



**Transformative
Learning**

EAST TEXAS A&M

Transformative and Experiential Learning Innovation Awards

Request for Proposals, Academic Year 2026-2027

Summary

The **Transformative and Experiential Learning Innovation Awards** (TELI) support faculty and staff in developing, expanding, enhancing, and implementing curricular and co-curricular experiential learning opportunities for East Texas A&M University students.

The program includes two funding tracks and are open to all ETAMU faculty and staff:

- **Just-in-Time Learning Awards:** Rapid-turnaround awards up to \$1000 to support time-sensitive experiential learning opportunities. Applicants must be current ETAMU faculty or staff. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as funds are available.
- **Transformative Learning Awards:** Substantial, competitive awards up to \$10,000 for longer-term transformational initiatives. Project-leads must be full-time, current ETAMU faculty or staff. proposals are reviewed through **up to three competitive funding cycles each academic year**, subject to the availability of funding.

All funded projects must participate in the Transformative Learning assessment process and include opportunities for intentional reflection as part of the design.

Projects that incorporate mentoring structures, including peer-to-peer, student-faculty, or external partner mentoring, are highly encouraged.

All proposals must be submitted using the online application: [TELI Awards 2026-2027](#)

1. Funding Tracks

Awards may support new initiatives, implementation of emerging opportunities, or the expansion of existing experiential learning activities. Applicants should select the funding track that best aligns with the scope and timeline of their project.

Track 1: Just-In-Time Learning Awards

Just-In-Time Learning Awards are small, rapid-turnaround awards designed to support time-sensitive experiential learning opportunities. These projects should enhance student engagement, reflection, workforce readiness, and applied learning through immediate implementation.

- Funding: Up to \$1,000
- Review Process: Rolling review

- Purpose: Support immediate opportunities and short-term implementation
- Typical Impact: Single event, activity, course section, or student experience

Track 2: Transformative Learning Awards

Transformative Learning Awards support the development, expansion, implementation, or scaling of experiential learning opportunities within courses, programs, or co-curricular experiences. These projects should create sustainable improvements that increase the quality, reach, or impact of experiential learning opportunities.

- Funding: Up to \$10,000
- Review Process: Competitive review
- Purpose: Support development, expansion, and scaling of experiential learning initiatives
- Typical Impact: Multiple courses, sections, programs, departments, or student populations

2. Choosing the Appropriate Track

Just-In-Time Learning Awards includes activities that represent immediate implementation opportunities rather than long-term program development.

Transformative Learning Awards include the development of new courses, signature assignments, sustainable mentoring structures, community partnerships, or initiatives designed to expand experiential learning across multiple semesters, courses, or programs.

Just-In-Time Learning Award	Transformative Learning Award
Up to \$1,000	Up to \$10,000
Rolling review	Scheduled competitive review
Immediate opportunity	Planned initiative
One-time experience	Sustainable initiative
Direct student engagement	Programmatic or institutional impact
Current semester impact	Multi-semester impact

3. Funding Priorities

The TELI Awards prioritize projects that expand meaningful, career-connected learning opportunities for students through experiential learning, intentional reflection, mentoring, and authentic demonstrations of learning.

Competitive proposals remove barriers to participation, strengthen the quality and reach of transformative learning opportunities, and create sustainable educational innovations that can be expanded across courses, programs, or co-curricular experiences.

4. Examples of Eligible Projects

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Designing or redesigning courses, modules, or signature assignments
- Expanding undergraduate research, internships, clinical, field, studio, or community-engaged learning
- Developing, creating or enhancing mentoring structures for students
- Developing or testing assessment tools that enhance experiential learning
- Embedding intentional reflection into existing courses or programs
- Creating employer, alumni, community, or interdisciplinary partnerships that support student engagement in real-world learning
- Purchasing equipment, instructional materials, or student project supplies that directly support transformative learning
- Scaling successful initiatives to serve additional students, course sections, departments, or academic programs

Just-In-Time Learning Award Example:

An instructor receives an unexpected opportunity to partner with a local organization and requests funding to implement a new community-engaged signature assignment during the current semester.

Transformative Learning Award Example:

A faculty team redesigns a course sequence to incorporate experiential learning, reflection, mentoring, and public demonstrations of learning across multiple semesters, creating a sustainable model that can be adopted by additional instructors.

5. Characteristics of Competitive Proposals

Competitive proposals typically:

- Demonstrate significant student impact, for example: impacting multiple students, courses, sections, or programs
- Incorporate intentional reflection and mentoring opportunities
- Articulate measurable clear student learning outcomes
- Demonstrate sustainability or scalability
- Build sustainable institutional capacity
- Demonstrate potential for replication or adaptation across the university
- Leverage partnerships with academic units, employers, alumni, community organizations, or other collaborators.
- Include matching support when available

6. Allowable Uses of Funds

Award funds may be used to support project-related expenses that directly advance transformative learning, including instructional materials, specialized software, equipment, student project supplies, professional development, community partnership development, travel directly related to project implementation, and other reasonable project expenses.

