

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of the President
2023-2024 MILLER SCHOLAR AWARD

The Miller Scholars Program was established by the generous donation of **James W. and Marion Miller**, and co-sponsored by St. Cloud State University's Office of Academic Affairs. This prestigious program is designed to recognize and support faculty members who have established a demonstrated record of motivation, excellence, and leadership in teaching and learning.

The overarching goal of the St. Cloud State University Miller Scholar Award Program is to reward faculty innovation and enhance student learning.

The recipient of the Miller Scholar Award will receive the following:

- A budget of up to \$8,000 to be used for the implementation of a Miller Scholars Project that is focused on teaching excellence for student success using the framework of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning¹.
- A Certificate of Recognition from the President of St. Cloud State University.

A Miller Scholar may be supported in the project by a team of peer collaborators, students, and other partners. The primary proposer must be a tenured or tenure-track. However, other collaborators may be fixed-term or adjunct faculty, students and instructional staff.

Funding Sources for the Award

The SCSU Foundation Miller Scholars Program Fund provides funding for the awards. Upon award, CETL will provide guidance on distribution of funds.

Distinguishing Characteristics of the Miller Scholar

A St. Cloud State University Miller Scholar is one who proposes and implements a project that will take their demonstrated track record in teaching and learning to a significantly higher level.

A SCSU's Miller Scholar will be distinguished by the following:

- 1. Demonstrated commitment to current strategies and pedagogies of learning, and contributions to teaching and learning. This includes:**
 - Demonstrated teaching effectiveness as evidenced in their contractual professional development evaluations, such as course evaluations, teaching philosophy statements, assessment, etc.
 - Commitment to students from diverse backgrounds.
 - Evidence of exploration in teaching and learning including involvement in course or curriculum development, design, assessment, or development of new teaching methods in their fields of study.

¹ The Carnegie Foundation uses this definition of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: "problem posing about an issue of teaching or learning, study of the problem through methods appropriate to the disciplinary epistemologies, applications of results to practice, communication of results, self-reflection, and peer review."

Cambridge, B. (2001). *Fostering the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: Communities of Practice*. Pps. 3-16 in *To Improve the Academy*. D. Lieberman and C. Wehlburg, Eds. Bolton, MA: Anker.

- Previous work in teaching and learning, including publications based on teaching, such as textbooks, readers, articles on teaching and learning, significant involvement in learning communities, etc.
- Evidence of teamwork, leadership and resourcefulness in teaching and learning in their department or program, or in multi-disciplinary settings (e.g., collaborations, mentoring of junior colleagues).
- Commitment to the mission and values of St. Cloud State University.

2. A Miller Scholar Project proposal that meets the following requirements:

- Is submitted by an individual with or without a team,
- Is aligned with SCSU’s mission and learning initiatives, e.g., Our Husky Compact and It’s Time.
- Has the potential to meet a significant need for student success, and
- Demonstrates the applicant’s commitment and goals in the area of excellence in teaching and learning.

Process

Calendar of Events:

Screening, review, implementation, and presentation will occur as per the calendar detailed below:

- **Monday, February 27, 2023:** Deadline for Nominations/Intent to Apply (encouraged but not required)
- **Friday, March 17th, 2023:** Deadline for submission of applications and project proposals.
- **Tuesday, April 11th, 2023:** Announcement of 2023-2024 Miller Scholar Awardee
- **Summer and Fall, 2023:** Project implementation
- **Spring 2024:** Project presentation (usually at the Provost Summit; the family of the Donor will be invited.)

Intent to Apply or Nominations:

Faculty who intend to submit a proposal are encouraged (but not required) to send an Intent to Apply email to ctl@stcloudstate.edu. Faculty, staff, and students may also nominate faculty members for the award.

Nominations should be sent electronically to ctl@stcloudstate.edu. CETL will contact nominees to inform them of the nomination and invite them to submit a proposal.

