the center for
Contemplative Mind in Society

Contemplative Communities in Higher Education Grant Program
Request for Proposals

In partnership with the Fetzer Institute, the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society is pleased to announce the Contemplative Communities in Higher Education Grant Program for 2016. These grants are designed to provide seed funding to develop just, inclusive, and compassionate communities in academia: educational communities which share a commitment to the transformation of higher education and society through the use of contemplative practices and methods.

The Center has funding for five (5) $4,000 seed grants, which will be awarded to individuals, groups, or centers on college and university campuses to fund projects beginning in the Fall 2016 semester. Grants will be awarded through a competitive application, review, and selection process.

Background
For the past 20 years, the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society has been committed to working with higher education faculty, staff, administrators and students to deepen learning, stimulate creativity, and cultivate personal and social awareness through contemplative practices. We believe that reflective, contemplative approaches are a powerful complement to analysis, critique, and more conventional forms of pedagogy, as well as a powerful means of promoting connection and collaboration across many forms of difference: across the disciplines, offices and sectors of academia, and religious and spiritual beliefs, among many others.

Over our organization's history, we have witnessed the growth, deepening, and diversification of contemplative practices and methods in higher education settings. Our Contemplative Practice Fellowship Program, which ran from 1997 through 2009, fostered the development of courses and programs (read a report on the fellowship program here). Many schools now have established centers, faculty learning groups, degree programs, and annual events devoted to the exploration of contemplative methods in teaching and learning. Descriptions of some of these efforts can be found on our website.

This new grant program is a result of our recent partnership with the Fetzer Institute to explore the assessment and evaluation of contemplative practices in higher education; the building of contemplative communities on campuses; and the role of contemplative practices in supporting students' ability to address complex social issues and personal challenges.

Contemplative Communities Grant Program Description

Through the Contemplative Communities in Higher Education Grant Program, we seek to support the development of communities situated in higher education and centered around contemplative methods and social change. The following examples are among the activities and values of such communities:

- Engaging in group processes that foster inclusiveness across disciplines, roles, and/or social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, ability, sexual orientation);
- Supporting the integration and retention of students, staff, and/or faculty who have traditionally been marginalized in higher education (low-income students, first generation students, students with disabilities, etc);
- Emphasizing the interconnectedness of individuals, groups, and environments on campuses and in local communities;
- Demonstrating openness to contemplative methods and practices from a variety of traditions, systems, and disciplines;
- Creating spaces and opportunities for inquiry into meaning, purpose, spirituality, and the sacred;
- Fostering capacities that are needed to meet the challenges we currently face, on local to global levels.

This list is not definitive, and is not meant to be exhaustive or required of all grant-funded projects.

Grants may be awarded to communities in many different stages of development, from small, informal groups of individuals (e.g., faculty, staff, and/or students) to larger consortiums that include multiple institutions and communities in a region.

Guidelines and Eligibility Requirements

- Proposals may be submitted by individuals or teams, but **each grant proposal must identify a lead author and a department or office to whom the grant monies will be paid,** even if the proposal is submitted by a team.

- **The lead author must be affiliated with an accredited college or university** as a current graduate or undergraduate student, administrator, staff, or faculty member. Part-time, full-time, and adjunct positions are equally eligible. The lead author will be the contact person for the duration of the grant and principally responsible for guiding it through completion and reporting.

- **The lead author must be a current member of the Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (ACMHE).** To check your membership status or to join the ACMHE, please visit http://www.contemplativemind.org/programs/acmhe. If you are unable to afford a membership at this time, please contact us at grants@contemplativemind.org.

- **There are no location, nationality, or citizenship restrictions**, although awards are made in US funds and grant reports must be submitted in English.

- The Center has funding for five (5) $4,000 seed grants. **Awards may not be used toward salaries or general overhead** for departments, offices, or centers. Examples of suitable uses for funding include but are not limited to: purchasing books and materials; space use, equipment rental, and catering costs for events; guest speakers, retreat/practice leaders, or consultants, including undergraduate or graduate student assistance on specific projects; providing childcare, transportation, or other services to support attendance. *All expenses should be explained in clear relationship to achieving your project goals.*

Review Process

Grants will be screened for eligibility and reviewed by an external review committee working with staff of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society.

