Walter and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence and Innovation

Please contact Patti Stewart at 432-2033 or facdevel@msu.edu [1] if you would like a copy of the materials and/or the opportunity to set up an appointment to review the application process.

All materials must be submitted by Friday, April 22, 2016 at 11:50pm.

Call for Applications

The Office of Faculty and Organizational Development invites applications for the 2016-2017 cohort of the Walter and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence and Innovation. The Adams Academy provides a rich opportunity for instructors to enhance their development as excellent teachers and deepen their understanding of principles in teaching and learning. We encourage fixed-term faculty, fixed term National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory/Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (NSCL/FRIB) Appointments, fixed-term Health Programs faculty, fixed-term and continuing appointment librarians, and academic specialists with teaching responsibilities to consider this professional development opportunity.

Questions about the Walter and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence and Innovation and the application/selection process can be directed to Patti Stewart, Director of Faculty and Instructional Development Programs, Office of Faculty and Organizational Development, 432-2033 or facdevel@msu.edu [1].

Program Overview

The Adams Academy is named in honor of former MSU President Walter Adams and his wife and MSU faculty emeriti, Pauline Adams, in recognition of their sustained commitments to promote instructional excellence. The program, now in its ninth year, brings together a cross-disciplinary group of instructors for a yearlong fellowship focused on teaching and learning. Adams Academy participants explore the scholarship on effective university teaching and learning practices and consider how this robust body of research can be used to guide instructional decisions in the courses they teach. Participants learn from and contribute to a community of teacher-scholars committed to excellence in teaching and learning. Up to fifteen Adams Academy members will be selected for the 2016-2017 cohort. Criteria for selection include...
evidence of the applicant’s interest in and commitment to teaching and learning, potential to be an excellent teacher, and potential and willingness to serve as a mentor and advocate for excellent teaching among peers. The Adams Academy will be facilitated by the Director of Faculty and Instructional Development Programs in the Office of Faculty and Organizational Development.

Quotes from the Inaugural Adams Academy Cohort

“This academy has had a profound impact on me both personally and professionally I must say when I reflect back upon my original teaching philosophy that I was lacking in an understanding of scholarly teaching. This experience provided me with an opportunity to develop my critical thinking skills as a teaching scholar and to assist me in becoming and effective teacher in both the classroom and clinical setting. I have plenty of resources to share with other faculty members regarding scholarly works and teaching.”

“It was the best academic experience I've had since coming to MSU six years ago. It was a good kick upside the head that reminded me of what drew me to teaching. You'll have the opportunity to learn about what works in the classroom and why. Support from MSU's Faculty and Organizational Development program is outstanding. You'll meet other faculty members who highly value teaching and are loaded with ideas that work. I expect the relationships I've formed there will continue to inform and support my teaching. And because this group is fixed-term, the members face - and manage - similar frustrations in an academic setting that does not always recognize or even foster quality teaching. This is not a remedial program to help lousy teachers improve. Members of this group are truly some of the best and enthusiastic teachers I have met.”

“I have found my participation in the Adams Academy to be incredibly helpful in terms of thinking about teaching and implementing changes in my teaching. It also has introduced me to colleagues across campus that I likely would never encounter otherwise. I have found our sessions to be engaging and illuminating, and look forward to them each month. I have an array of resources to use as I rethink courses for next year, and also teach new ones.”

Program Activities and Expectations

Instructional Responsibilities: Academy applicants must plan to teach one or more courses or have other instructional responsibilities during his/her participation in the Academy.

Monthly discussions on scholarly teaching: Adams Academy members attend monthly, facilitated cohort seminars (September-April) that focus on teaching and learning topics selected by Adams Academy members. Members spend 3-5 hours on readings and preparatory activities prior to each seminar. For the 2016-2017 cohort, monthly meetings will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00pm - 4:30pm.

