



About “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grants

How can learning centeredness work as a means of enhancing student learning and institutional effectiveness? This is the focus for a program of innovative mini-grants which will be available to faculty and staff.

Montgomery College “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grants:

- Co-sponsored by the Grants Office and The Office of the Vice President for Academic Initiatives & Partnerships. Funded by the Montgomery College Foundation.
- Are investments in entrepreneurial activities that celebrate Montgomery College as a Learning College.
- Provide a small amount of “seed money” to support innovative projects that improve, advance and enrich student learning and/or enhance institutional effectiveness.
- Are flexible and intended to allow a timely implementation process of creative efforts in support of the Learning College's [Innovative Initiatives](#) (First-Year Experience, Service Learning and Professional Development, Learning Communities, Student Achievement and Retention, Assessment and Accountability, Writing in the Disciplines, and International Education).

Especially welcome are innovative grant proposals that:

- 1) Persuasively demonstrate how to re-examine, re-evaluate, and successfully re-tool or expand what we are already doing,
- 2) Can be quickly implemented as effective new teaching or work practices, and
- 3) Can potentially impact students throughout Montgomery College

Who Can Apply for “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grants?

All Montgomery College faculty (including adjuncts), administrators, and staff are eligible to apply. Prospective candidates should apply with the support of their administrative supervisor.

How Much Money is Available for a Grant?

Individual or team awards range from \$500 to \$3,500 per project for one semester depending on project goals, types of activities and events proposed, and resources required. These are “one-time only” awards and are not intended to be viewed as an ongoing source of support for project activities. Joint project proposals by one or more faculty members and/or staff are encouraged.

What is Not Supported by “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grants:

- Activities which can be supported through the use of EAP funds and departmental budgets
- Technology purchases normally reviewed by the Office of Information Technology’s Instructional Advisory Group for potential purchase
- Routine responsibilities of the employee submitting the proposal or normal operating budget expenses
- Proposals that make no attempt to incorporate the Learning College's Innovative Initiatives. The Initiatives document can be found at: [in the link to view specific information about the Learning College’s Initiatives](#)).

How will “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grant Proposals be evaluated?

A committee will evaluate how the essential principles and core competencies of the Learning College have been incorporated into the proposals. The principles require that each proposal demonstrate:

1. Learning is the responsibility of every member of the College community. We support learning for all, and recognize that we are all learners.
2. Learning is active, flexible and engages the learner in a collaborative relationship.
3. Learning is a rigorous and challenging experience that results in enhanced analytical skills, deeper understanding of content, and increased capacity for reflective and insightful decision making.
4. Learning requires an assessment of student needs and support for progress toward academic and personal goals.
5. Learning is successful when we can document change in the learner in the form of measurable outcomes.

The core competencies are those needed by today's students and today's workers, specifically the abilities to:

- Use effective communication skills (oral and written)
- Understand and employ qualitative and quantitative analysis to solve problems
- Interpret and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- Understand and work within complex systems and diverse groups
- Demonstrate intellectual agility and the ability to manage change
- Manage time effectively and efficiently
- Transform information into knowledge and knowledge into judgment and judgment into action

Who Will Review “*Make It Happen!*” Innovation Grant Proposals?

Proposals will be submitted by mail to the Vice President for Academic Initiatives & Partnerships (Central Office). They will be reviewed based on their merits as described in the selection evaluation criteria, and will be evaluated by a committee which will include the Team Leaders for each of the Learning Innovative Initiative teams or their college designees, Grants Office staff, and other College and campus representatives.

How Do I Apply? When Will I Find Out?

The application form can be found online at The Learning College website: www.montgomerycollege.edu/learning/mihig/. Complete the *Make It Happen!* Innovation Grant Application form and submit it to Office of the Vice President for Academic Initiatives & Partnerships, MKE 160, Rockville, MD.

Successful applicants will be notified via email.

Awardees and their projects will be showcased on the Learning College Web site. The College will retain all ownership and rights to funded projects upon their completion.

Additional information about the Learning College at Montgomery College as well as the *Make it Happen!* Application Form is found on the Learning College website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/learning/.