The Program Learning Research (imProve) Grant supports programs interested in:

- Re-examining and developing new student learning outcomes for the program
- Exploring the curricular alignment with a student learning outcome, in depth
- Designing a reliable and valid measure for assessing one or more student learning outcomes
- Hosting a retreat for thoughtful reflection of student learning outcome assessment results
- Designing curricular interventions for program improvement, rooted in assessment results

Approximately $10,000.00 is available each academic year for awards. The **imProve** Grant is managed by the Office of Academic Assessment; the grant review and selection panel is drawn from the University Assessment Council.

THE **imProve** GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR PROJECTS OR TRAVEL TO BE CONDUCTED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2018

The purpose of the **imProve** grant is to encourage high quality programmatic assessment work through financial support of selected projects. Projects or travel should directly benefit the program with an end goal of improving student learning **at the program level**. Banta, Jones, and Blaich (2009) reviewed 150 of the **best** examples of assessment in the nation AND only 6% of these "best" examples demonstrated learning improvement.

The strongest examples of high quality assessment include three steps:

- Gathering quantitative data to tell a story about student learning (Prove)
- Identifying opportunities for program improvement (making a change)
- Re-assessing and ultimately proving that your change was indeed and improvement (improve)

Approximately $10,000 is available each academic year for awards. **Awards will be up to $2,000.**

Eligibility:

POLICIES

An academic degree program from any college or school, with active students
 may apply for the **imProve** grant. Submission may be prepared by any faculty member on staff but must indicate how the grant will benefit the majority of program faculty. Preference will be given to programs that can demonstrate a truly

collaborative effort with a majority of faculty involved in the grant. It is recommended that programs have strong student learning outcomes, and comprehensive of the discipline prior to applying for the **imProve** grant. All grants must focus on the *program* level (not the individual course level).

Permitted Use of Funds:

- Consulting and travel expenses to bring recognized disciplinary assessment experts in to Auburn University to conduct workshops are fundable.
- Travel expenses to participate in off-campus conferences (workshops or other programs), which promote excellent assessment and improvement of learning, are fundable.
- Assessment instruments, such as, standardized tests, assessment software, video equipment, and other supplies that may be used to effectively assess student learning are fundable.
- Faculty retreats focused on assessment are fundable.
- Supporting undergraduate/graduate student labor related to assessment of student performance is fundable.

Prohibitive Use of Funds:

Faculty salaries (including summer term and release time) are NOT fundable.

Additional Resources Available

In addition to funding, awardees will have dedicated personnel support from the Office of Academic Assessment to complete their project

Disclosure of Other Sources of Funds:

If the amount of funding to fully complete the project exceeds the limit of $2,000 the program must disclose matching or supplemental funding sources. All applications for funds from other sources for the proposed project or travel must also be disclosed. (See the budget section below.) The Office of Academic Assessment encourages programs to seek matching funds.

Final Reporting and Dissemination:

Awardees will be required to share the assessment work completed as a result of winning the imPact Grant during the Office of Academic Assessment's annual programming (5-minute lightning type session), in the Semester, following the completion of the project. The Office of Academic Assessment requests the programs provide their PPT slides and materials for the Office of Academic Assessment to keep as record, rather than requiring a final report. We encourage programs to consider sharing their work with colleagues and peers on campus (CTT or similar event) and other external events (disciplinary conference or assessment conference).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Submit **a single PDF document** including all the following. Each proposal must meet the following guidelines or **will not be considered for funding.**

- Application Form/Cover Page (provided with this RFP). Sign, scan and attach to PDF.
- An abstract of 200 words or less of the proposed project.
- A narrative description of the proposed project (no longer than three (3) pages).
- Provide a brief introduction to the program (e.g., number of faculty, students, program identity)
- State the outcomes of the proposed project in terms of its contributions to programmatic assessment and/or the improvement of student learning.
- Describe the project proposed.
- Explain how the project will benefit your program.
- Indicate how program faculty will be involved, indicating faculty names and roles
- Indicate the specific course(s) or tools that will be involved.
- Articulate what the expected final deliverable will be.
- Discuss how the program plans to collaborate with the Office of Academic Assessment (if necessary).

Timeline:

Describe the timeline and procedures the program will use to achieve the project objectives. Of note, the timeline should begin and conclude within a single calendar year. (Exceptions will be reviewed on a case by case basis).

Assessment and Dissemination of Effectiveness:

Please discuss your project, what did you do with the funds? Reflect on the experience and how it has impacted assessment in the program. Discuss any ways in which you plan to disseminate the results of the project.

Budget:

Provide a detailed budget for the project with justifications for all expenditures. List any other sources of funds currently available and any other applications made for funds for the project.

For more information contact:

The Office of Academic Assessment, assess1@auburn.edu
118 Office Suite – Auburn University – Auburn, AL 36849-5602

TIMELINE:

- Call for proposals - early Fall semester
- Review of Proposals – late Fall
- Dissemination of funds and use of funds – following fiscal year
- Presentation during Academic Assessment workshop – Spring Semester, once completed

Application Form:

Date: _____

Program Name_____

Project Leader/Point of Contact:_____

Office Address:

_____

_____

_____

Office Phone:

_____

Email Address:

_____@auburn.edu

Co-Project Leaders:

_____

_____

Project Title: (100 characters or less)

_____

Total Amount Requested: $_____.___

Intended Project Start/End: _____, 2018 - _____, 2018

Signatures:

Project Leader: _____

Co-Leaders, If applicable:_____

Department Head or Chair:_____