In Focus Research Stipend – Poverty and Inequality
Moravian College 2015-2016

In the interest of providing incentives to facilitate research supporting the InFocus program, research stipends will be allocated to faculty and student initiated scholarship that would fit under the aegis of this year’s area of focus: Poverty and Inequality. The research stipend will provide up to $2500.¹ We support research on the social, economic, environmental, political and human consequences of poverty and inequality. The proposals should demonstrate rigorous research. The guidelines to guide preparation of formal proposals, and criteria to assess are presented below:

I. Eligibility For InFocus Funds
   a. Full-time teaching faculty
   b. Long-term adjunct faculty with at least two years of service who can provide a letter of support from their Department Chair.
   c. Students with a minimum gpa of 3.0 are eligible to apply in conjunction with a faculty member. Please note that students can only apply for funding which will reimburse research expenses such as data collection, travel to field site etc. Students cannot collect stipends with this funding.

II. Guidelines
   The InFocus committee invites proposals for non-salary funding in areas related to Poverty and Inequality. We seek investigator-initiated research projects that will broaden our understanding of the causes and consequences of rising inequalities and or rising poverty. We are especially interested in projects that might use innovative data or methodologies, quantitative or qualitative, to address important questions about poverty and inequality, and in projects that directly or indirectly impact communities affected by poverty and inequality or impacts the way we think about communities affected by poverty and inequality.

   a. The committee will provide funding for quantitative or qualitative data gathering necessary for research (with accompanying description on plans for analysis).
   b. The committee will accept proposals supporting analysis and publication

III. Evaluation for Proposals

Scope – Scholarly work has to fit under the aegis of Poverty and Inequality

The work should address the following questions:

1. Generate a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and or inequality.

¹ See mini-grant details below for criteria to qualify for the digital pedagogy extension (should you wish to opt in for this component of the grant).
2. Contribute to the shaping of theoretical, conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches that guide research on issues of poverty and inequality.

Economy – Demonstrate that the work is being done in the most cost-effective way

Dissemination - The work should support researchers by widely disseminating the results of the analysis among local, regional and international stakeholders with a view to influencing policy, practice or understanding. In particular, grant recipients are expected to present their work at the end of year InFocus LVAIC bridge conference.

IV. Applications for InFocus grants
All applications for InFocus funds should include:
   a. Name, rank, department;
   b. Amount requested and budget
   c. Project description according to guidelines and the evaluation criteria stated above. Applications should be sent via email attachment to Sonia Aziz or Nicole Tabor. The deadline for proposals is August 15, 2015.

V. Digital Storytelling Grant Extension

The Andrew F. Mellon Foundation has awarded Moravian College a grant for faculty development in the humanities to use digital storytelling to help students see the relevance of the humanities to 21st-century society.

The In Focus program at Moravian College engages students and faculty in the multidisciplinary study of critical issues that challenge humanity today and as we look to the future. Since we, as human beings and communities, understand the world through stories, digital storytelling can enable both professors and students to communicate their ethically-grounded research, increasing the reach of that important work.

To that end, we are pleased to announce that the Mellon grant initiatives will include a digital storytelling mini-grant extension to the new opportunity for funds supporting research and scholarly work related to poverty and inequality In Focus.

Each project that is awarded a 2015-2016 In Focus research stipend on Poverty and Inequality is invited to apply for the Mellon-funded digital storytelling mini-grant extension. This mini-grant provides a $500 stipend per project to support the work involved in translating the In Focus research into a digital narrative that can broaden the scope of its impact. The professors receiving these grants will share their projects as models for smaller-scale assignments for undergraduate classes.

Grant recipients agree to:
· implement the digital storytelling component by March 2016, and plan for completion by summer 2016.

· create a multimodal digital narrative and disseminate it in order to communicate the project’s research to a wider audience

· share both the final product and the process of its creation as a model that can be scaled-down course assignments for colleagues at the college

· serve as a mentor for other faculty members interested in similar projects or present their work and process at workshops for other faculty members

· arrange for the digital storytelling component to be in progress in March 2016, and planned for completion by summer 2016.