Virginia B. Ball
Center for Creative Inquiry
Program Description

The Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry enables faculty and students to

- Explore the connections among the arts, humanities, sciences and technology
- Create a product to illustrate their collaborative research and interdisciplinary study, and
- Present their product to the community in a public forum.

Each year, four Ball State University faculty members are selected (through an open competition) to teach an interdisciplinary seminar to fifteen students—most likely a capstone experience for majors, or an honors colloquium.

The Virginia B. Ball Center provides a summer stipend ($4000/fellow) so that the four fellows may prepare to teach their seminars, recruit students and negotiate approved courses for registration, contact consultants and work with community leaders. [If they wish, fellows may teach a summer school course to test material for their seminar.]

The Center also provides a semester's leave for the four fellows—two in the Fall, two in the Spring. During this period, the fellow's sole responsibility will be to teach their seminar. Similarly, during this period, each of the fifteen seminar students will receive fifteen hours for taking the seminar. [The assignment of hours will depend on department approval.]

The teachers and students in each seminar work together to create a product (e.g. an exhibit, a play, a film) to present to the community for public discussion. To facilitate this work, the Center provides each fellow with $14,000 for expenses such as travel, consultants and supplies. At least $3,000 of this money must be spent on creating, producing and marketing the class project for the community.

The Center provides each fellow with office space during his or her residency. Each seminar meets at the Center. And the four fellows and their students schedule related academic and community events at the Center.

Eligibility: All full time Ball State University faculty members are eligible. However, applicants must secure the support of their academic chair to teach an interdisciplinary seminar and to schedule fifteen students to take the seminar. And finally, applicants must secure the support of a community sponsor who will help promote their class project.

Additional Information: The Center will provide three additional services to help faculty members to complete their applications.

1. Forum: The Center will host an information Forum on Monday, October 15th at 4:00 p.m. at Kitselman. The Director, (Joe Trimmer), selected Fellows and students will be available to answer questions.
2. Conferences: Joe Trimmer, together with the Assistant Director (Donna Ferguson), will be happy to schedule conferences with applicants to plan, draft and revise applications. Call 287-0117 to set up appointments.
3. Previous Proposals: Applicants may examine the proposals and final reports of previous fellows.

Our website: Additional copies of the program description and applications can be printed from our website at http://www.bsu.edu/vbc.

Deadlines: Proposals, including the 1) completed and signed cover sheet and 2) the community sponsor's letter of support, should be submitted to the Virginia B. Ball Center by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2013. Awards will be announced by March 1, 2013. Funds will become available on July 1, 2013. Funds must be expended and A FINAL REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 30, 2014.

Revised 8/2012

Virginia B. Ball
Center for Creative Inquiry
2013-2014 Application Form

_____
(Applicant's Name)

Proposed Title: _____

_____

Description: _____
(2-3 sentences)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Preferred Semester: Fall_____ Spring_____ No preference_____

Approval for release of faculty for <u>one</u> semester to teach interdisciplinary seminar:

Department Chair_____

College Dean_____

Please note: The College Dean should return the original proposal to the applicant who should ***send the signed original with 5 copies to the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2013.***

Proposal Guidelines: (6 page limit for A, B, C. Consider Budget, Budget Narrative, Community Letter(s), and Faculty Resume as appendixes.

Part A: **Cover Sheet** (Complete the cover sheet provided)

Part B: **Project Description** (please include this information in your proposal)

1. A brief abstract that describes how your project will meet the goals of the Center—listed above
2. Project Description (be specific)
    a. How will the seminar be interdisciplinary (provide preliminary syllabi)?
    b. How will the seminar be collaborative (speculate on process and procedures)?
    c. How will the seminar be productive (describe project and how it will be produced)?
    d. How will the seminar be public (explain how you and your students will engage the community in a forum about your project)?

Part C: Student Selection/Registration

1. Provide criteria for students whom you will select for your seminar
2. Describe procedures you will use to work with department advisors to select and post appropriate courses for your students to register for your seminar.

Part D: Budget and Budget Narrative

1. Provide a budget in tabular form
2. Provide a budget narrative in which you explain and justify your creative use of each budget item
3. If funding is being sought from another source in support of this project, please explain and provide information about the status of such funding

Part E: Community Sponsor

1. Provide letter of support from community sponsor
2. Explain how sponsor will be involved in your project

Part F: Faculty/Resume

In addition to the items you would normally include on your resume (teaching, research, and service), please emphasize your experience teaching innovative and interdisciplinary courses and any experience you have had connecting academic ideas and community projects.

Review Criteria: Proposals will be reviewed by a committee that includes faculty from various disciplines and community leaders involved in educational and civic projects.

Criteria:

1. The proposed seminar must address its subject from an interdisciplinary perspective.
2. The proposed seminar must engage students as co-investigators.
3. The proposed seminar must create a product that will provide opportunities for community learning.
4. The proposed seminar must involve the community in promoting the class project.
5. The proposed seminar must have the potential for initiating long-term change in the university curriculum.

Revised 8/2012