

**GOLDFARB CENTER FOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
AT COLBY COLLEGE**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENTAL MINI-GRANTS

The Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement invites proposals from Colby faculty for the Center's new Departmental Mini Grants program. The program aims to provide support for departments or interdisciplinary programs seeking to examine the role of civic engagement in the curriculum. The goal of the Goldfarb Center in offering these funds is to increase the number of departments/programs at Colby offering civic engagement courses.

Funding The Goldfarb Center will provide funding for up to four (4) grants of up to \$2000 each. The program intentionally provides maximum flexibility; the only requirement is that the funds must be used to explore integrating civic engagement courses into the departmental curriculum.

Funds may be used for stipend(s) for department members, speakers or consultants, support for departmental retreats or planning sessions, expenses for materials, or costs of activities designed to support the goal of embedding civic engagement into the curriculum. The lead faculty is expected to keep track of all expenses and submit items for reimbursement in a timely fashion. A detailed expense summary must be submitted to the Goldfarb Center Assistant Director, Alice Elliott, within two weeks after the end of the funded semester.

Proposals: Proposals should include

- a brief narrative that identifies departmental goals and objectives for the grant, and
- a detailed budget that includes anticipated expenses in support of the proposal goals.

We hope that any civic engagement courses resulting from this departmental work will be identified as such in the course catalogue.

For assistance in developing a proposal, please contact Alice Elliott, the Goldfarb Center's Assistant Director of Community Outreach and Programming. Resources available include: individual coaching, research on courses at like institutions, sample syllabi, readings and more. You can reach Alice at x5313 or via email at aelliott@colby.edu. The deadline for applications is rolling; we are accepting proposals for the academic year 2008-2009.

Submit proposals to Alice Elliott, Diamond 252, or via e-mail.

For reference, the Goldfarb Center Civic Engagement Committee has adopted the following definition of a civic engagement course.

Civic Engagement Course Guidelines.

Civic Engagement courses include a service component in which students engage the community in a valuable, significant, and necessary activity that has real consequences for the communities involved. Civic engagement courses are not developed in a vacuum but are shaped to respond to the self-identified needs of such communities. The needs of the community dictate the type of civic engagement in which the students are involved.

1. Clear and well thought-out goals for students and community.
2. Academic rigor
3. An in-class experience—readings, discussions and presentations-- that will enable students to better understand the community component of their experience and connect it to course content.
4. A structured process of reflection and analysis on the community experience built into the course and linking the experience to course goals.
5. Presentation of the results to the community partner/public.
6. A plan for offering the course at least twice -- the strongest proposals will be for courses likely to become a regular part of the curriculum beyond the initial offerings.