

STETSON
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Stetson R.E.A.D.s PROGRAM

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2015

Stetson R.E.A.D.s Program

STETSON UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HISTORY AND RATIONALE

A foundational priority of Stetson University's 2014-19 strategic plan is to "Be a Diverse Community of Inclusive Excellence." This priority represents a holistic commitment to further develop a pervasive and sustainable learning and working community that not only includes individuals from a wide array of backgrounds, but also pro-actively values and empowers them. Despite that commitment, Stetson University also recognizes the pervasiveness of exclusion and alienation based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, and other kinds of difference that has marred both United States history and Stetson's own past experiences.

To advance a culture of inclusive learning, Stetson University has engaged in a host of activities to [make excellence inclusive](#). Book Feasts are one example of interdisciplinary professional networks that have been particularly successful in achieving this impact. When faculty and/or staff are engaged with disciplinary and interdisciplinary professional networks, participating in the generative peer review process, and networking with colleagues near and far, this engagement expands their learning, scholarship, creative endeavors, and professional impact. These rich professional networks further expand learning, and open new opportunities and resources to and through faculty and staff to their current and former students.

R.E.A.D.

During academic year 2014-2015, Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown, associate professor and Jessie Ball duPont Chair of Social Justice Education, collaborated with the duPont-Ball Library and the Brown Center for Faculty Innovation and Excellence to pilot and facilitate *Stetson R.E.A.D.s*. The book feast engaged over 20 faculty and staff members in a yearlong learning community, *Read, Eat and Discuss//Reflect, Engage, Affirm Diversity* to support scholarly discussion, valuation reflection, and fellowship. This academic year, Stetson University is pleased to broaden the invitation to all faculty and Campus Life & Student Success staff to submit proposals for Book Feast awards. Over the course of an academic year, faculty and staff will engage in a learning community using a reading of wide interest to further their development as inclusive teacher-scholar faculty and practitioner-scholar staff.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Funding of up to **\$300 plus the cost of books** is available for a very limited number of Book Feasts. A facilitator(s) should submit a two- page project description to include:

- *Project Title*: Name of the READ activity (the book title is fine as well)
- *Goal(s)*: What is your overarching/primary goal? How does this goal and any secondary goals advance Stetson's [strategic goal G](#)?
- *Timeline*: What is your timeline and associated activities that will make progress towards the goal(s)?
- *Community*: What is the name of the facilitator(s) and members of the learning community (minimum 10 members; 15 members maximum)? Is the community interdisciplinary?
- *Outcomes and impact*: What are your anticipated outcomes and the expected impact of this work?
- *Assessment plan*: How do you plan to assess the impact of your READ program (formative and summative)? How will you know that the READ has achieved its goals?
- *Dissemination*: How will the community disseminate their learning to a broader audience? In the event of funding availability, include in the proposal resources for dissemination, such but not limited to resources to invite the author or other experts of this proposed work; host other higher learning institutions and organizations to the speaker event; engage students; present external to campus; etc.
- *Budget*: What is your funding request to execute your itemized activities? Include cost of books. Funding for refreshments is a typical cost associated with a learning community.

Submission Guidelines

Submit Teaching Circle proposals to Brown.Center@stetson.edu by **October 15, 2015**. Awards will be announced no later than October 30, 2015.

Budget Management Guidelines

All receipts must be received at the Office of Academic Affairs on/before May 15, 2016.

Books: To purchase books, contact robin.carter@stetson.edu at the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs.

Refreshments: Contact robin.carter@stetson.edu at the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs to organize refreshments for on-campus activities. For off-campus activity, see [Travel Reimbursement Form for per diem rates](#); submit completed travel reimbursement forms to robin.carter@stetson.edu with ORIGINAL receipts.

Reporting Guidelines

The deadline for submitting a report is **May 15, 2016**. Submit the report to Brown.Center@stetson.edu as BookTitle_READ16.docx (.pdf, .rtf, etc.). The two-page report should highlight the following:

- *Outcomes:* Describe how the goals of the book feast were met. Include any evidence of progress such as artifacts, images, etc.
- *Impact:* Excerpts from participants' reflections that underscore the impact of the learning community; your own reflection of your observation and your professional development as a result of leading the feast
- *Changes:* What did/would the community would do differently, if the opportunity was available?
- *Next steps:* What will book feast members do with the experience?
- *Budget summary:* Provide a breakdown of how funding was used (request budget transactions from Robin.Carter@stetson.edu, if relevant); and
- *Summary statement:* Provide 4-6 sentences summarizing your report; your summary will be posted online and communicated to donors and prospective donors.