What is a McGrath Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellow?

McGrath Entrepreneurial Fellows are academic entrepreneurs who are pursuing projects that demonstrate entrepreneurial thinking and action in ways that build on their expertise in their home disciplines. The Fellows form a community of faculty engaged in the process of developing new ideas and new approaches to solve problems, for consumers, companies, or for societies.

Although traditional forms of entrepreneurship focus on the development of for-profit companies, faculty at NIU may apply an entrepreneurial mindset to address issues in a wide range of contexts, including the social sector, technological development, or through artistic endeavors.

The program supports these entrepreneurial faculty members by providing access to a small pool of funding for expenses associated with completing their projects. Because funding is limited, not all expense categories can be supported. For example, purchases of major equipment and course buy-outs cannot be supported.

Fellows are also asked to attend a monthly lunch meeting to discuss issues related to their projects and support each other in their endeavor to develop creative and innovative approaches in their discipline.

Supporting Innovations and Entrepreneurship by NIU Faculty

The program is open to all full-time NIU faculty members (tenured and tenure-track) in all colleges and units at NIU. The goal of the program is to support NIU faculty in their efforts to innovate and to encourage entrepreneurial thinking in a way that improves NIU and its students. Its purpose is to promote interdisciplinary innovation and knowledge sharing, especially as it relates to scholarship, teaching, or engagement and outreach activities by NIU faculty.

Details on application procedures are on back
Applications

Applications are invited from all full-time NIU faculty members (any rank). In the application, the faculty member should identify an initiative that connects entrepreneurship to their home discipline and that they intend to implement over the next few years. There are four types of projects that qualify:

- Development of a new course or course activity that connects a course to entrepreneurship
- Projects leading to technology commercialization
- Scholarship research that connects the faculty’s home discipline to entrepreneurship
- Community engagement projects that are entrepreneurial in nature and combine entrepreneurship with the faculty member’s home discipline, including social entrepreneurship initiative

Applicants should submit an application with the following information:

- Project description
- Benefit of the project to university stakeholders (especially those benefits to others besides the faculty member)
- Anticipated expenses
- Faculty member’s background and how it will support successful completion of the project in no more than 3 years.
- Support by the faculty member’s Department Chair.

Applications will be reviewed on these criteria, as well as the strength of the entrepreneurial content and the originality and newness of the project.

The deadline to submit applications for the charter group of McGrath Entrepreneurship Fellows is April 15, 2016.

For more information contact Sarah Marsh, Management Department Chair, smarsh@niu.edu or 753-6211

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