

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Bidder's Conference and the Engaged Department Initiative

1) What constitutes a 'department?'

Within this initiative 'Department' refers to any academic unit that sequences academic experiences to achieve particular learning outcomes for students, e.g. majors or minors.

2) What exactly are we bidding for at the Bidder's Conference?

Well actually, nothing. The Bidder's Conference is to get information about the whole initiative so that you can prepare your proposal. It is called a Bidder's Conference because the people there will be submitting a 'bid' (proposal).

3) What are we hoping to get if our proposal is successful?

Teams submitting successful proposals are accepted into an Engaged Department Institute where they will receive information, time, and support for action planning. The action plan that the team develops will outline two years worth of work integrating civic engagement into the curriculum of the department.

4) When would we get our funding?

Teams submit their action plans a few months after the Engaged Department Institute. Action plans are funded up to \$2000 for 08-09, and up to another \$1500 for 09-10. Action plans must be approved to be funded. There is no budget in your proposal this fall; the budget is part of the action plan.

5) Do all teams that submit action plans get funded?

We don't yet know. From past experience we know that not all teams ask for funding. We currently are able to fund five teams fully, but expect to be able to fund at least five others by the time the action plans are due for a total of ten teams.

6) What are all the elements of the Engaged Department Initiative?

The Initiative consists of the Engaged Department Institute, supported Action Planning, a Grant program, Curriculum Reform Institutes, and a final product of revised curricula for the major or minor (or sequence of courses). In addition to these elements, there is an option for teams to participate in and institute, action planning, and grant program looking at promotion and tenure.

7) Who is eligible to apply?

All departments from Campus Compact member institutions are eligible to apply. At this point, only four year degree granting institutions may receive grants. We are raising money so that two year institutions may also receive grants.

8) I know a faculty member who wants to integrate service learning into her course. Should she apply?

She should not apply for the Engaged Department Initiative, but she should certainly attend one of the Curricular Reform Institutes we will be offering in the Spring and Fall of 2008!