

## *Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry Program Description*

The Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry enables faculty and students to

- Explore the connections among the arts, humanities, sciences and technology
- Create a product to illustrate their collaborative research and interdisciplinary study, and
- Present their product to the community in a public forum.

Each year, four Ball State University faculty members are selected (through an open competition) to teach an interdisciplinary seminar to fifteen students – similar to a capstone experience for majors or an honors colloquium.

The Virginia B. Ball Center provides a summer stipend (\$5000 @ fellow) so that the four fellows may prepare to teach their seminars, recruit students, contact consultants and work with community leaders. [If they wish, fellows may teach a summer school course to test material for their seminar.]

The Center also provides a semester's leave for the four fellows – two in the Fall, two in the Spring. During this period, the fellow's sole responsibility will be to teach their seminar. Similarly, during this period, each of the fifteen seminar students will receive fifteen hours for taking the seminar. [The assignment of hours will depend on department approval.]

The teachers and students in each seminar work together to create a product (e.g. an exhibit, a play, a film) to present to the community for public discussion. To facilitate this work, the Center provides each fellow with \$15,000 for expenses such as travel, consultants and supplies. At least \$6,000 of this money must be spent on creating, producing and marketing the class project for the community.

The Center provides each fellow with office space during his or her residency. Each seminar meets at the Center. And the four fellows and their students schedule related academic and community events at the Center.

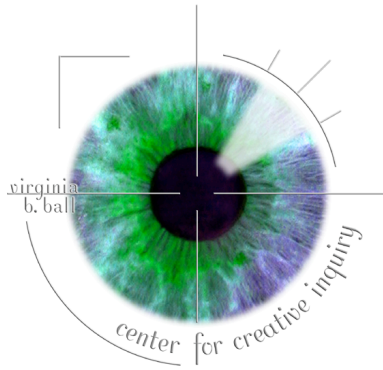
Eligibility: All full time Ball State University faculty members are eligible. However, applicants must secure the support of their academic chair and dean to teach an interdisciplinary seminar and to schedule fifteen students to take the seminar. And finally, applicants must secure the support of a community sponsor who will help promote their class project.

Additional Information: The Center will provide three additional services to help faculty members to complete their applications.

1. Forum: The Center will host an information Forum on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Kitselman. The Director, (Joe Trimmer), selected Fellows and students will be available to answer questions.
2. Conferences: Joe Trimmer, together with the Assistant Director (Donna Ferguson) and Media Director (Laura Huffman), will be happy to schedule conferences with applicants to plan, draft and revise applications. Call 287-0117 to set up appointments.
3. Previous Proposals: Applicants may examine the proposals and final reports of previous fellows.

Our website: Additional copies of the program description and applications can be printed from our website at <http://www.bsu.edu/vbc> (see Documents).

Deadlines: Proposals, including the 1) completed and signed cover sheet and 2) the community sponsor's letter of support, should be submitted to the Virginia B. Ball Center by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 21, 2011. Awards will be announced by March 5, 2011. Funds will become available on June, 2011. Funds must be expended and A FINAL REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY JUNE 30, 2012.



**Virginia B. Ball  
Center for Creative Inquiry  
2011-2012 Application Form**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's Name)

**Proposed Title:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

(2-3 sentences)

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Preferred Semester:      Fall\_\_\_\_      Spring\_\_\_\_      No preference\_\_\_\_

Approval for release of faculty for one semester to teach interdisciplinary seminar:

**Department Chair**\_\_\_\_\_

**College Dean**\_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: The College Dean should return the original proposal to the applicant who should send the signed original with 5 copies to the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry by 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 21, 2011.**

**Proposal Guidelines:** (6 page limit for A, B, C. Consider Budget, Budget Narrative, Community Letter(s), and Faculty Resume as appendixes.

**Part A: Cover Sheet** (Complete the cover sheet provided)

**Part B: Project Description** (please include this information in your proposal)

1. A brief abstract that describes how your project will meet the goals of the Center – listed above
2. Project Description (be specific)
  - a. How will the seminar be interdisciplinary (provide preliminary syllabi)?
  - b. How will the seminar be collaborative (speculate on process and procedures)?
  - c. How will the seminar be productive (describe project and how it will be produced)?
  - d. How will the seminar be public (explain how you and your students will engage the community in a forum about your project)?

**Part C: Student Selection/Registration**

1. Provide criteria for students whom you will select for your seminar
2. Describe procedures you will use to advise students about how to register for your seminar

**Part D: Budget and Budget Narrative**

1. Provide a budget in tabular form
2. Provide a budget narrative in which you explain and justify your creative use of each budget item
3. If funding is being sought from another source in support of this project, please explain and provide information about the status of such funding

**Part E: Community Sponsor**

1. Provide letter of support from community sponsor
2. Explain how sponsor will be involved in your project

**Part F: Faculty/Resume**

In addition to the items you would normally include on your resume (teaching, research, and service), please emphasize your experience teaching innovative and interdisciplinary courses and any experience you have had connecting academic ideas and community projects.

**Review Criteria:** Proposals will be reviewed by a committee that includes faculty from various disciplines and community leaders involved in educational and civic projects.

**Criteria:**

1. The proposed seminar must address its subject from an interdisciplinary perspective.
2. The proposed seminar must engage students as co-investigators.
3. The proposed seminar must create a product that will provide opportunities for community learning.
4. The proposed seminar must involve the community in promoting the class project.
5. The proposed seminar must have the potential for initiating long-term change in the university curriculum.