



NCID Diversity Conversations

University of Michigan

Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2009

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The Opportunity

The National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) invites proposals for innovative conversations about diversity, to occur within a conference, colloquium, forum, program, retreat, seminar, workshop, lecture series, or other gathering. This initiative provides funding of up to \$30,000 to teams of faculty and staff who design and organize an event that **prepares people for active engagement in a diverse society and works toward building productive inclusive communities at the University of Michigan and beyond**. Applicants are expected to develop plans for additional fundraising as well.

The Center will sponsor up to three of these events annually. During the 2009-2010 cycle, the funding period—including the enactment of the event—will not extend beyond June 30, 2010.

The Mission of the NCID

The National Center for Institutional Diversity represents a strategic commitment by the University of Michigan to address complex diversity issues within higher education and other major social institutions. NCID aims to prepare people for active engagement in a diverse society and works toward building productive as well as inclusive communities at U-M and beyond.

The Center promotes national exemplars of diversity scholarship, multilevel engagement, and innovation by operating as a catalyst, venture fund, incubator, clearinghouse, publisher, and think tank. Strategic partnerships bridge scholarship with social change through engagement at the campus/institutional, local/state, and national/international levels. Core priorities and activities focus on the challenges and opportunities of diversity in the broadest, richest sense—including racial, ethnic, gender, class, geographic, age, cultural, and diversity of viewpoints.

Inspired by the vision of higher education's critical role in promoting knowledge, justice, and opportunity in a diverse democracy and global economy, the Center's national leadership role focuses on several core practices:

1. Investigating the value of diversity through multiple perspectives;
2. Identifying, evaluating, and promoting exemplary educational, institutional, and community practices for pursuing and benefiting from diversity;
3. Cultivating and moderating public and academic discourses on diversity, providing tools to help sustain connections across differences;
4. Anticipating, preparing, and planning for an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

Resources and Application Process

Proposals must be received by NCID no later than Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EST. Completed proposals should be submitted to NCID via U.S. or campus mail. Applications lost in the mail are not the responsibility of NCID. Application forms can be downloaded from www.ncid.umich.edu in late February.

Proposal Content

Proposal narratives (maximum of 5 pages) should include the following information:

- ◆ Goals of the Event
- ◆ Rationale for the Thematic Focus (Why is this topic important? How will this theme translate into action? How does it align with the mission of the Center?)
- ◆ Event Design (including rough format, list of key speakers)
- ◆ Scope (description of anticipated participants, including numbers and professional or community roles)
- ◆ Timeline and Personnel (projected timeline for carrying out this event, as well as the names of key organizers and support staff to be involved)
- ◆ Post-Event Plans (What follow-up activities will occur? What long-lasting national implications will result?)

Competitive proposal narratives will incorporate the following elements into this basic structure:

- ◆ Innovative thematic focus that enables action-oriented products that demonstrate an impact beyond the event itself, such as new engagements between U-M and other social institutions, interventions, and experiments
- ◆ Evidence of the project's strong potential for becoming a national exemplar, with emphasis on its innovation, impact, sustainability, and replicability
- ◆ Documentation of supplemental or follow-on sources of funding (joint ventures with U-M units strongly encouraged, as is external funding)

- ◆ Feasibility (reasonable timeline with a team well-equipped for success)
- ◆ Involvement of scholars, practitioners, and leaders from a variety of disciplines, within and/or outside of academia, at local, state, national, or international levels, as well as strong potential for promoting institutional change
- ◆ Strategies for promotion, evaluation, or measuring the success of the project
- ◆ Knowledge of comparable endeavors, literature, and/or networks to build upon

In collaboration with both campus and external partners, core priority areas for NCID conversations and other activities include diversity issues in the following:

- Scholarship and Multilevel Engagement
- Education and Institutional Transformation
- Expressive Culture, the Arts, and Media
- Health Disparities and Human Development
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Urban Revitalization and Community Development
- Business, Organizations, and Sustainable Development
- Politics, Public Policy, and Social Justice

If you have concerns about how your project might fit into these priority areas, please see full descriptions online under “About the Center” or contact Valerie Johnson (vnjohnso@umich.edu).

Further Specifications

The timeline must be long enough to permit meaningful NCID involvement in conceptual planning. (The event can’t already be completed, or only a month away.)

Programs/events that are part of an ongoing series in a campus unit will be viewed with less favor. However, supplementary or matching funds from other campus units or external partners are strongly encouraged.

Within the proposal budget, funds must be allocated for promotion and documentation (through marketing, advertisement, videotaping, transcription, etc.).

Letters of Support

To enact its mission, the NCID forms strategic partnerships with University of Michigan schools, colleges, and units and their external partners. It seeks not to fund the leaders of Diversity Conversations in isolation, but to support them in partnership with their home units. Accordingly, Diversity Conversations applicants are highly encouraged to include letters of support from their home units, campus collaborators, and/or external partners.

Administration of Award

Regular university policies and procedures are applicable to the expenditure of funds, and the recipient is responsible for working with the NCID staff to arrange for good stewardship of the funds. Award amounts are final. Each award stipulates an expiration date, after which any balance remaining is returned to NCID. Faculty may not retain the award if they leave the University of Michigan. An interim report will be required within one year of the initial award, and a final report will be required upon completion of the project. Any changes in budget items or project period must first be approved by NCID.

Eligibility

Members of the following groups on the U-M campuses at Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn are invited to submit proposals: all tenured and tenure-track faculty; clinical instructional faculty; research faculty; lecturers who have continuing appointments; and senior staff members whose work concentrates on diversity.

Inquiries

Please direct questions to Valerie Johnson: vnjohnso@umich.edu or 764-6497.