

## ***This Week @Metro***

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***Metropolitan State College of Denver***

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### **Section: Academics**

## **Center for Innovation update: Faculty fellowships underway, proposals for new fellowships invited**

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In true entrepreneurial style, the Center for Innovation, formed only 10 months ago, is moving full-speed ahead. Last year's Faculty Fellowships awards are moving forward or already completed, a new fellowship was recently awarded, and the center is now accepting proposals for a new round of fellowships.



"The Faculty Fellows in Innovation program is a key initiative in the Center for Innovation's objective of broadening the understanding, appreciation and inclusion of entrepreneurial initiatives across disciplines," said Mick Jackowski, associate professor of marketing and interim director of the center. "It's really designed to stimulate and support the development and teaching of innovation and entrepreneurship in various disciplines, and to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit in students of all majors."

### **Fellowships underway or completed**

Faculty members awarded innovation fellowships in the 2007spring semester are now implementing them, and one fellowship has already been completed.

#### *Partnership with Jefferson County Schools: Assistant Professor of Education Marilyn Cullen-Reavill*

The first project completed, this partnership was born from Cullen-Reavill's research into what kinds of support teachers need in their first year. "Statistics show that one-third of teachers leave the profession in their first three years, and this program was designed to address that," said Cullen-Reavill. Working jointly with Jefferson County Schools administrators and faculty, Cullen-Reavill developed and gave a workshop in August for two groups: Metro State teacher-education students in her Classroom Management and Technical Skills class and the teachers from Jefferson County who were to work with them on their field experience. Cullen-Reavill stresses the co-teaching aspects of the program: she and Jeffco leaders co-taught the workshop, experienced Jeffco teachers are co-teaching in some Metro State classes, adding the wisdom of their experience to the theory, and she will co-teach in an elementary classroom. "It's win-win all around," she said. Cullen-Reavill is contemplating applying for another innovation fellowship to extend the partnership to other classes at Metro State.

#### *Community Music School: Assistant Professor of Music David Kish*

Beginning this semester, Metro State music majors are providing private instrumental instruction to Denver Public School students at Abraham Lincoln High School. "We're working with the instrumental music teacher at Lincoln, herself a Metro State graduate, to pilot the program," Kish said. "We want to make sure it enhances, rather than replaces, music in Denver Public Schools. If it's successful, we'll look at expanding it." Kish said he sees the program as a valuable service-learning opportunity for his students, and he cited a side benefit to the program: "Only 12 percent of Abraham Lincoln students go to college. Our program is providing these kids with exposure to college that they might not otherwise have had."

#### *Center for Urban Conflict Studies Phase I: Curricular Development of a Course in Mediation, Professor of Speech Communication Karen Krupar and Adjunct Faculty Member Kelly Marquez*

Under this recently awarded fellowship, Krupar and Marquez will develop a course in mediation as part of an overall strategy to establish a Center for Urban Conflict Studies at Metro State. "As an urban institution, it makes sense for us to study urban conflict in particular, as opposed to general conflict," Krupar said. The mediation class will be the third in a series on conflict resolution, adding to two courses that Krupar developed years ago (one in Communications and Conflict and the other in Interpersonal Negotiations).

Krupar and Marquez plan to develop a fourth in the series this summer, on arbitration. Taken together, the four classes would provide the basis for a certificate program, which Krupar hopes will lead to the development of a minor in conflict resolution and eventually to the establishment of a Center for Urban Conflict Studies. Krupar adds that no other college in Colorado has a center focused specifically on urban conflict, or geared specifically to undergraduates. "This idea also aligns with President Jordan's notion of Metro State as an urban land-grant institution," Krupar said.

Other fellowship projects underway include the development of a chemistry e-textbook hybrid and a multicultural marketing initiative. Led by Assistant Professor of Chemistry Roosevelt Price, the chemistry e-book project entails multiple Metro State collaborators providing innovative methods of teaching chemistry through video links on an e-book Web site. The multicultural marketing initiative, initiated by Professor Wossen Kassaye and Associate Professor Clay Daughtrey, has been taken over by adjunct faculty member Ruth Chavez. According to Jackowski, the initiative builds on the success of the new course in Multicultural Marketing to work toward the establishment of a Multicultural Business Institute, which would cover, beyond marketing, a breadth of cultural issues related to business. Watch @ Metro for more coverage of these fellowships as they proceed.

Jackowski said he is pleased with the progress and range of the entrepreneurial fellowships to date. "I am really looking forward to working with our fellows to further develop their projects and promote them throughout the greater Denver community," he said.

### **New proposals encouraged**

The Center for Innovation is now accepting proposals for its second year of faculty fellowships. Each fellowship is \$2,000.

Criteria include innovative components of the proposed project; overall quality of the proposal; extent to which the content of the course or project will contribute to a broad understanding of innovation or entrepreneurship; evidence of the offering unit's commitment to offer the course or project regularly; and clear statement of expected impact, formulated with evaluation in mind; and description evaluation methods.

Proposals should include a cover sheet with an abstract of no more than 250 words, a narrative description of the project, a brief letter of support from the executive officer of the department or program, a narrative budget that briefly describes anticipated expenses and the résumé of the applicant.

For a copy of the proposal application with more specific details, go to [http://www.mscd.edu/~collcom/@metro/@metro\\_vol5/docs/CI\\_proposals.pdf](http://www.mscd.edu/~collcom/@metro/@metro_vol5/docs/CI_proposals.pdf).

Questions about the proposal process should be directed to Jackowski at 303-556-3784 or [mjackows@mscd.edu](mailto:mjackows@mscd.edu).