

Introducing Rensselaer's Teaching and Learning Collaboratory

An Initiative to Support Pedagogical Innovation

The Office of Undergraduate Education is pleased to announce this 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 10 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. For further information on the Beta Classroom, visit <http://info.rpi.edu/teaching-and-learning-collaboratory/#BetaClassroom>.

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.
5. Develop new initiatives for gamification of courses and curriculum with emphasis on large lecture classes.
6. Team based proposals to develop interactive learning and gameful learning initiatives on campus.

The TLC board is comprised of Rensselaer faculty members committed to pedagogical innovation. Members of the board serve staggered 3-year terms. Please visit [TLC Faculty Board](#) for a listing of the board's current membership.

The Teaching and Learning Collaboratory's FY 2022 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, gaming, remote laboratories, or other innovative methods. The Beta Classroom is a space that may also be used for testing if appropriate for the project.

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-\$30,000 in funding should not be more than 4 pages. Investigators should include a brief project description including goals, assessment methods (quantitative), any 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 22, 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 2-3 proposals with the understanding that it depends on institute funding and priorities. *If resubmitting from a previously awarded project, please email rpiuged@rpi.edu to request the resubmission guidelines.*

Proposals are due **March 7, 2022** (pdf to rpiuged@rpi.edu)

Winners will be announced by May 4, 2022 and funding will commence July 1, 2022.