



Accelerating Adoption of Adaptive Courseware at Public Universities

Overview

The great challenge confronting public university educators, especially instructors teaching large 100- and 200-level general education courses, lies in understanding what individual students already know and what they need to learn. At APLU we believe personalizing learning – accelerating the student learning process by tailoring the instructional environment to address the needs and skills of individual learners – with adaptive courseware can lead to better student learning outcomes within programs and increased degree attainment across higher education institutions. We further believe that faculty and pedagogical experts must play a central role in the adoption and delivery of digital courseware for adaptive technologies to take hold and to truly personalize learning for college and university students.

Grant Opportunity

To speed postsecondary educators toward effective use of high-quality adaptive courseware, and ensure that public universities personalize learning for students in ways that promote completion while containing costs, APLU's Personalized Learning Consortium will manage a competitive process to select and invest in public universities that are transforming their education and business models to improve credentialing productivity, and are executing or planning institution-scale adaptive courseware implementations. Up to six universities will be awarded grants from APLU to include:

- Support for one full-time, campus-based program manager for 3.5 years
- Financial incentives for faculty development (to be matched by participating universities)
- Assistance with integrating adaptive courseware into campus learning environments

Participating institutions and faculty will choose adaptive technology providers and preferred courseware titles from a list of suppliers meeting the highest quality standards. Any platform license costs and/or enrollment-based courseware fees (typically in lieu of textbook costs) will be the responsibility of the universities and/or its students.

Application Process

An invitation-only request for proposals (RFP) will be available in late January 2016. Only U.S.-based APLU member institutions are eligible to apply. Universities interested in being invited should have the institution's chief academic officer submit a [Statement of Interest](#) to plconsortium@aplu.org no later than January 15, 2016. Invited proposals will be due March 31, 2016.

Program Goals and Selection Criteria

Successful proposals will align with the following program objectives:

- Concentration on general education (100- and 200-level) courses for credit
- Primary delivery in blended learning environments
- Inclusion of multiple high-enrollment courses and/or high D/F/W courses
- Disproportional benefit for disadvantaged learners
- Engagement of multiple disciplines/departments including physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences and the humanities
- Commitment to faculty development and sustained engagement with serious review of teaching and learning in the general education curriculum and, as part of this effort, scaled deployment of high-quality adaptive courseware from approved suppliers
- Connection to other institution-wide improvement initiatives with chancellor-level and provost-level leadership and engagement
- Targeted adaptive courseware use in a minimum of 15-20% general education course enrollments within the three-year program term (Spring 2017-Fall 2019)
- Willingness to share program outcomes with third-party researchers and to participate in up to three PLC-coordinated convenings with peer institutions, courseware suppliers, and industry leaders

Awards will be based on selection criteria aligned with the above program goals and additional qualitative measures such as institution-level progress towards and commitment to fundamental transformation of general education, leadership engagement and organizational capacity for effecting that transformation, and experience with and capacity to support adaptive courseware as part of the overall change process.

An evaluation committee comprised of APLU and external members will select the institutions to receive grants by May 31, 2016. We expect the grant term for participating universities to begin on July 1, 2016 and end on December 31, 2019.

Further Information

Please direct any questions about this opportunity to Meaghan Duff, Executive Director, Personalized Learning Consortium at APLU (mduff@aplu.org).