

Leslie Whitaker Memorial Fund Award

The Leslie Whitaker Memorial Fund Award was established to honor the life and work of the late Leslie Whitaker, a Department of English lecturer and nationally known book author and syndicated columnist who passed away in March 2011. It is awarded bi-annually to academic staff who wish to complete a 1-2 year project aimed at disseminating information and encouraging new ideas regarding freedom of creativity and expression.

Up to \$3,000 will be awarded to academic staff person or a collaborative team of academic staff: up to \$1,000 for project development and up to \$2,000 for project implementation [Note: Any applicable taxes on award honoraria are the responsibility of the recipients].

The Focus and Shape of Your Project

Projects that focus on special areas of interest to Leslie are especially welcome (although not required), including issues related to social justice, veterans, women, ethics, intellectual property rights, challenges regarding access to the public sphere, and institutional practices that encourage adaptation to the best practices for access to archives, information management, and dissemination of knowledge in our society.

In the spirit of Leslie's career achievements, we encourage projects that consist of research and diverse forms of exploration involving journalism, writing, communication, digital composition, and performance (e.g., music, art, dance, political).

Project dissemination can take the form of a public lecture, workshop, demonstration, conference, or symposium; contest or competition, teaching/curriculum revision; and combinations of the above or other public activities you might have in mind.

The program's shape will depend largely on the creativity of those applying. Examples of successful proposals might include (but are definitely not limited to):

- During year one, an academic staff person might research successful approaches to incorporating a variety of forms (such as writing and art) that encourage freedom of expression into an interdisciplinary curriculum, and, during year two, coordinate a symposium with an invited keynote speaker relevant in this area.
- An academic staff person might identify a national conference on practices for fostering creativity in the teaching of social justice both within and outside the classroom and attend the conference in year one; in year two, this person might then lead a smaller, localized version of the conference or lead a related workshop here on campus.

- A team of academic staff people from different departments might spend a year researching approaches to using multiple modes of communication and digital composition to teach students in their different fields about access of underserved populations to the public sphere and then facilitate a conference the year following that shares best practices between the two fields.

These are *only* ideas. Since freedom of creativity and expression is central to this award—as it was to Leslie Whitaker’s life—responses designed to facilitate this freedom are encouraged.

Applications will be judged based on their promise to encourage the growth of attention to freedom of creativity and expression at UWM.

Eligibility

- All UWM Academic Staff are eligible.
- Applications that are collaborative will be accepted — but all collaborators must be Academic Staff.

Application Procedure and Deadlines

The award decision process involves two rounds: first, a short abstract (description) of the proposed project and second, a more detailed proposal with timeline and budget:

March 27, 2017: An abstract describing the project will be due. Send it as an email attachment to spilka@uwm.edu. The abstract should describe as completely as possible the idea and scope of the project in no more than 250 words (please do so in the body of the email message; do not attach additional documents).

April 3, 2017: First round decisions will be completed. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal; these invitations will include brief feedback from the selection committee about how the applicant(s) might further develop the proposal.

April 17, 2017: Full proposals will be due. The full proposal should consist of the following, sent as a PDF attachment to spilka@uwm.edu:

- ✓ A letter of proposal, fully describing the project in no more than 1,000 words.
- ✓ A timeline, detailing what work and/or events will take place and when.
- ✓ A budget, detailing how much money is being requested and how the money will be spent. Applicants may request up to \$3,000 total, of which up to \$1,000 is to be used for project development and up to \$2,000 for project implementation. Please be careful to specify how these monies will be used over the one or two years of the project.
- ✓ Curricula vitae of the applicant(s).

May 1, 2017: The winner will be announced.

2017-2018 Academic Year: Project development work will commence and money (up to \$1000) paid as budgeted in the winning proposal. [Note: the award winner(s) can complete this work in Fall 2017 if they have proposed a one-year project duration]

2018-2019 Academic Year: Project implementation work will commence and money (up to \$2000) paid as budgeted in the winning proposal. [Note: the project winner(s) can complete this work in Spring 2018 if they have proposed a one-year project duration]

For additional information about the award, including examples of previously funded proposals, go to <http://www.uwm.edu/whitakeraward>. For help with specific questions, email Rachel Spilka at spilka@uwm.edu