

11-4-2016

## Academic Affairs Weekly Update 11-4-16

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## Academic Affairs Weekly Update 11-4-16

Colleagues,

Thank you for all that you are doing to help improve processes and support the clusters and open labs initiative. Your efforts and ideas are moving us forward and making a lasting impact. We're writing to provide you with information related to clusters and to invite you to participate in some upcoming sessions.

The [integrated clusters website](#) remains your best source of information about clusters. Linked is a [calendar](#) of cluster-related events, project proposal information including project descriptions and proposals for [funded projects](#). We know communication remains a concern and we're seeking a means to address it. Weekly updates as well as the President's blogs and cluster activity reports are archived on the [integrated clusters blog](#). The *Transformation Information* newsletter will be emailed to you monthly and provide updates on clusters to include information about work related to First Year Seminar and the theming of General Education. Work is ongoing and is being done in conjunction with the Curriculum and General Education committees. If you have specific needs and ideas for better sharing information, please share [here](#).

Twelve projects were funded during the first round of project proposals; work has begun on some already, others will commence this spring. The project proposals were exciting and represented several ways of engaging in clusters. There were projects that engage entire classes (or multiple classes) like the [Resilience project](#) and the [CADY program evaluation instruments](#). There were those that appear more co-curricular like the [Ride the Wilds](#) economic impact study and the [Peace Child](#) production. There were those that explore what would be ongoing initiatives [ANROI](#) and the [NH History Week](#) as well as [Cluster Composition](#), which the Deans are funding. Finally, there were those that represent more traditional research like the [bird migration project](#). Overall, there were a nice mix of project foci and designs, some sponsored by multiple clusters, that offer great opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff. We should learn a lot for the future through these projects.

There are three events this month that we hope you can participate in. The first is a session to help brainstorm support needs and future administrative structures for the integrated clusters. Designed as a working session it takes place on Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00 p.m. If you are not able to make this session, we will look for a date to run the session a second time. In addition, the Cluster Guides will be holding a joint cluster event on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:30. Please hold the date; more information will be coming directly from the Guides. Finally, we'll hold our monthly Deans listening session on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 1:30 in Frost Commons. We hope you can join us.

Open Houses are going well. Thank you to all who are visiting with potential students and parents. Responses to the Integrated Clusters concept have been very positive. "Neat," "that's cool," "that makes so much sense" are the kinds of things we've been hearing. Please know that the work you're doing is being well received by students considering PSU.

That does it for this update. Have a good weekend.

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Cynthia, Gail, and Robyn

The Academic Dean Team

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