

***Cradle to Career Initiative***  
**Office of Academic Affairs**  
**Request for Proposal**  
**Planning Grants**  
***Due Date: January 30, 2011***

Portland State University's ***Cradle to Career Initiative*** is designed to support innovative work that links Portland State University faculty with community partners who share common interests in increasing student success. Undergirding this initiative is a belief that increasing the number and impact of strategic partnerships between higher education and Portland metropolitan individuals and organizations can help advance the success of every child in our community.

The focus for this specific planning grant/funding effort is to aid in the development or deepening of new or emerging PSU-local community partnerships directed toward problem/project identification around shared goals and accountability for the success of our community's children.

The ***Cradle to Career*** initiative is modeled after the national "Strive" project model that originated at the University of Cincinnati and includes a coalition of organizations who are committed to enhancing the education of students within the Portland metropolitan area. The partners represent all areas of the community, including: educators who teach; nonprofits that support youth; philanthropic organizations that provide financial support; elected officials who create policy; and corporations that need a skilled workforce. Strive's philosophy of education is grounded in the following principles:

- What happens outside of school is just as important as what happens inside of school;
- Partners must be accountable and use data to guide decisions and actions;
- Working together is key to eliminating the "cracks" that children can fall through; and
- Every child, regardless of circumstance, can find the support they need to achieve their dreams.

**Objectives of PSU Initiative:**

Portland State seeks to play a key role in supporting educational success of youth in our community by engaging a multidisciplinary body of faculty and students who will collaborate in ways that will result in community-based teaching and research that responds to the region's educational challenges.

- Promote university-educational partnerships that result in deep collaboration around problems/opportunities of mutual interest;
- Develop robust multi-departmental/community collaborations;
- Integrate diverse groups of faculty and community partners around a common vision and common work to increase educational attainment; and

Focus on areas that lend themselves to substantive third-party funding and community-

engaged scholarly activities.

### **Planning Grant Proposal Guidelines**

**The Proposal Review Committee will evaluate the submissions based on the following criteria. Each proposal must address the critical components outlined below:**

- The development of integrated multi-disciplinary faculty/staff teams that include key community partners who are prepared to work toward a shared vision and action for responding to issues and opportunities facing our region's educational system;
- The goal area or opportunity represents a significant need that would benefit from scholarly research and action and would advance the educational outcomes of the region.
- The identification of potential third-party funders interested in supporting the team's shared vision and action steps; and
- The planning activity will result in the submission of funding proposals or the development of written materials ready for submission to significant third-party funders.
- The proposal demonstrates a partnership in the metro-area community with individuals, organizations, agencies and/or K-12 Schools that reflects active commitment by all parties to the proposal
- The timeline of funded activities is from February, 2011 – June, 2011.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Provost's Cradle to Career Initiative Faculty Advisory Committee.

The Faculty Advisory Committee will make recommendations to the Provost. Awards will be announced in February, 2011.

Funds will be available from February, 2011 until June, 2011

### **Budget and Use of Funds**

- Request must not exceed \$15,000. All funds must be expended by June 30, 2011.
- Funds are NOT to be used to support specific research projects
- Funds ARE to be used to support the development of partnership(s) with community entities and K-12 schools. Such uses *might* include:
  - ✓ Creating capacity for application for external funding
  - ✓ Provide a limited amount of faculty release time
  - ✓ Grant development support

- ✓ Organizing and holding community-faculty/staff meetings or other strategic gatherings
- ✓ Staff support to provide for logistics and group cohesion
- ✓ Travel related to proposal development

### **Submission and Review Process**

A brief (6-page double-spaced maximum) proposal should be submitted electronically by close of business on January 30, 2011, to Becky Miller in the Center for Student Success at ramiller@pdx.edu.

The proposal should:

- Discuss the goal area, which specific issues and opportunities your integrated work group will address and how the project team will work together to address the identified concern. (2 pages)
- Demonstrate how the proposal relates to the objectives and goals of the Cradle to Career Initiative (1-2 pages)
- Identify membership of the intended group, and identify the specific expertise or role they will play (1 page)
- Provide a preliminary one-year budget with an attached budget narrative detailing the use of funds (1 page)
- Identify a detailed action plan and timeline leading to the development of: a shared vision for action; and third-party funding proposals.

*Recipients will be expected to commit to and to attend monthly meetings with the Faculty Advisory Committee and other award recipients to ensure campus-wide communication and coordination.*

*For more information contact Pat Burk (burk@pdx.edu) or Linda Jessell (ljessell@pdx.edu)*

## **Cradle to Career Project Goals & Indicators**

The process of identification and selection of indicators for each goal area is ongoing and intended to be done in collaboration with partners. Indicators are for the purpose of informing our community and our work related to progress in each goal area. Supporting goals must be included in proposals.

### ***Every student will:***

#### ***Goal 1 Be prepared for school***

- Receiving prenatal care
- Availability and student participation in quality childcare
- Participation in early childhood/Head Start programs
- Percent enrolled in full-day vs. half-day kindergarten

#### ***Goal 2 Be supported in and out of school***

- Supported by adults
- Availability of extracurricular activities and academic support

#### ***Goal 3 Succeed academically***

- Meeting or exceeding academic standards
- Graduating from high school on time
- Factors inhibiting ability to succeed academically

#### ***Goal 4 Enroll in postsecondary education or training***

- Readiness for postsecondary education or training
- Enrolls in a two-year or four-year college

#### ***Goal 5 Graduate and enter a career***

- Attainment of self-sufficiency and living wage by age 25