2018-2020 UNL Global Virtual Classrooms Grant
Request for Proposals
Deadline: November 28, 2018

Background
The **UNL Global Virtual Project** was launched in Spring 2018 with an award from a competitive **Stevens Initiative** grant at the **Aspen Institute**. Six UNL faculty members in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Sciences, and Journalism and Mass Communications and faculty at partnering institutions in Oman, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates developed and implemented virtual exchanges to foster transnational engagement in various academic disciplines ranging from Arabic studies, communication, tourism and hospitality management, to computer science, sociology, and journalism, among students with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. To date, an estimated 300 students have participated in these cross-cultural learning experiences, and have engaged in project and problem-based synchronous and asynchronous learning using innovative online technologies.

Building on the success of the **UNL Virtual Project**, the Office of Global Strategies seeks to expand virtual exchanges beyond the Middle East. We are pleased to announce the **2018-20 Global Virtual Classrooms** grant opportunity, aimed at increasing the number of UNL courses that incorporate virtual exchanges across disciplines and in all geographic regions in which we have institutional partnerships. The **2018-20 Global Virtual Classrooms** grant will contribute to our students’ acquisition of global competencies through a sustainable model of regularly-offered courses that include virtual exchanges as an essential component of the course.

General Information
To qualify for the **Global Virtual Classrooms** courses should be conducted in a cross-cultural context and incorporate:

- Teaching collaboration with one (or more) colleague(s) at a partner institution of higher education abroad
- Digital technologies (Zoom platform) for teaching and learning
- Project or problem-based learning

Please refer to the “COIL Course Development Guide” for additional information, available on the UNL Global Grants webpage at **go.unl.edu/globalgrants**.

Examples of virtual-exchange synchronous sessions include, but are not limited to:

- Cultural presentations
- Group discussions
- Lectures facilitated by faculty in partner classroom
- Tournaments, contests, projects
- Collaborative group work and presentations (some faculty have students do final presentations in small groups that consist of students from each country).

**Global Virtual Classroom** courses can be adapted from existing approved courses at the undergraduate or graduate levels; in all instances, the grantee assumes all responsibility for obtaining course approvals as well as classroom space.
Requirements
1. Global Virtual Classroom courses must be delivered at least twice during the grant period (year 1 and 2) and have a minimum of 16 UNL students with an equal or greater number of students at the partner institution(s) abroad.

2. Courses may be offered fall 2019/spring 2020 and include a minimum of 8 synchronous virtual exchanges per semester/course.

3. The applicant must have an identified partner abroad, with preference given to UNL faculty who have identified colleagues at institutional partner institutions. A letter of interest/commitment from the partner institution (collaborating faculty member) and from the UNL department chair must be included with the application materials.

4. If selected for an award, grantees will take part in the Global Virtual Classrooms cohort and will be expected to share best practices pertinent to course development, implementation, and management.

Eligibility and Deadline
Current UNL tenure/tenure track faculty and professors of the practice are eligible. Grantees may not apply for funding for three years after receiving their awards for first- and second-year grants. Applicants must commit to Year One and Two of this grant opportunity. Virtual exchange may be for undergraduate or graduate level courses.

Deadline: November 28, 2018. Awards will be announced by December 14, 2018.

Budget and Allowable Costs
The Office of Global Strategies will award 10 grants for course implementation in AY 2018-20. Funds will be awarded in fall 2018 for implementation in fall 2019/spring 2020

Schedule:
• Year One: $4,000 (to support the development and first offering of the course)
• Year Two: $1,000 (second offering of the course)

Funds may be used to:
• Purchase necessary technology for the course
• Travel to partner institution to cultivate relationship with faculty member and develop/adapt course to virtual exchange model.

Application Process and Materials
1. Narrative (2-5 pages):
   a. Identify the course, whether or not you have taught it in the past, explain how the virtual exchanges component will be integrated, and how you anticipate they will enhance students’ learning. Indicate that if funded, the virtual exchange course will be offered at least twice. Initial funding will be awarded for “Year One” and subsequent funds will be awarded for “Year Two” course implementation.
   b. Identify your faculty partner abroad, whether or not you have collaborated in the past, and a description of the current collaboration. If you do not have a faculty
partner but you have identified a partnering institution (see current UNL partners), provide evidence that you have established contact with the institution or with a potential collaborator.

c. Discuss the impact the virtual exchange course will have at UNL, within your department, and on your students’ learning. How will a virtual exchange in your proposed course be beneficial for students, for you and your collaborator(S)? Will your course employ project-based and/or problem-based learning? What pedagogical approaches will you be using to drive success? Please share the key objectives of the course, including proposed learning outcomes.

2. A course syllabus with suggested virtual exchange session topics.
3. A detailed plan: include semesters during which the virtual exchange course will be offered for the first and second iteration; a projection of frequency of course delivery along with number of students reached; and a plan for the use of funds.
4. A letter of commitment/interest from the colleague at the partner institution and a letter of support from the UNL Department chair.

Evaluation criteria
- Full application including supporting documentation (departmental chair letter of support, and evidence of collaborator’s commitment to engage in the virtual exchange course, if applicable; syllabus; detailed plan; and narrative)
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the ways in which virtual exchanges can be implemented and integrated into a course to enhance students’ learning
- Priority given to applicants with an existing faculty collaboration and evidence that virtual exchange course will be sustained beyond the life of the grant
- Commitment to eight minimum synchronous classroom virtual sessions with the partner institution abroad
- Departmental support for course promotion, evaluation, and continuation

Technology
Technology is an integral component of the virtual exchanges, and we expect grantees to use Zoom as well as other platforms such as:
- Canvas for integrated classroom management and content delivery
- Zoom for synchronous class interactions
- Skype, WhatsApp, Google Hangouts, Facebook, and email are the platforms that have proven to be most successful for student-team interactions.
- You are also encouraged to implement virtual team collaboration tools such as slack.com for student-team interactions and collaborative work.

Reporting & Deliverables
Progress reports will be due to the Office of Global Strategies on a quarterly basis. These will include video clips and in-class photos demonstrating that the minimum of 8 virtual exchanges took place. Upon successful receipt of the award, additional details regarding reporting will be provided. Course promotion and evaluation efforts should be supported by the faculty’s home department.

Please contact the Office of Global Strategies at: globalstrategies@unl.edu for any questions.