

Subject: FW: ICUSTA Grant Opportunity: STAIEP

2/23/2012

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COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS OF ICUSTA:

Through the support of the Angelicum Foundation and ICUSTA, I am pleased to announce a second grant opportunity for our ICUSTA members that has recently been reviewed and approved by the ICUSTA Executive Committee. The second grant opportunity supported by ICUSTA and Angelicum is called: THE ST THOMAS AQUINAS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (STAIEP).

PURPOSE OF STAIEP

This proposal is designed to encourage ICUSTA members to take advantage of the strengths that each of our members have and to share those strengths with other ICUSTA member institutions--- as good Christians should. The STAIEP would encourage faculty and staff exchanges that are in keeping with the mission and purpose of ICUSTA as outlined in the ICUSTA By-Laws. (Pertinent sections of the by-laws are included at the end of this message.) Initial funding support for STAIEP came from the Angelicum Foundation with a grant of \$40,000 USD, which will be supplemented by ICUSTA funds in the amount of \$10,000 making a total in the STAIEP fund of \$50,000. The grant from the Angelicum Foundation is a one-time grant---with a possibility for renewal. ICUSTA funding support will depend on availability of funds from our dues paying members, as well as response from our members. Initially the Executive Committee of ICUSTA is suggesting that no more than 30% of available funds be allocated in 2012.

Each member institution is responsible for informing their institutional community of the STAIEP grant opportunity.

RATIONALE FOR STAIEP

Over the years a number of exchanges between faculty and staff among our ICUSTA membership have taken place with fruitful results for all partners in the exchange. The purpose of STAIEP is to facilitate these opportunities among our ICUSTA member institutions. Accordingly, ICUSTA, the STAIEP grant and matching funds from institutions receiving a grant will support travel grants for the following types of exchanges:

- To assist in developing specific new knowledge, new skills, or to consider new organizational structures that would be of particular value and importance to a particular institutional member;
- To assist in developing or expanding student and faculty exchange programs;
- To assist in developing new academic programs and new modes of learning such as on line course development;
- To assist in developing and improving services delivered to students and faculty;
- To encourage and facilitate the development of joint research projects among ICUSTA members;
- To encourage the development of institutional improvement projects through encouraging inter-institutional cooperation.

No more than 30% of the funds available will be expended in any fiscal year. It is anticipated that some funding support for a proposed project would be made available from the sending and receiving institutions. That is, a required match from institutions, in cash or in kind, must be included in a project

to receive a STAIEP Grant . It is anticipated that \$10,000 to \$15,000 will be available in 2012, 2013, and 2014 to support STAIEP projects.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS FOR STAIEP GRANT CONSIDERATION

- Projects submitted for consideration must have the endorsement of the Rector/President of both the sending and receiving institutions involved in any grant proposal;
- Projects must relate directly to institutional improvement and the mission and vision statements of ICUSTA;
- STAIEP proposals may be submitted by ALL ICUSTA members in good standing.
- No ICUSTA member institution may receive more than one STAIEP grant in any calendar year;
- Proposals will be submitted by Email directly to the ICUSTA Executive Director for review by the ICUSTA Executive Committee by midnight Houston time March 23, 2012. The Executive Committee will review the proposals and make their final decisions by April 1. Those submitting projects will be notified of the results by April 10, 2012. Checks to support the winning proposals will be mailed before the end of April 2012.
- Proposals must include a detailed budget, a project time line and anticipated results. No funds will be available for salary expenses. It is anticipated that both the sending and receiving institutions involved in any proposal will contribute some funding in cash or in kind to support the proposed project.
- Project directors will be responsible for submitting final project reports as requested.

ICUSTA MISSION STATEMENT

ICUSTA is committed to:

- Promoting a passion for truth and trust in reason and knowledge in the service of humanity;
- Transmitting to faculty and students the “Aforma mentis” or Thomistic way of doing research, inquiry and learning;
- Providing our faculty and students with a Christian vision of the human person, especially the ethical and religious dimensions; and,
- Furthering their institutional Catholic identity that cultivates the dialogue between faith and culture and fosters service to the human community.

ICUSTA VISION STATEMENT

ICUSTA is committed to: international diversity; instilling a love of and a passion for truth; and in supporting religious and moral principles that will enable our students and faculty to meet the global challenges of the 21st century. ICUSTA dedicates its efforts to the pursuit of academic excellence, to reasoned discourse, to social responsibility, and to a life of faith.

Submitted by:

Dr. Joseph Mc Fadden
ICUSTA Executive Director