CTL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INNOVATOR GRANTS

Educational Technology (ET) offers opportunities for enhanced student engagement and learning. For example, ET can support activities which improve cognition and foster learner-centered education by means of visualizing complex structures or systems and facilitating active and collaborative learning. The focus for employing ET should be on pedagogy rather than technology. Selecting and implementing ET appropriately can thus be a challenge. The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) seeks to support instructors for the adoption of ET and promote the use of innovative teaching practices using ET. Part of CTL’s mandate is the collaboration with innovators who are developing and implementing ET, and sharing their experiences and best practices with the community of university instructors.

Funding is available to instructors to create and advance ET centered best practices* in a pedagogically effective manner.

(*Actual activities and/or procedures for developing and implementing them.)
Successful applicants:

- receive a small grant (up to $3,500) to cover expenses for hiring a person supporting the ET initiative (e.g. teaching assistant), software, and/or other means needed to create and advance ET-centered best practices;
- must have support from their teaching unit (e.g. Department) in the form of financial assistance and/or in-kind support (e.g. dedicated teaching assistant);
- have the option to consult with CTL staff members (e.g. Educational Developers) to assist with developing a technology-based teaching strategy, and to receive feedback following confidential classroom observations;
- conclude their project
  (i) by providing CTL with a report and ET resources (e.g. software) that may become part of CTL’s web-accessible resource collection, and
  (ii) by (co-) presenting at a CTL workshop, the Festival of Teaching and Learning, or other suitable venue.

Made possible by an Endowment for Teaching, Learning and Their Enhancement, funds through the CTL Educational Technology Innovator Grant are for creating and advancing ET-centered best practices and not for merely employing ET activities. The Department Chair or Dean must support the proposal. A letter from the applicant’s Department or Faculty must support the ET initiative by contributing to the needed resources [e.g. funding of a teaching assistant, purchase of equipment or software]. The Department must further commit to sustain the ET-centered activities for a significant time period (i.e., greater than one academic year) beyond the grant.

The Selection Committee comprises the Academic Director, CTL; Associate Director (Educational Technology), CTL; and Director Digital Learning Environments, IST (or delegate). The Selection Committee’s evaluation of proposals and adjudication of funding will be based on the following criteria:

- merit of the proposal for impacting learning and student experience positively (1/3);
- potential for transformation or scalability at the department, faculty, or preferably, university level (1/3);
- likelihood of success considering required resources and pedagogical and technological challenges (1/3).

Timeline:

- Proposal submission deadline: March 1, August 1, December 1.
- Notification of results: March 15, August 15, December 15.

Send questions and requests for consultation to awards.ctl@ualberta.ca