Applications and Other Documents:

Applications should include the following:

- A cover-page.**
- A reflective narrative** of no more than 5 pages that highlights the applicant’s philosophy and approach to teaching, areas of excellence and demonstrated success, as well as describes what in the applicant’s background will help them implement the project being proposed. Criteria on the evaluation rubric are included.
- Letters of support** from two peers, students, and/or alums, discussing their track record and recommending their nomination as detailed above.
- Letter from the Dean** supporting the application and project proposal indicating alignment with department, program and College or School Mission, Vision, and Strategic Action Plans.
- Signature Sheet** with approvals from department or program and Dean.
- Miller Scholar Project Proposal**
The proposal must include:
 - Short abstract of 50-75 words describing the project
 - Vision and goals for the project
 - Professional development goals for faculty proposer(s)
 - Student Learning Outcomes
 - Project process and activities

- Names of internal or external collaborators
 - Timeline
 - Plan for assessment
 - Potential for obtaining or external funding sought or received for the project
 - Project Budget (The budget *must* include funds for *travel to present* the project or alternatively for other travel if project results are to be published. The balance may be used for supplies such as software, travel to workshops, student or peer support, and extra duty days.)
- g. Other documents** in support of the above (optional).

Review:

There are two steps for the review of applications:

- a. A Screening Committee comprised of members of the CETL Advisory Committee will use the criteria/rubrics below to review all proposals and recommend up to 6 nominees to the Review Team.
- b. A Review Team comprising the following individuals will review proposals and make recommendations. The Review Team, named by the President, will comprise
 - Director, CETL (Convener),
 - Two faculty representatives from the CETL Advisory Committee,
 - One Academic Dean (named after the first screening round to avoid conflict of interest.)
 - Associate Provost for Faculty and Student Affairs,
 - One or two students.

Upon completion of the Review Process, recommendations will be shared with the Provost who will forward it to the President with comments.

Project Implementation and Completion

- a. The project will be implemented during Summer and Fall 2023. Extensions will be allowed under extenuating circumstances.
- b. Upon culmination of the project, the awardees will present their results at the next SCSU's Annual Teaching and Learning Fair (or Provost's Summit) and will submit a report for publication in SCSU's Institutional Repository.

Criteria and Rubrics

See pages below. Applicants are encouraged to review their application prior to submission and make sure it includes evidence to support the rubric criteria.

NAME:

CRITERIA and RUBRICS

Is the application complete? (If not, the application will be disqualified from consideration.)
 Yes No

ORGANIZATION and PRESENTATION in the narrative and project proposal: (max. 12 points)

Criterion	Excellent (4)	Very Good (3)	Average (2)	Minimal (1)	Non-Existent (0)
All components of the application are clearly described, accessible to people outside the discipline, proofread and edited.					
The narrative addresses the requirements with depth of reflection and specific examples.					
The narrative demonstrates how the nominee’s background will help the person implement the project.					

APPLICANT’S PREVIOUS RECORD (based upon narrative, letters of support and optional documents): (max. 24 points)

Criterion	Excellent (4)	Very Good (3)	Average (2)	Minimal (1)	Non-Existent (0)
Consistency and coherence in the relationship between what teaching means to the nominee and their successes and challenges with teaching, commitment to students, exploration, scholarship, and leadership.					
Demonstrated teaching effectiveness					
Demonstrated commitment to students of diverse backgrounds.					
Demonstrated exploration and scholarship in teaching and learning: pedagogies, instructional strategies, curriculum and program development, assessment, etc.					
Demonstrated leadership, teamwork, and resourcefulness in department or program.					
Demonstrated commitment to the program, college/school, University mission and vision, and Strategic Action Plans					

NAME:

PROJECT PROPOSAL: (max. 64 points)

Criterion	Excellent (8)	Very Good (6)	Average (4)	Minimal (2)	Non-Existent (0)
Project is significant to the discipline.					
Project has broad and significant impact beyond the discipline in areas such as interdisciplinarity, foundations of pedagogy, learning, curriculum, and assessment.					
Project is aligned clearly with the mission and strategic plans of the department and program, college/school and the University.					
Student learning outcomes are clearly articulated, derived from assessed or observed needs, aligned with existing program outcomes and any other university initiatives (e.g., Our Husky Compact, It's Time, etc.)					
Professional development goals for proposer are detailed, thoughtful, and aligned with professional development processes (PDP/PDR).					
The proposal includes a clearly described assessment plan with appropriate criteria and tools that match the outcomes.					
Process and activities are clearly explained with a realistic timeline.					
Budget and funding sources are appropriate and clearly stated.					

TOTAL: _____/100

COMMENTS: