

E-mail message sent to all UW-Eau Claire faculty and staff, May 21, 2010

Blugold Commitment Investments

On May 17 the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate unanimously approved the allocation of Blugold Commitment investments for the upcoming 2010/11 academic year. After review of the proposals I have approved the allocations; notices will go out to all faculty and staff who submitted proposals. A list of all funded proposals is attached.

While we followed a truncated proposal process in order to begin implementation of the Blugold Commitment this academic year, I want to commend the more than 80 faculty and staff who submitted proposals to create or pilot high-impact practices that will benefit our students. I also want to thank the students, faculty and staff who served on categorical committees to review and rank proposals and on the funding analysis committee to determine the recommended allocations.

The Blugold Commitment provides our University with a tremendous opportunity to expand, enhance and enrich the Eau Claire Advantage—the distinctive experiences that benefit our students and set us apart as a University. In a time of declining resources for higher education our students are partnering with us to help us grow and excel. I encourage all faculty and staff to become involved in developing ways to use these resources in exciting new ways. Watch for information this fall on the next round of Blugold Commitment funding opportunities.

During academic year 2010/11, UW-Eau Claire undergraduate students will each invest \$463 in differential tuition to support enhanced academic excellence. The \$4.5 million in new resources that result will be allocated in the following manner:

- \$1 million will provide financial assistance for students in need.
- \$860,000 will support Provost-led initiatives to enhance advising; support pilot courses for the revised Liberal Education Core program (the revised General Education); and address course availability through a variety of strategies including the development of online learning for high-demand prerequisite courses.
- \$2.6 million will fund high-impact practices that strengthen the Eau Claire Advantage.

Proposals for high-impact practices were divided into six, student-identified categories. Approximately \$1.6 million was previously awarded as part of the existing differential tuition program. New funds related to the increased Blugold Commitment will be used to support new initiatives or enhance original proposals. Examples of initiatives include:

Learning and teaching enhancement - \$121,000

Projects that are designed to transform how students learn include the creation of a freshman seminar in critical reading and writing, an interdisciplinary pilot that incorporates civic leadership and environmental education, and advancing the environmental public health program through the development of an interdisciplinary curriculum.

International and domestic intercultural immersion experiences - \$114,000

Faculty and staff will expand the Rosebud immersion experiences for more Nursing students, enrich the Civil Rights Pilgrimage, transform the central European Travel Seminar into an interdisciplinary program, and create a pilot immersion experience in Istanbul and Anatolia.

Faculty-student collaborative research - \$292,000

In addition to expanding the existing program to meet growing demand for faculty-student collaborative research, faculty will develop a diversity mentoring program and support additional pilots in the student-faculty international fellows program.

Experiential learning and internships - \$45,000

Internship opportunities will be expanded for students, including enhancing experiences in South Africa and Washington, DC. In addition a cross-disciplinary workshop in Art, Music and Writing will be created, and a program to foster community collaboration through a student design and research center will be developed.

Capstones - \$35,000

In addition to increasing funds available for student travel to present capstone research projects, the Blugold Commitment will enable faculty to integrate transnational and global learning into Women's Studies. The Pigeon Lake field experience will be expanded to engage more Biology students.

Innovative initiatives - \$95,000

The Blugold Commitment will facilitate the creation of a new social justice living-learning community. A program that focuses on addressing the unique retention challenges faced by sophomore and transfer students will be implemented, and faculty and staff will enhance the experiential learning opportunities for Kinesiology students. An LGBTQ certificate in Women's Studies will be developed.

Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich