

**Faculty-Led Student Experiences,  
Sponsored by the Vice President of Academic Affairs**

In alignment with our University Strategic Plan, this funding opportunity provides faculty with supplemental support to develop activities that widen student experiences and viewpoints inside and outside the classroom. This fall 2023 call for applications is open to all full-time faculty in Academic Affairs. Campus-wide collaboration is encouraged across various academic disciplines, student affairs, and student organizations. The applicant must clearly describe their leadership role and unique contribution to the event or activity. The Faculty-Led Student Experiences committee will evaluate applications on a rolling basis through the fall semester or when funding is depleted.

**Funding is intended to directly benefit the learning experience of students enrolled in a fall 2023 course. Examples of possible funding:**

- 1) Purchasing tickets for a class to watch a theatrical or musical performance on campus;
- 2) Paying a speaking fee for a virtual speaker in your class or department;
- 3) Purchasing supplementary materials for a course that would enhance instruction or student experience.

**Funding amounts:**

Funding may be requested up to \$4,000. Funds will be awarded in the order received, and until funding has been fully distributed. Funds must be utilized before December 31, 2023.

**Funding criteria:**

- Funding can supplement but should not replace funding for events already scheduled and paid for by another source.
- Funding should not be sought when departmental or other university monies are available.
- Funding must be used to enhance a course taught during the Fall 2023 semester, and must be used for the direct benefit of students enrolled in said course.
- Priority will be given to proposals that:
  - align with the university strategic plan;
  - provide an itemized budget;
  - provide a plan to measure the benefits to the students & course;
  - seek funding to impact a maximum number of students.

**Name:** Michaela Bledsoe

**Job Title:** Instructor and Greenhouse Manager

**Department:** College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

**Amount of funding requested:** \$2,340.00

**Short description of project/event, including the target audience and how this benefit will be measured (<250 words)**

An intra-disciplinary collaborative project involving multiple courses and organizations including: Greenhouse Management (PLS 430), Landscape Management (PLS 450), Agriculture Systems Technology Mgmt. (AMC 315), Agriculture Communication and Publications (ALEC 3312), Methods of Teaching Agricultural Science and Technology (AGED 470), Agroecology (AG 462), the horticulture club, and the Lion Gardeners on the Go program to design and install a community greenhouse for a self-contained SPED department at Commerce ISD where students can educate others how to manage it and document their experience to share with the college and community. The project's goal is to engage students in creating and maintaining these spaces while providing the community with a functional greenhouse. The students will have an opportunity to learn by doing, teach others the concepts they are learning about in class, gain community service hours, all while building a positive relationship between the college and the community. A survey will be administered after the project to gauge how this hands-on learning opportunity impacted their educational experience for their course. After this semester, the horticulture club will adopt it as one of their goals to maintain and work in the community greenhouse by providing upkeep, continuing to grow plants, and invite community members to attend educational workshops that they present.

**How many students will participate?**

While there is 103 combined students in these courses and organizations, there are some overlaps in students enrolled and members of the organizations. Additionally, not every student will have the availability to all work on the day and time selected as some of the courses are a web-based option. Therefore, about 50 students are projected to work on the project but all will be invited and encouraged to participate and all students are able to do a reflection of the project.

**How will the benefit to students be measured?**

A survey will be administered after the hands-on activity to gauge how this practical application of knowledge affects the students' confidence in their subject material. A Likert scale will be used to gauge the opinions from the students about the efficacy of this hands-on projects for them and their real-world application of learning. Additionally, community members who utilize the greenhouse will be asked to provide feedback at multiple times in the following semester.

**How does your proposal align with the [university strategic plan](#)?**

The proposed intra-disciplinary project aligns with the university's strategic plan by enhancing student engagement through hands-on learning and collaboration among multiple courses and organizations. It promotes applied learning by allowing students to translate classroom knowledge into practical skills, while fostering community service by directly benefiting and engaging the local community. Furthermore, the project addresses the unique challenges of our rural-urban identity by bridging connections with local organizations and promoting sustainability. It equips students with adaptability skills, preparing them for a rapidly changing world, and creates a positive impact on the community by sharing valuable resources and strengthening our university's community relations.

**Provide a detailed budget (with justification and timeline for spending funds).**

- Greenhouse Purchase:
    - Greenhouse cost and shipping: \$1,000  
<https://www.homedepot.com/p/CANOPIA-by-PALRAM-Harmony-6-ft-x-8-ft-Gray-Clear-DIY-Greenhouse-Kit-706054/313965460#overlay>
  - Supplies:
    - Pea gravel for flooring: \$140
    - Gardening tools, potting soil, and supplies: \$500
    - Water hose: \$50
    - Vegetable and herb plugs and seeds: \$250
    - Pavers: \$50
  - Transportation and Logistics:
    - Transportation of materials and supplies: \$250
  - Printed educational material to give community members to educate (student made) and signage: \$100
- Total Funds requested: \$2,340.00

**Timeline:**

Week 1-2: Greenhouse Purchase and organization with Commerce ISD SPED teacher and Central Office. Communication with professors, students, organizations, and university communications to capture event

Week 3-4: Wait on Delivery of Greenhouse, design layout and create construction steps, and purchase materials / students create educational material

Week 5-6: Greenhouse Installation and Setup, share educational materials with community members, and administer survey

Week 7-8: Complete Project Documentation, share pictures and statements, and analyze survey data

Future: Acquire feedback from community members and pass to the Horticulture Club for continued upkeep

**Will others be assisting or co-sponsoring this event/project? If so, whom?**

Ideally, the professors of each course and advisors for organizations would be involved; Dr. Bob Williams, Dr. Derald Harp, Dr. Marlin Priddy, and Dr. Maggie Salem. Additionally, the local Agri-life extension agent, Sara Lindley Allen, along with the Hunt County Master Gardeners, Louise Drake Garden Club, will be asked to collaborate and help connect us with an ideal spot in the community to complete this project.

**Will you be receiving funding for this event from another source? If so, describe source and amount of funding.**

This project has no other sources of funding.

\*Faculty are responsible for planning and executing events/projects, working with their departmental administrative support. Faculty must follow university rules for purchasing and student travel. Faculty are responsible for ensuring all costs are covered that exceed the funding amount.