



Grants 2022-2023 Request for Proposals

The Center for Excellence in Social and Emotional Learning (CESEL) at Central Connecticut State University is focused on fostering the development of social and emotional well-being across the lifespan through *Education, Advocacy, and Research*.

To support this vision and the efforts of those who endeavor to contribute to the ongoing research and practice of social and emotional learning (SEL) in education and related fields, CESEL has established the CESEL Research Grant program, thanks to an endowment from the Ana Grace Project.

Grant Priorities

The CESEL Leadership Team is soliciting proposals from members of the CCSU community (and their collaborative partners, where appropriate) for research projects and initiatives that seek to:

1. build shared knowledge among researchers and practitioners about systemic implementation of SEL in learning and work environments;
2. explore organizational factors that build capacity in SEL practices to support learning for children and adults; and
3. center SEL in investigating organizational problems of practice focused on improvement of equitable outcomes and well-being for all.

Examples of research projects include (but are not limited to):

- evaluation of SEL practices applied in context, with an emphasis on systemic approaches to issues of equity and diversity.
- investigation of the role(s) of SEL in design-based organizational improvement to address equity challenges.
- multi-disciplinary research projects on best practices for adapting curriculum to meet the SEL learning needs of students and adults.

- conceptualizations of leadership professional learning related to SEL for equity in diverse student populations.

The CESEL Research Grant program will fund two proposals, preferably one from the field of education, and one from associated professional fields (e.g., social work, counseling, nursing, and business). Proposals may be submitted by individual CCSU faculty members (part-time or full-time), jointly by CCSU faculty members, by CCSU faculty and students, or by entire departments. An applicant may not be associated with more than one proposal. Total funding available through the grant program is up to \$1,000 per award. Awards may cover costs of stipends (with justification), educational materials, conference or workshop attendance, guest speakers, the hosting of workshops or retreats, and similar curricular and professional enhancements.

Timeline:

- Request for Proposals (RFP) Announcement: September 15, 2022.
- Application Deadline: November 1, 2022, by 5 pm.
- Announcement of Awards: November 30, 2022
Grant Period: Funds must be expended by December 31, 2023
- Reporting: Final report describing activities and outcomes is due by January 31, 2024.
- Awardees also are required to present findings at the CCSU/CESEL-sponsored SEL conference, to be scheduled in Spring 2024.

Proposals:

Proposals should be in the form of a single MS Word or PDF document including:

- Cover sheet (template below)
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget (template below)
- Two-page curriculum vitae of applicants
- Supporting documentation (if any)

Cover Sheet: Should include date of submission, descriptive title of research proposal, name(s), position, and department affiliation(s) of applicant(s).

Narrative: Should be no more than approximately 1,200 words within five double-spaced pages and include the following:

- **Descriptive Title** of research proposal
- **Description of Activity and Goals** of proposed project, including how the project addresses and how the goals are aligned with the priorities of the grant as described above,

- **Significance** of project for student and adult learners, department(s), the university, P-12 school district(s), or other relevant entities, including how the research may inform enhanced SEL practices for equitable outcomes and well-being.
- **Methodology /Work Plan** of proposed research, timeline, and plan of action for processes to be completed to accomplish the objectives of the project, demonstrating completion of project by December 31, 2023

Human Subjects

- If your research involves human subjects, you must so indicate on the proposal cover sheet. Once a project is funded, the awardee must seek approval from the CCSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human research subjects. You should contact the IRB committee for information on submission procedures and timing. In no case should work with human beings as research subjects be undertaken until the proper approval is obtained. The review of the proposal will include notification to the applicant(s) regarding the need for compliance according to the procedures mandated by the IRB. Failure to obtain the proper approval may result in the termination of your award and the recovery of any funds awarded for research expenses including stipends. Letters of approval from the IRB must be attached to the final report.

