

Provost's Integrative Learning  
Award  
February 2011

The purpose of the Provost's Integrative Learning Award is to recognize departmental efforts to advance integrative learning within a degree program. Eastern has always been focused on providing a high quality educational experience for our students, and a number of effective practices and activities have always supported this effort. The focus on Integrative Learning has been designed to enhance the educational experiences we have always offered. At its best, higher education is a transformative experience. Integrative Learning seeks to ensure this by being intentional and purposeful in this regard.

For the next awards cycle, there will be four awards in the categories described below, and they will focus on undergraduate programs. A subcommittee of CAA will serve as the evaluators and identify the recipients of the awards. The timeline will be as follows:

Departmental submissions due by **March 23, 2011**  
Awards to be identified and dispersed by April 22, 2011

As was the case this past year, awards will be made to departments and placed in the departmental budget. Beginning with the awards cycle, a department receiving an award in one of the categories below cannot receive an award in the same category in next year; however, a department may seek an award in a new category. Finally, a department may seek an award in only one category each year.

Submissions need not be voluminous and will be collected by the Provost's Office.

#### Award Categories

Curricular Innovation – One of the principles on which we have focused is having our students make connections to other coursework, other activities and other experiences and then intentionally, thoughtfully and regularly reflecting on them. This award will recognize innovative course designs within a degree program and/or curricular design of a degree program that embeds reflection into the student experience.

Partnership with Student Affairs – Another essential element of IL is the making of connections with other elements of a student's life at the University. Many of our students' experiences come through their residence life or other student life activities. Academic partnering with Student Affairs can make such connections real and immediate. This award will recognize creative partnerships established with a unit(s) in Student Affairs.

Making High Impact Experiences Central and Integrative within a Degree Program – A key element in all discussions of IL is the role of high impact experiences. Many academic programs provide opportunities for such experiences. However, program

design which makes high impact experiences an expectation and fosters student connections and reflection making them truly integrative is the next level of such development and will be recognized with this award.

Evaluation/Assessment of Integrative Learning Opportunities – The last pillar in our IL visual model calls for evaluating and assessing the effectiveness of the IL opportunities we afford our students. While this step is not always seen as the most exciting step, it is an essential step in helping to determine the efficacy of the IL opportunities we provide and documenting their impact on our students' experiences. Each program will have unique ways of making such evaluations. This award will recognize effective approaches to evaluation and assessment of IL.