Subject: Request for Proposals - Kummer Institute's IGSET (Ignition Grants for Sustainable Educational Transformation) Internal Grants

Administered by the Office of Online Learning and Educational Innovation, the FY2026 IGSET program can provide departments or faculty teams with up to $80,000 to develop **templates for asynchronous online courses** that will expand modality options for the university's catalog of high-quality, deliberately designed programs. The flexibility of asynchronous programs expands S&T's reach to new audiences, including working professionals and adult learners, and can be a strong draw for regional, national, and even international students who seek the prestige of an S&T degree but lack the ability to relocate.

A total of $205,000 is available in this round of funding.

Funding Priorities

- Priority will be given to proposals for **complete programs** in areas with strong enrollment potential.
- Priority will be given to **graduate programs**.
- Courses are expected to launch in **Fall 2026** or **Spring 2027**.
- All courses will follow a **templated design** for consistent quality and adaptability across multiple audiences.

Course Development Process

- Faculty subject-matter experts will be partnered with instructional designers in the Office of Online Learning and Educational Innovation.
- The course design process prioritizes the creation of digital experiences that encourage high levels of instructor and student engagement.
- Faculty developers will be primarily responsible for providing content for these courses, and no advanced technical skills or instructional design knowledge is required.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Proposals should include the following:

- A description of the program, including the potential benefits of asynchronous delivery for enrollment growth (maximum 1500 words);
- A preliminary production timeline for the program;
- A brief biography (1-2 paragraphs) highlighting relevant teaching or professional experience for each member of the team;
- A support letter from the Department Chair or Dean explaining the project's importance to departmental or college goals;
- A budget for the project that includes compensation for faculty developers (about $8000 per course). Ideally, funds should be spent by June 30, 2026.

Additional Information

- All instructors of online courses must be certified through the Missouri S&T Online Teaching Certification course.

- All courses must successfully complete the Quality Course Review process.
- Faculty developers will submit a signed IP agreement for asynchronous courses.

Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be evaluated by a committee of institutional stakeholders using the following weighted criteria:

- **Strategic Alignment (25%)**
    - Relevance to Missouri S&T's enrollment, retention, and strategic growth goals.
    - Contribution to expanding the catalog of high-demand online programs.
    - Consideration of working professionals, adult learners, and other priority audiences.
- **Enrollment Potential and Impact (20%)**
    - Evidence of strong enrollment demand for the proposed course(s) or program.
    - Potential to scale across multiple audiences.
    - Anticipated long-term sustainability and contribution to institutional growth.
- **Quality of Proposal and Clarity of Vision (20%)**
    - Clear articulation of program goals, outcomes, and assessment strategies.
    - Thoughtful vision for asynchronous delivery, demonstrating understanding of digital engagement.
    - Coherence and persuasiveness of the proposal narrative.
- **Feasibility & Timeline (15%)**
    - Realistic production schedule and development milestones.
    - Demonstrated ability of the faculty team to meet deadlines.
    - Appropriateness of proposed budget for student workers or additional expenses.
- **Faculty Expertise and Commitment (10%)**
    - Relevant subject-matter expertise and teaching experience.
    - Evidence of readiness to collaborate with instructional designers.
    - Strong commitment from faculty developers to course completion.
- **Departmental/Dean Endorsement (10%)**
    - Strength and specificity of the Department Chair's or Dean's support letter.
    - Alignment with departmental or college-level goals.

Submission Deadline

Priority deadline for proposals is September 29, 2025. Reviews will begin on October 1, 2025, and will continue until all funds are assigned.

All inquiries and submissions should be directed to Dr. Debra Bourdeau, Vice Provost of Online Learning and Educational Innovation (debra.bourdeau@mst.edu).