- **Final Report**

- **Results/Outcomes**, including findings and implications for the field of practice
- **Implications and Evaluation of Impact** for the field of practice, beyond the scope of the project
- **Dissemination plan** - including publications, conference presentations and exhibits (must include participation at CCSU CESEL Spring Conference)

Budget: A clear and complete budget itemizing expenses, justifying each item, and documenting each item's cost when possible.

Applicants are encouraged to address all of the required elements above, as they will be the basis of the rubric upon which applications are scored.

Supporting Documentation: Proposals that support the development of new courses, curricula, programs, or the like will be aided by confirmation from the relevant department chair, dean, or other entity that the course/program/etc. is realistic in terms of staffing and budgeting, and likely to be implemented.

Decision Guidelines: This competition is based on consideration of the alignment of the goals of proposed projects with the priorities of the grant, as well as multiple impacts to the CCSU community. Proposals are scored according to their compliance

with the submission guidelines. The scoring rubric used by the CSEL Committee is attached for guidance.

Applications should be sent as a single MS Word or PDF document by 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2022 to Dr. Toni Ryan, CESEL Research Coordinator, at amryan@ccsu.edu Office. The CESEL Leadership Team will commence review of all following the grant application deadline.



2022-2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Grant Proposal Cover Sheet

SUBMISSION DATE	
PRIMARY FACULTY APPLICANT	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
DEPARTMENT	
TITLE OF PROPOSAL	
Faculty Co-Applicant(s) and Department/Institutional Affiliation	
Email Address	

Individual Project	
Group Project	

AMOUNT REQUESTED:	\$
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GRANT PROPOSAL SCORING RUBRIC

Criterion	4 Exemplary	3 Adequate	1 Needs Improvement	0 Insufficient Evidence	Comments/Notes
Project Description and Innovation	Project represents the implementation of new insight or idea, with potential benefits of research in or approach to SEL made clear.	Project represents local implementation of emerging innovation or trend, with potential benefits of research or SEL approach specified.	Project represents practice(s) commonplace within field, or an adoption of an SEL approach with well-established benefits. Innovation or insight needed	No innovation described or specific potential improvement defined.	
Rationale	Strong rationale and significance of proposed work. Address specific need(s) with regard to SEL common among peer institutions.	Rationale or significance of project to address institutional or community need in SEL tends toward the too-specific or too-general, but overall argument holds.	Weak presentation of institutional or community need for SEL, or tenuous argument for grant project's ability to address need.	Unconvincing or no evidence of need presented, or grant proposal does not address stated need.	
Relationship to Organizational and/or Community Goals	Project outcomes or activities regarding SEL align with both organizational vision and goals of greater community.	Project elements in SEL align with goals of either the organization or its greater community, but not both.	Project tangentially but not directly related to organizational strategic vision or community goals regarding SEL.	No explicit relationship between project and the agenda of its organization or community.	

Feasibility	Personnel, project activities timeline, and budget expenditures congruent with project description and outcomes.	Deficiencies or overestimations exist in personnel, timeline, or budget within tolerable range, outcomes appear achievable despite gaps or leaps.	Project's assembled personnel, timeline, or budget expose weaknesses in plan design. Outcomes unlikely to be achieved in project's current form.	Insufficient information about personnel, project activities timeline, or budget expenditures to gauge feasibility.	
Assessment	Clear picture of how data will be collected and used to demonstrate degree to which SEL outcomes are met.	Good understanding of anticipated specific results or success in SEL, but plan lacks some details about data or methods.	Success difficult to ascertain, flawed by untestable outcomes, inappropriate methods, or lack of useful data collection.	Evaluation plans missing or unusable.	
Sustainability	Evidence presented that project or its impact in SEL can be sustained locally beyond grant period, if results warrant.	Project is temporary, designed to end when grant ends, or some effort to secure commitment to SEL beyond grant period is represented.	Plans for future are stated as assumptions without supporting arguments or evidence.	No meaningful plans for future beyond funding term appear in proposal	
TOTAL SCORE				COMMENTS/FEEDBACK	
Recommend Funding?	Yes – Full funding	Partial \$_____	Not at this time		

