

# Introducing Rensselaer's Teaching and Learning Collaboratory

## An Initiative to Support Pedagogical Innovation

The Office of Undergraduate Education is pleased to announce the third annual call for proposals from the Rensselaer Teaching and Learning Collaboratory (TLC). The TLC is both a physical space and a group of people. The physical space is located on the first floor of Folsom Library and is contiguous with the renovated Center for Global Communication and Design. This space includes a Beta Classroom and tutoring facilities. The Beta Classroom is a high technology classroom for interactive learning, which can accommodate about 20 students. The goal of the Beta Classroom is to pilot new or interactive technologies and pedagogical approaches that may be appropriate for rolling out in a broad range of classrooms. To date, the Data INCITE Lab and the Burt Swersey Inventor's Studio on campus have taken advantage of what they have learned in the Beta Classroom to improve interactive education. For further information on the Beta Classroom, visit <http://info.rpi.edu/teaching-and-learning-collaboratory/#BetaClassroom>. To register for a Beta Classroom Preview session, visit <https://info.rpi.edu/teaching-and-learning-collaboratory/#Workshops>.

The entire Rensselaer teaching community is part of the TLC, but it is led by a board of faculty advisors. The goals of the TLC board are:

1. To cultivate an Institute-wide culture of pedagogical excellence in the classroom and to encourage innovations in teaching.
2. To host workshops where teaching best practices are disseminated, new technologies are introduced, and broader discussions around pedagogy take place.
3. To encourage and create teams of faculty to compete for external funding for research into pedagogical innovations.
4. To identify and support promising pedagogical innovation seed projects.

The TLC board is comprised of Rensselaer faculty members committed to pedagogical innovation. Members of the board serve staggered 3-year terms. The board's current membership includes:

Johnson Samuel – SoE  
Alicia Walf – HASS  
Jason Hicken – SoE  
Peter Persans – SoS

Jason Kuruzovich – Lally  
Dean Nieuwma – HASS  
Dan Lewis – SoE  
Rebecca Rouse – HASS

Jennifer Pazour – SoE  
Jerry Korenowski – SoS  
Yunfeng Shi – SoE  
Linda Schadler – OUE

### The Teaching and Learning Collaboratory's FY 2019 Call for Proposals

The TLC invites proposals from full time tenure track faculty members or lecturers/Professors of Practice for piloting and assessing pedagogical innovations, especially those integrating interactive technologies into the classroom. We wish to fund seed projects that will serve as the foundation for external grant applications. Project proposals should entail the implementation of new interactive approaches, including the use of the Beta Classroom, gaming, remote laboratories, or other innovative methods. Proposals that include some use of the Beta Classroom will be given first consideration.

Two levels of funding are available. Proposals for up to \$10,000 in funding should not be more than 3 pages; collaborative proposals (across disciplines) for up to \$20,000 in funding should not be more than 4 pages. Investigators should include a brief project description including goals, assessment methods (quantitative), use of technology available in the Beta Classroom to assist in the project goals, a statement of how seed project outcomes will lead to a competitive external proposal, the funding agency that would receive such a proposal in FY 20, and a half-page summary of the investigators' teaching accomplishments. An abbreviated budget and timeline should also be included as a table in the proposal. Funds can be used for student support, equipment, and a maximum of \$2500 for faculty summer salary. A report will be due in December and in May. We anticipate funding 4-7 proposals.

Proposals are due **March 14, 2018 (pdf to [schadl@rpi.edu](mailto:schadl@rpi.edu))**

Winners will be announced May 1, 2018 and funding will commence July 1, 2018.