Participation in campus events on teaching and learning: Adams Academy members attend at least four Lilly Seminars, Spring Institute on College Teaching and Learning workshops, or other campus instructional development activities of their choice throughout the academic year. Participation in these programs allows Adams Academy members to build
upon the experiences and knowledge gained during monthly meetings and to learn from nationally recognized scholars. Information on the Lilly Seminar series can be found at http://fod.msu.edu/lilly-teaching-seminar-series.

The cohort will discuss possible additional activities based on individual and group interests.

Application Process

Eligibility: Both full-time and part-time fixed-term faculty, continuing system librarians, and academic specialists who will have instructional responsibility as part of their appointments in 2016-2017 are invited to apply for the William and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence & Innovation. All applicants must be in at least the third year of their appointment or have worked for MSU for at least three years.

Application Instructions: Applications materials should be uploaded to the Office of Faculty and Organizational Development webpage for Adams Academy applications by Friday, April 22, 2016 at 11:50pm. Materials may be uploaded by selecting the 'Apply to be part of the Adams Academy' button at the bottom of this page.

Click here for a Printer friendly version of the program description and application instructions.

The following documents must be submitted for consideration.

1. Completed application sheet
2. Two letters of support.
   1. Supervisor Endorsement: The primary letter, support must be from the applicant’s lead chair, director, or dean.
   2. Letter of Support: The additional letter of support may come from an MSU faculty member, student, administrator or academic staff member.
3. A Personal Statement clarifying why you wish to participate in the Adams Academy at this time and how participation will benefit you and/or your unit. The Personal Statement should be no more than one page (approximately 250-300 words).
4. A current curriculum vitae (double sided is preferred).
5. A list of courses taught at MSU detailing size and type (graduate, undergraduate major, non-major) as well as annual course load and advising responsibilities.
6. Two to three of the applicant’s most recent results of student evaluations of teaching (SIRS, SOCT, or other forms used by your college). You may submit the written comments from one class.

Optional Materials: Other evidence of teaching interest and excellence may be submitted but is not required. Such material should be selective, not exhaustive, and should focus on relevant information that does not fit into categories of evidence provided under the preceding headings. Offprints and books should not be sent unless requested by the Selection Committee. Please compile all Optional Materials into a single PDF file before submitting.

- **Supervisor Endorsement**: Applications to the Adams Academy must include an endorsement from the instructor’s department chair(s) or school director(s). This one-page letter of support should address the selection criteria, which include: evidence of the applicant’s interest in and commitment to teaching and student learning, potential to be an excellent teacher, and willingness to advocate for good teaching among his/her peers. The letter should also address the benefits of the applicant’s participation in the Academy as an investment in the teaching
mission of the unit. The chairperson’s and/or director’s signature on the application signifies that the applicant’s year of work with the Adams Academy will advance the mission and goals of the unit. Please note that this program is designed to support instructors who demonstrate and pursue instructional excellence; it is not designed as a source for remediation.

- **Additional Letter of Support**: The additional letter of support may come from an MSU faculty member, student, administrator or academic staff member. This one-page letter of support should address the selection criteria, which include: evidence of the applicant’s interest in and commitment to teaching and student learning, potential to be an excellent teacher, and willingness to advocate for good teaching among his/her peers. Please note that this program is designed to support instructors who pursue instructional excellence; it is not designed as a source for remediation.

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### Criteria for Selection of Adams Academy Members:

The applicant must plan to teach at least one course or provide library instruction as a part of a course during his/her participation in the Adams Academy.

- Quality of endorsement from unit supervisor and additional reference in letters of support.
- Evidence of interest in and commitment to improving student learning.
- Evidence of the potential for instructional excellence.
- Willingness to advocate for excellent teaching among his/her peers.
- Willingness to commit the time needed to fully benefit from Adams Academy membership, including participating in ALL monthly meetings plus at least four additional workshops.

### Selection of Adams Academy Members:

Applications will be reviewed by F&OD instructional development staff and two former Adams Academy Fellows. All applicants will be notified by June 1, 2016. Applicants are encouraged to hold the dates identified for monthly meetings.

Applications will be accepted beginning March 5, 2016.

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Apply to be a part of the Adams Academy [5]

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[1] mailto:facdevel@msu.edu