” science in an undergraduate setting.

- $448,917 will fund six projects that will re-assess the relationship between the goals of undergraduate majors in several disciplines and those of liberal education. Each grant is expected to help individual departments re-evaluate the structure of their majors. The grantees are American Academy of Religion, American Economics Association, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Center for Hellenic Studies, Modern Language Association, and National History Center.

- $25,000 grant to the Social Science Research Council will fund the publishing and dissemination of a pamphlet on What college teachers should know about the religious engagements of today’s undergraduates. We expect the report to be published later this spring, and will be posted on the Social Science Research Council’s website, as well as on Teagle’s website.

Grantee Publications

- Read the White Papers from several multi-institutional working groups funded under the Foundation’s Fresh Thinking initiative: A metacognitive pedagogy: The River Summer Project; The Values of the Open Curriculum: An Alternative in Liberal Education; Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in College Completion and Achievement: A Teagle Working Group on What Works and Why; Interdisciplinary Education at Liberal Arts Institutions; Rethinking the Pedagogy of Ethnicity; Strengthening Liberal Education through Special Collections.

College Community Connections

- $720,000, over two years, will fund nine College-Community Connections partnerships between New York City-area colleges and universities and community service organizations that develop rigorous liberal arts programming for high schools students at those organizations.
$250,000, also over two years, will support college preparatory programming at these ten community service organizations in College-Community Connections partnerships.

**Special Grants to New Orleans Institutions**

- $450,000 will provide further assistance for three New Orleans institutions that were severely affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Dillard University will receive $250,000 for student scholarships and faculty development; a grant of $100,000 for Tulane University will go to the Consortium Scholars Fund; a third grant of $100,000 will fund the Campus Master Plan at Xavier University of Louisiana.

**RECENT TEAGLE MEETINGS**

- This past September, the Teagle Foundation convened a listening of current grantees, college presidents, and others in order to share ideas, results, and to brainstorm on what needs to be done to bring student engagement and learning to a higher level.

- Then, in January, the Foundation brought together leaders from research universities to explore ways in which the new knowledge from cognitive science, neuroscience, and psychology about how the brain develops can be used to improve undergraduate student learning at their institutions. Derek Bok—whose Our Underachieving Colleges served as a jumping-off point for the day’s discussion—was present at the meeting and led a discussion on what we know about student learning today. Read Peter Struck’s report on the listening.

**OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS, THE LIBLOG, PODCASTS**

**Other Recent Publications**

- Read Bob Connor’s two recent essays: “Do as I Say, Not as I Did,” remarks at a meeting of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Boston, Massachusetts, December 7, 2006 and “Last Bastion of Liberal Education?” published in Inside Higher Education; both are available on our website.

- See our Resources page for articles and essays concerned with strengthening liberal education.

**The Liblog**

The liblog—short for “liberal arts web log”—is a forum for authors to share ideas, information, and arguments about liberal education and how it can be strengthened.

- Respond to Bob Connor’s liblog entry, “Kids Die,” on “going naked” in higher education.

- Read other recent entries: “We Don’t Need Foundation Help;” “Wrong Again;” “Moving Assessment Talk Forward;” “Assessing the Spellings Commission.”

- As always, the liblog is updated weekly and welcomes your comments.
We're interested in knowing about other higher education blogs out there. If there is a blog that you regularly read or has interested you in the past, please let us know. You can email cdching@teaglefoundation.org with details.

Podcasts

- Bob Connor and Donna Heiland read their essays on improving student learning: "At the Crossroads: The Prospect for Improving Student Learning;" "Building Partnerships: The College-Community Connections Experience;" "Asking the Big Questions;" "Getting There."

- Interviews:
  
  Doug Lederman of InsideHigherEd has been carefully observing the National Commission on the Future of Higher Education ("the Spellings Commission") which is turning out to be a dramatic development in Washington. Listen to a podcast conversation between Mr. Lederman and Bob Connor."

  Bob Connor and David Harris of Cornell University discuss the White Paper on "Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in College Completion and Achievement: A Teagle Working Group on What Works and Why."

  Bob Connor spoke with Paul Sotherland of Kalamazoo College about his analysis following the first year of data from the Collegiate Learning Assessment project.

- These and other Teagle Podcasts are available on our website.

"PICKED UP IN PASSING..."


- April 18th, 2007, Inside Higher Ed will present “Surveys of Student Engagement: How to Use Them and What Not to Promise,” featuring George Kuh, director of the National Survey of Student Engagement, and Kay McClenny, director of the Community College Survey or Student Engagement.

- From October 20th – 23rd, 2007, The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, hosted by Towson University, will present “Community Engagement & Metropolitan Universities,” described as an examination of the “growing collaboration between academic institutions and their communities.”

- Stay tuned for the latest Request for Proposals, expected in late May or early June following the Teagle Board’s annual May meeting.

- Learn more about how the Foundation develops and implements programs.

Visit our website—www.teaglefoundation.org—for the most up to date news on the Foundation.