All funds must be expended within one calendar year and in accordance with federal, state, university, and Texas A&M University System policies. Applicants are encouraged to consult Procurement Services to ensure proposed expenditures comply with university purchasing requirements.

Requests for reassigned time may be considered for Transformative Learning Awards and must include a letter of support from the applicant's department head or supervisor.

Funding may not be used for:

- Faculty salary supplementation
- Student scholarships
- Indirect costs

7. Additional Requirements

Assessment and Project Participation

Faculty receiving Transformative Learning Awards are expected to participate in the university's assessment of transformative learning. At a minimum, award recipients will incorporate a student reflection artifact into the funded experience using assessment guidelines provided by the Office of Transformative Learning and submit the required assessment materials.

Award recipients may also be invited to collaborate with the Office of Transformative Learning in reviewing and validating the Transformative Learning Inventory for the course(s) or program(s) associated with the funded project. Faculty expertise is essential to ensuring that the inventory accurately represents transformative learning opportunities and remains a sustainable resource for continuous improvement.

Learn more information about the [Transformative Learning Inventory](#)

Dissemination

Recipients of Transformative Learning Awards will share project outcomes through a faculty or staff development session, workshop, panel, showcase, or demonstration coordinated in collaboration with the Faculty Success Center.

Dissemination is encouraged, but not required, for Just-In-Time Learning Awards.

8. Eligibility

- All full-time East Texas A&M University faculty and staff are eligible to apply.
- Individual and team applications are welcome.
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary proposals are strongly encouraged.

9. Deadlines

Just-in-Time Learning Awards

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed as funds are available.

Transformative Learning Awards– Application Timeline

Proposals will be accepted and reviewed according to the schedule below, **subject to the availability of funding**. Award funds are limited and may be fully committed during an earlier review cycle. If available funds are exhausted, subsequent review rounds may be canceled or closed.

Application Deadline	Project Period
August 15, 2026 (5:00 p.m. CST)	September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027
November 15, 2026 (5:00 p.m. CST)	January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027
April 15, 2027 (5:00 p.m. CST)	May 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028

Applicants are encouraged to apply during the earliest review cycle for which they are eligible, as funding is awarded on a rolling basis until available funds have been committed.

10. Proposal Requirements

All proposals must be submitted using the online application: [TELI Awards 2026-2027](#)

Applicants must indicate whether they are applying for a Just-in-Time Learning Award or a Transformative Learning Award. The review committee reserves the right to recommend funding through a different award track if it determines that another funding mechanism better aligns with the scope and goals of the proposed project.

As part of the application, applicants will identify the [experiential learning type](#) and [NACE competency](#) most closely aligned with the proposed project.

Project Proposal

Upload a single PDF (maximum four single-spaced pages, excluding the budget worksheet, letters of support, and signature assignment(s) if relevant).

Include the project title, primary contact name and email address, and the following sections:

1. Project Overview

Provide a concise overview of the proposed project, including:

- Course(s), program(s), and/or co-curricular experience(s) involved
- Purpose of the project and the need or opportunity it addresses
- How the project will be implemented
- Major goals and expected deliverables
- Plans to share outcomes or promising practices with the university community (optional for Just-in-Time Learning Awards)

2. Project Plan

Describe how the proposed project will strengthen transformative learning and why funding is needed at this time.

For new initiatives, describe:

- The proposed experiential learning experience
- How students will engage in reflection and receive mentoring or coaching, as appropriate
- Resources, partnerships, training, materials, or other support needed to launch the project
- How the project will enhance student engagement, applied learning, career readiness, and transformative learning

For existing initiatives, describe:

- Current experiential learning activities already in place
- Existing reflection activities, mentoring structures, and signature assignment(s), as applicable
- The additional resources needed to expand, improve, sustain, or scale the initiative
- How the requested funding will increase student access, deepen learning, improve quality, or strengthen long-term sustainability

3. Student Impact

Describe the anticipated impact of the project, including:

- Number of students expected to participate
- Knowledge, skills, and competencies students will develop
- Career readiness outcomes
- Opportunities for applied and experiential learning
- Expected contribution to transformative learning and student success

11. Required Attachments

Applicants must upload the following support documents:

- [Budget Worksheet](#) (required of all applicants). Include any matching funds or in-kind contributions from East Texas A&M University colleges, departments, or units.
- **Letters of Support** from the appropriate Department Head, Dean, Supervisor, or other administrator, as applicable.
- **Signature Assignment(s)** (required for existing initiatives; optional for new initiatives if available).

12. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
Alignment with high impact practice inventory, including intentional reflection	25
Appropriate project scope, implementation plan, and potential impact	20

Anticipated student impact	20
Inclusion of mentoring structures	15
Feasibility	10
Quality of dissemination/workshop plan	5
Budget justification	5

Questions?

Please contact Vanessa Quinn at vanessa.quinn@etamu.edu with questions regarding the program.