The Center has funding for five (5) $4,000 seed grants. Proposals will be selected based on:

- A clear expression of intentions for undertaking the project ("Why?");
- Thoughtful and realistic goals and plans, identification of possible challenges, and strategies for assessing outcomes ("What?" / "How?");
- Evidence of successful identification of, and communication with, any partners and allies necessary to achieve the plan outlined in the proposal. ("Who?" / "Where?")
- The feasibility of the plan outlined in the proposal given the timeline of the grant program ("When?");

- The degree to which the proposal demonstrates inclusive values and goals aligned with just communities, such as those identified in the Contemplative Communities Grant Program Description, above.

Timeline & Grant Requirements

- Grant proposals will be accepted through July 1.
- Awards will be made in early August.
- In early September, we will host an online meeting for recipients to connect with each other and introduce their projects.
- Grant-funded activities must begin in the fall semester of 2016 and all grant funds must be used by May 15, 2017. However, activities and projects initiated by the grant may continue indefinitely.
- An interim report will be due January 15th, 2017.
- A final report on all activities and outcomes of the grant-funded project(s) will be due June 15, 2017.

To Apply for a Contemplative Communities Grant

Send a proposal as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf with the following sections to **grants@contemplativemind.org**. *The complete proposal, including the cover sheet, should be no longer than 6 pages if single-spaced.*

1. **Cover sheet**, listing:
   a. Title of proposal;
   b. Name of institution;
   c. Names of all proposal authors (please identify lead author) with titles, full contact information, and ACMHE membership status; and
   d. Name of office or department to which grant funds would be awarded.

2. **State project intentions and rationale**. Please address any relevant points listed in the Contemplative Communities Grant Program Description (found above).

3. **Identify your planned project partners**, allies, and/or collaborators, specifying whether they are existing allies or have yet to be contacted.

4. **Provide project details**: your plans, goals, and timeline.

5. **Describe any potential challenges and obstacles** to achieving project objectives. What additional preparation might be necessary?

6. **Describe strategies for evaluating the outcomes** of the project: how will you be able to assess and report on progress towards your stated goals?

7. **Provide a detailed budget**. Awards may not be used toward salaries or general overhead for departments, offices, or centers.

Submission Due Date

All materials must be submitted as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf to grants@contemplativemind.org by midnight PDT on Friday, July 1, 2016.

Proposal Submission FAQ

Can a proposal have multiple authors/collaborators? Yes, but regardless of the size of your team, you will always need to identify just one lead author to be the primary contact person for the grant.

Can I submit a proposal in partnership with people from multiple institutions? Yes, as long as all proposal authors meet the eligibility requirements.

To whom will the grant be paid?
The funds will be paid to the office or department specified in the proposal.

Can I submit a proposal in partnership with people who are working outside academia? Your proposal can include work outside academia and partnerships with non-academics, but all proposal authors, including the Lead Author, must have some formal connection to an accredited college or university. Part-time, full-time, and adjunct positions are equally eligible.

Can I submit a proposal if I have previously received a grant from the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society? Yes.

Are these grants intended to support the formation of new groups? Can they be used to enhance existing projects? We are interested in considering proposals from existing and established communities as well as new and emergent ones.

Can I use the grant to pay for my or other staff members' time and effort towards accomplishing the proposed initiatives? Awards may *not* be used toward salaries or general overhead for departments, offices, or centers, but may be used to hire consultants. All uses for funding must be clearly explained in the proposal. Examples of suitable uses for funding include but are not limited to: purchasing books and materials; space use, equipment rental, and catering costs

for events; guest speakers, retreat/practice leaders, or other consultants; providing childcare, transportation, or other services to support attendance.

We hope that through these modest efforts education can become a transformation process for ourselves and our students. May you be well and thrive in all your undertakings.