

congrats: new NSF First-Place Prize, Teagle grant, CIRCLE grant

Nixon, Cheryl <clnixon@fortlewis.edu>

Mon 6/20/2022 9:38 AM

To: FLC-OFFICIAL-L <flc-official-l@listserv.fortlewis.edu>

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to share several exciting grants and prizes that have been awarded to FLC recently. We continue to be on a roll! We are being recognized by top granting organizations--but what is most important is that they are recognizing our innovative work in the crucial areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion, student success and retention, and community and family care.

First, we have been named as the national First-Place Award winner in the [National Science Foundation's "Taking Action: COVID-19 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Challenge."](#) The NSF has recognized FLC as the top four-year STEM program that provided equitable and inclusive programming when responding to the challenges of COVID. As described in our [FLC news article on the prize](#), our application features three evidence-based efforts: our First-Year Launch course, our foundational mathematics support, and our Academic Hub's tutoring and coaching programs. I can't help but mention that the NSF is the most important federal agency funding STEM research--and that our competition in this category included institutions such as University of Texas at Austin and the University of Notre Dame. Also, let's thank our ACE Fellow Eleanor Feingold who worked with many of you and wrote the application that we submitted to the competition.

Second, we have been awarded a two-year \$200,000 [Teagle Foundation Grant as part of their Cornerstone: Learning for Living program](#). Our grant application proposed an innovative approach to our LAC core curriculum, building on our recent experimentation with linked "Lenses " courses. The linked Lenses courses will be the featured element of a four-course LAC certificate aimed at first-year students. The certificate will feature land- and culture-based comparisons between Indigenous and western writing. The project will also fund faculty teaching development, experiential learning field trips, and interdisciplinary connections to STEM courses. [The Teagle Foundation](#) is a nationally recognized funder of work that strengthens liberal arts education. A huge round of applause to our submitting directors, Professors Candace Nadon, Susan Cannata, and Caroline Kulesza. We will share more information and planning when the grant details are publicly announced.

Third, we have been awarded a one-year \$144,000 [CIRCLE: Community Innovation and Resilience for Care and Learning Equity grant](#). The Circle Grant will provide tuition credit to families of student-parents, faculty and staff at Fort Lewis, as well as community member families that attend the FLC Campbell Child and Family Center that do not meet CCAFP eligibility and are at or below the MIT Living Wage Calculator. Run by a partnership between the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Early Milestones agency, the grant aims to make childcare more equitable by funding innovative childcare solutions to the problems exacerbated by COVID. Congratulations and appreciation to Associate Provost Kris Greer who wrote this important grant application. We will report out with more details when the grant is formally announced.

Please joining me in congratulating our great teams who received these amazing awards. This work ensures that our students and community continue to be supported--and ensures that FLC shines on the national stage!

Best,
Cheryl

Cheryl Nixon, Ph.D. | Provost and Vice President

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS | FORT LEWIS COLLEGE | DURANGO, CO 81301

PHONE 970-247-7314 | EMAIL CLNIXON@FORTLEWIS.EDU

