Action Research Fellowship
Request for Applications

About ESTEME@OSU
Oregon State University is on the brink of a transformation where the culture of scholarship is being applied inward to comprehensively examine and evolve the institution’s own practices. This shift has many implications; one of the most exciting is an improvement in student learning outcomes and competencies. The ESTEME@OSU (Enhancing STEM Education at Oregon State University) project is focusing on increasing the use of evidence-based instructional practices (EBIPs) to enhance the effectiveness of STEM courses.

The project is supported by the National Science Foundation’s WIDER program, DUE 1347817.

Purpose of the Fellowship
This fellowship is designed to support instructors already using EBIPS in lower division science, mathematics or engineering courses to take the next step in educational innovation through action research; that is, asking and answering questions about practice and collecting evidence in their own classroom to inform practice. Fellows will be supported in three ways: 1) participation in an interdisciplinary community of instructors with similar goals to apply what research tells us about learning in the classroom; 2) partnership with a member of the ESTEME@OSU research team with expertise in education research and classroom practice to support research design, data collection and analysis; and 3) $3,000 financial support.

Eligibility
Faculty and instructors teaching lower division large enrollment courses in the colleges of science or engineering with adequate demonstration of their use of EBIPs.

Program Requirements
• Stay in regular communication with their research partner.
• Meet with the community of fellows and research partners four to six times during the 2015-2016 academic year to discuss and refine research plans, discuss approaches to analysis, and discuss results.
• Work with the research partner to further develop the proposed study and ensure compliance with all policies of the OSU office of research integrity and the Institutional Review Board for research on human subjects.
• Present the study at the spring 2016 ESTEME@OSU “Faculty, Food, and Fun” event.
• Present the study at least one additional OSU venue during the by the end of the 2016 calendar year (may include campus seminar, departmental or all college meetings).
• Disseminate results by presenting a paper or poster at a conference or by submitting to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Program Opportunities
Fellows are encouraged to work with their department to include an undergraduate research assistant in the project. Mentoring of undergraduates can be shared between the instructor, the fellow, and the research partner.

Fellows will have the opportunity to meet in person or by video conference with an ESTEME@OSU principal investigator or advisory board member with expertise most relevant to the research focus. This time can be used to review and refine your research plan and/or discuss the implications and contribution of your findings.

Fellows will be awarded $3,000 in recognition of their efforts. Fellows will be recognized on the ESTEME@OSU website for contributions to research and practice.

Application
Applications are due July 6, 2015 at close of business via email to Victoria.Bonebrake@oregonstate.edu. The application should be submitted as a single .pdf document and must include the below elements using 12 point font, 1.15 vertical spacing and 1 inch standard margins.

1. Cover page with your name, title, department and the title of proposed project.
2. Statement of teaching practice describing your instructional approach including the professional and personal development goals you wish to achieve through the fellowship (1 page).
3. Curriculum vitae (the CV does not need to comply with the font and spacing above, please submit one you already have, 2-page version is preferred).
4. Preliminary proposal for research including the following (1-3 pages)
   a. A description of the course or series you wish to study during the 2015-2016 academic year. Please include an estimate of the number of students that will be included in your study.
   b. A brief description of the practices (EBIPs) you currently use and why they are effective.
   c. One or more preliminary action research question(s).
   d. A preliminary description of expected methods of data collection and analyses you expect to use to answer your research question(s) and the possible role(s) an undergraduate researcher could have in the project. (Note: it is not recommended to propose methods that rely on video recordings of students.)
5. A preliminary dissemination plan describing how you intend to meet the requirements for sharing your results both within your department or college and with the broader education research community outside of OSU (1 paragraph).
6. Signature from your department chair on a letter of commitment (template letter attached).
Selection
Applications will be reviewed by a small team including principal investigators and advisory board members of the ESTEME@OSU WIDER grant team and the Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning. Selection criteria are 1) merit of preliminary research and dissemination plans; 2) potential of research to contribute to change initiatives at OSU and the goals of the ESTEME@OSU in particular; and 3) distribution of fellows across STEM departments. It is expected that the program will fund up to 8 Fellows. All applicants will be notified by July 29, 2015 of their status.

Additional Information
If you have questions about the program or your eligibility please contact Julie.Risien@oregonstate.edu 541-737-8664.

More information about the ESTEME@OSU project can be found here: http://stem.oregonstate.edu/esteme/home, and http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1347817.

Examples of ESTEME@OSU EBIPs of focus can be found here: http://stem.oregonstate.edu/esteme/ebips.

A video describing Action Research can be found here: http://www.nefstem.org/teacher_guide/videos/intro_2.wmv
[APPLICANT NAME] has shared with me the research and dissemination plan associated with their application for an ESTEME@OSU Action Research Fellowship. I support [APPLICANT NAME] in their endeavor to conduct action research, participate in the fellowship community of practice, and disseminate results at OSU and external venues.

Signature of Chair or Head

Department or School

Date