2014-2015 ABSTRACTS: NORTHWEST FIVE CONSORTIUM FUND for COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY (FCI)

Bioinformatics and Genomics – Life science and allied disciplines will benefit from shared expertise in the areas of bioinformatics and genomics. Faculty sponsors will host a "root" workshop for NW5C faculty and students with modules presented by specialists in the field. Each three-hour module will walk participants through background information, the problem, types of data, analytical solutions to the problem, and interpretation. Workshop materials will be available on the web for "nodal" re-use by all faculty participants as parts of their classes, for individual student training, and for future workshops. The "root and nodal" approach has proven effective in helping keep scholars up-to-date in rapidly changing areas of inquiry.

Building Queer Studies and Gender Studies – Utilizing NW5C collaborative inquiry funding during the past couple of years, faculty and students representing a broad range of disciplines have identified several pedagogical challenges and opportunities for course offerings in Gender Studies. In this initiative, faculty will seek to further build upon their efforts by developing a wider range of course content and syllabi sharing. Through collaboration, faculty members anticipate finding ways to expand curricular offerings to address the new and rapidly expanding field of Queer Studies under the broad umbrella of Gender Studies.

Data Curation Workshop – Research data management and curation (RDMC) are increasingly important components of the research process across a wide range of disciplines. The workshop organizers and an outside facilitator will bring together teams from each NW5C institution to learn a model for librarians and researchers working together. Teams will consist of a faculty researcher, student research assistants, a librarian, and optionally, an information technology professional. The anticipated results of the workshop are that research teams will: learn to

Experiential Learning in Classrooms of the Future and Assessing Experiential Learning – Experiential learning opportunities are often hallmark offerings that further distinguish liberal arts education from other forms of higher education. Strengthening and developing experiential learning initiatives and approaches that will benefit students at NW5C institutions is the focus of this project. Through the identification of common challenges and shared solutions in experiential learning, faculty and academic support staff will strive to best enhance student learning in non-traditional

understand data curation and management as important processes throughout the research project lifecycle; practice a model for librarians and researchers working together on RDMC; learn to locate and evaluate information on best practices for RDMC in their domains; appraise their current RDMC practices; and develop and document practices to more efficiently plan for future projects.	environments. The team will seek to develop a clear but flexible experiential learning assessment tool that can be used across the five campuses.
Faculty of Color Network – Building on momentum from NW5C's first Faculty of Color Workshop, held in spring 2014, institutional organizers will establish a network for faculty of color and allies at NW5C campuses. One important focus will be to construct a sustainable framework with ongoing benefits for faculty support across the Consortium. The following components are included in this initiative: senior academic leadership exchanges in which virtual meetings will be held to identify a variety of best practices, development of a database and listserv, and facilitated workshop discussions.	**Integrating Middle East and Arabic Studies across the NW5C –** This project aims to advance Middle East and Arabic studies in ways that cannot be accomplished by member institutions individually. Faculty will explore concrete strategies for enhancing the Middle East curriculum by coordinating learning and research opportunities, identifying methods and content for resource sharing, and establishing an ongoing framework for cooperation. In addition, faculty will examine opportunities for the institutionalization of an Arabic language curriculum that facilitates student access across NW5C institutions.
Philosophy in an Inclusive Key – This project seeks to investigate and implement practical curricular changes within Philosophy Departments at NW5C institutions, with a focus on increasing diversity in the philosophy curriculum. The project organizers seek to open up the discipline and enhance faculty pedagogy in order to make philosophy more comprehensive. Faculty	**729 Miles of Information Technology: Developing a Strong, Sustainable Model for Technology Support across the NW5C –** Due to limited resources and the rapid pace of technological advancement, Instructional Technology staff members at small, liberal arts colleges often face challenges in developing sufficient breadth and depth to provide optimal support to their campuses.

investigators will bring together students and faculty to pool data, discuss curricular goals, develop curricular changes, and create strategies for teaching philosophy in more inclusive ways.	The organizers will facilitate a collaborative model for supporting faculty and students in the incorporation of technology in teaching and scholarship. This initiative includes a summit of feature presentations, breakout sessions, site visits, and networking that will capitalize upon and enhance combined NW5C knowledge.
TEACH: Teaching Excellence across a Consortium in Higher Education – This initiative seeks to increase the capacity for NW5C institutions to provide faculty development programming around pedagogy across a broad range of teaching and learning topics. Academic leaders at each NW5C institution will collaborate to identify specific needs and available resources, share enrichment activities, and develop workshops. Efficiencies of offerings and meaningful areas of focus will further assist pedagogical development efforts that seek ultimately to benefit all students at each campus.	