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Vocation Mini-Grants: Request for Proposals

University of Dayton. Vocation Implementation Team

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Vocation Mini-Grants Request for Proposals (2018-2021)

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Overview:

The Vocation Implementation Team at the University of Dayton invites students, faculty, and staff to apply for mini-grants up to \$1,000 to support the design and development of programs, activities, and events both inside and beyond the classroom that offer students opportunities to explore, discern and act on their vocations. Funding for mini-grants is made possible through a NetVUE Vocation across the Academy Grant with support by the Council of Independent Colleges and Lilly Endowment Inc.

Vocation may be defined as follows: “*Answering a call to discover one’s unique gifts and employ them in service for the common good in ways that are personally satisfying and bring meaning to one’s life*” (The Language of Vocation at the University of Dayton, 2017). Vocation is central to our institutional mission and our call for UD to become the "University for the Common Good" by preparing students to positively impact the world through servant-leadership.

Grants may be used by students, faculty, and staff to develop creative approaches to supporting students’ vocational exploration and discernment. Preference will be given to classroom activities or experiential programs and events that engage students in one or more of the following ways:

- Discussing their vocation and calling openly
- Identifying and reflecting on their unique, defining gifts, talents, skills, interests, and experiences;
- Articulating who they are and how they can serve others in community
- Examining activities that bring meaning and joy to their life;
- Questioning their life’s meaning and purpose;
- Deepening their relationship with God through a journey of self-discovery and response;
- Learning and practicing the skills of effective discernment in the context of community;
- Reflecting on their responsibilities toward others;
- Analyzing how interactions with employers, mentors and wisdom figures impact career choice and vocational discernment;
- Exploring the vocational implications of their education, professional training, and employment opportunities;
- Preparing themselves for a lifetime of vocational exploration.

General Examples of programs, activities, and events that would be eligible for funding:

- The thoughtful exploration/ integration of vocation into a new or existing course, including necessary materials and supplies
- An experiential learning activity connected to vocation that engages students, faculty, and/or staff in hands-on learning, inside or beyond the classroom
- Workshops or short retreats that guide or engage participants in a process of vocational discernment
- Mini-conferences or forums that bring people together to dialogue about topics of vocation

- Creative projects such as short documentaries, performance art, or visual art that examine vocation from different perspectives
- Research and scholarship on vocation, such as research exploring the multi-cultural dimensions and challenges of vocation work

Here are just a few examples of how mini-grant funds might be used:

- Supplies or books for intentional programming with students, faculty or staff participants
- Meals for retreats or workshops that support vocational growth through reflection, dialogue, or other activities
- Student employee support for program development, creation of online modules or guidebooks, video production, etc.
- Stipends for external guest speakers (in-person or virtual, cannot compensate if they are employed by UD)

Mini grant funds CANNOT be used for the following:

- Ongoing faculty/staff costs that the institution is already providing
- Compensation for current UD faculty and staff; funds could be used to pay for student employee support.
- Capital expenditures, including major equipment purchases
- Direct fundraising expenses
- Indirect or overhead costs
- Bringing in NetVUE campus consultants or campus visits (there is a separate process for that)
- Costs related to attending NetVUE gatherings and conferences
- Individual expenses (such as travel or conference fees) unless clearly tied to wider implementation as a result

Eligibility:

University of Dayton faculty (tenured, tenure-track, non-tenure track and adjunct faculty at all ranks and in all departments including lecturers), staff (exempt and non exempt) and students.

Student applicants need to have a faculty/staff advisor who can serve as a support person/guide in accessing mini-grant funds and reporting.

Please note: While new programs and initiatives are encouraged, the review team will also consider existing programs or initiatives that are proposing an added vocation-focused element.

Application Instructions:

Applicants will be asked to provide a project description as well as a proposed timeline and budget. Applications should demonstrate how the proposed curricular or experiential program, activity, or event will 1) contribute to the mission and vision for Vocation at the University of Dayton and connect with the Common Good and 2) directly impact University of Dayton students and, potentially, wider audiences.

Some helpful documents to review in relation to a vocation mini grant proposal:

- [The Language of Vocation at UD](#)
- [UD Habits of Inquiry/Institutional Learning Goals](#)

Expectations:

Grant recipients will be asked to:

1. Share the highlights and outcomes of the activity/project/program with the broader UD community at an event organized by the Vocation mini-grant committee.
2. Submit a reflection report on the highlights and outcomes of the project.
3. Share resources via the UD Vocation website
4. Submit a budget/expense report

Interested students, faculty and staff are welcome to contact the Vocation Mini-Grants team with any questions. Interested individuals (or collaborative groups) may also set up a time for a one-on-one consultation in advance of the application deadline to discuss application details or receive feedback on proposals in progress.