



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

President's Innovation Fund

Application Guidelines

November 2, 2009

The President's Innovation Fund encourages innovation in academic programs, business processes, and university governance. The purpose of this fund is to support truly transformative programs or ideas. The fund encourages risk-taking thinking that may even result in ideas ultimately being discontinued but which prompt out-of-the-box approaches and solutions.

The fund is one-time money. While an innovation may create/build/transform curriculum, policies, or business processes that require ongoing staffing, there is no guarantee that new personnel or recurring base expenses can be funded in the future. Projects are more likely to be funded if they have a more immediate payback, are one-time investments, or are likely to reduce future expenditures.

- The total that could be allocated is \$1.0 million, although there is no assurance that proposals will be funded, nor is there a requirement that all the monies be expended.
- There is no commitment to distributing the funds across a number of projects or divisions. One project may require all the funds available.
- All faculty and staff from every division of the university as well as Alumni and Foundation Board members are invited to submit plans for consideration.
- Proposals that address the issues in the President's address of September 29 (<http://extended.nau.edu/tvs/president/>) will be especially welcome. For example
 - Use of technology for business processes and/or instruction
 - Development of web-based advising system for students
 - Retention strategies
 - Substantial reductions in the number of courses for freshman and sophomore students that have high DFW rates
 - Development of new curricula that prepare students for 21st century jobs especially in sustainability, health care, service management industry, and health informatics, and that address the need for critical skills in leadership, teamwork, problem solving and entrepreneurship

Guidelines:

Proposals should be no more than one page in length

- 1) Proposals should briefly detail:
 - a. The innovation proposed
 - b. How it will be deployed

c. Benefits and costs

- i. If recurring costs or personnel are expected, describe how might they be funded in the future

- 2) Completed proposals should be sent to the President.

- 3) The final deadline for proposal submission is January 15, 2010, although proposals will begin to be reviewed December 1, 2009. Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit their proposals by December 1 for the earliest review. If you have already sent ideas to the President or Provost, there is no need to resubmit, although if the proposals require recurring base funds or personnel, please describe how the innovation will be funded in the future.

- 4) Proposals will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee. Additional information may be requested concerning the proposal before submission of recommendations to the President.