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**Call to Participate**

**Beck Grant *Five Gears* Faculty Learning Community**

 Academic Year 2015-2016

**What is an FLC?** A faculty learning community (FLC) is a cross-disciplinary faculty group (usually 6-12 members) who engage in an active, collaborative, yearlong program with a specific focus on enhancing teaching and learning. The focus for this FLC will be ***Five Gears for Activating Student Learning* at CSUN.**

**What are the objectives of this FLC?**

1. Organize the vast knowledge base on how people learn into *Five Gears*, focusing on faculty teaching and classroom impact on student learning and success.

1. Understand and apply *Five Gears*in your teaching decision-making. This includes your course and class design elements, learning activities, assessments, student study strategies, and spontaneous responses to emergent classroom challenges and obstacles.
2. Document the effects of applying *Five Gears* in a spring 2016 target course. This assessment should focus on how to harness the power of *Five Gears* in ways that other CSUN faculty can implement.
3. Become a spokesperson for *Five Gears*, sharing methods you have discovered to harness the power of *Five Gears* to improve student learning.

**What specifically will each FLC member be doing throughout the year?**

Beck ***Five Gears*** FLC members will (1) engage in nine mandatory FLC seminar meetings, (2) apply *Five Gears* to a challenging spring 2016 target course, (3) analyze one’s own *Five Gears* application in teaching, (4) analyze another FLC member’s *Five Gears* application during a classroom coaching session, (5) assess student learning resulting from *Five Gears* application, (6) prepare/present a course mini-portfolio to the FLC, and (7) lead other faculty in applying the *Five Gears* in their teaching as called upon by departments and colleges.

In order for you to determine if this project is of interest to you, please see the following website: <http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/cielo/five-gears>

**Who is sponsoring this FLC?** The*Five Gears* Project, Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Projects grant, and Michael D. Eisner College of Education, Office of the Dean

**Who can apply to join this FLC?** All CSUN faculty who will be teaching a minimum of two 3-unit courses in fall 2015 and two 3-unit courses in spring 2016.

**Who are the FLC facilitators?**

Cynthia Desrochers, Education, former director, CSU Institute for Teaching & Learning

Matthew d’Alessio, Geology, convener, Pedagogy Enhanced with Technology Group

**What are the dates of the FLC seminar meetings?**

All FLC meeting dates are on Thursdays 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (delicious lunch provided).

 Fall Semester

* Thursday, October 8, 2015
* Thursday, October 22, 2015
* Thursday, November 5, 2015
* Thursday, November 12, 2015

 Spring Semester

* Thursday, February 4, 2016
* Thursday, February 18, 2016
* Thursday, March 10, 2016
* Thursday, April 7, 2016
* Thursday April 28, 2016 [present mini-portfolio with assessment data]

**What is the general overview of the timeline and tasks?**

A seminar can be defined as a group of advanced learners, each doing original research and all exchanging results through reports and discussions. Within this definition there is ample leeway for personal goals and modifications of the goals proposed below.

 Fall Semester

* Establish community
* Identify how you currently use *Five Gears* in your teaching
* Begin to explicitly use *Five Gears* this fall semester, as appropriate
* Develop expertise in applying *Five Gears*
* Design modifications to your spring 2016 target course that apply *Five Gears*, considering:
* Specific learning outcomes for your students
* Thoughtfully designed learning activities that achieve those objectives
* Common challenges students have in your course, including student study strategies
* Efficient methods of assessing your teaching and student learning throughout the semester
* Develop ways to assess the effectiveness of applying *Five Gears* in your course
* Begin planning your mini-portfolio

 Spring Semester

* Implement your *Five Gears* course redesign
* Visit an FLC colleague’s classroom as a peer coach
* Collect classroom assessment data
* Compile your course mini-portfolio to share with the FLC
* Present to FLC (share mini-portfolio and assessment data, April 28, 2016)
* Share *Five Gears* and your results with other CSUN faculty as called upon

**Is there a monetary reward for FLC membership?**

Yes! A $1,000 stipend will be awarded to each FLC member for his/her yearlong FLC participation. This award will be made in May 2016, under the category of “special pay,” according to CSU and CSUN policies and procedures.[[1]](#footnote-1) Thank you to the Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Instructional Projects grant and to Dean Michael Spagna, Michael D. Eisner College of Education for this financial support.

**When are the FLC applications due?**

Applications are due no later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 16, 2015,** to Cynthia Desrochers: cdesrochers@csun.edu. It is anticipated that result notification will occur via email by Monday, September 28, 2015. Please see the application form on page 4.

**What are the criteria for inclusion in this FLC?**

Criteria for inclusion in this FLC include: (1) teaching a minimum of two 3-unit CSUN courses in both the fall and spring semesters, (2) a strong statement of interest and commitment to participating in this yearlong FLC, (3) and compelling student-learning challenges and obstacles to overcome. In the event that we receive more than eight applications of equally high quality, we will use random selection to determine inclusion.

**For additional information:**

Please contact Cynthia Desrochers at cdesrochers@csun.edu

**Beck *Five Gears* FLC Application**

1. Print your name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Your email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Campus phone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. ALL courses you are scheduled to teach during the 2015-2016 academic year

**Fall 2015:**

[Include course numbers, titles, and meeting days & times]

**Spring 2016:**

[Include course numbers, titles, and meeting days & times]

1. In 300 words or less please write a statement of strong interest and commitment to fully participating in the *Five Gears* faculty learning community (FLC). This statement should be included with your application.
2. In 150 words or less please describe the biggest student-learning challenges/obstacles that you have experienced in teaching. Please consider the challenges in the courses you are presently teaching and give examples. This description should be included with your application.
3. Your signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Your signature confirms your availability to meet for 2 ½ hours at all nine (9) of the FLC seminar meeting dates and times listed in this *Call to Participate*.

1. Your department chair’s signature (of your spring 2016 *Five Gears* target course) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Your chair’s signature confirms that to the best of her/his knowledge, you are scheduled to teach the courses listed above.

1. Submission requirements

 Applications are due electronically by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 16, 2015,** via email to Cynthia Desrochers at cdesrochers@csun.edu. Please use this subject line: BeckGears\_[Your last name]. When your application has been received, you will be sent a confirmation email.

1. 1 All funds used for payroll (not reassigned time) are subject to a fringe-benefits charge [includes FICA, State Disability Insurance (SDI), Unemployment Insurance, and Workers’ Compensation]. THE CURRENT RATE OF 10.5% MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED PER PROJECT (NOTE THAT THE RATE MAY GO UP OR DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 2015-16).

  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)